

Green City Partnership Board
Meeting held 7 November 2019

PRESENT:

Emma Bridge (EB) - Community Energy England
Jenny Carpenter (JC) – Sheffield Climate Alliance
Councillor Neale Gibson (NG) - SCC
John Grant – (JG) Sheffield Hallam University
Greg Fell – (GF) Director of Public Health, SCC
Councillor Mark Jones (Chair - MJ)- SCC
Andy Sheppard – (AS) Arup
Martin Toland - (MT) Amey
Nigel Wilson – (NW) Veolia
Mark Whitworth – (MW) Climate Change and Sustainability, SCC

Apologies; Prof Lenny Koh University of Sheffield
Richard Wright – Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Edward Highfield – SCC
Laraine Manley – SCC

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1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND AGENDA REVIEW

- 1.1 The Chair of the meeting (Councillor Mark Jones) welcomed all those in attendance and asked the Board how they saw the Board moving forward and how it could contribute to improving the climate in the City. He stated that he wanted the Board to include cross-party representation and had contacted the Liberal Democrat and Green Parties in respect of this.
- 1.2 JG asked if the Environment Agency had been asked as to whether they wished to have a representative on the Board. MW commented that the Agency had originally had a representative but they had now moved to a different role. He would liaise with the Environment Agency as to a representative to attend future meetings.
- 1.3 GF commented that he believed the NHS should have representation on the Board and he would liaise with Zack McMurray in respect of this.
- 1.4 Wider representation from other organisations would also be explored, including the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust and wider business representation

Action:

MW to extend invitations to both Environment Agency, NHS and SRWT to be represented on the Green City Partnership Board.

2. CLIMATE EMERGENCY – UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

- 2.1 MW introduced a verbal update in respect of the latest position on the Climate Emergency.

MW reported there had been a discussion at Full Council on 3 July 2019 in respect of the Tyndall Centre report following a presentation by the Centre at the last GCPB meeting. There was good engagement from all Members at the meeting and it had been very useful to raise awareness of the challenge and the report and discussion had set out the next steps to move forward in respect of this as a City.

- 2.2 Cllr MJ commented that everyone was aware of the situation of the health of the planet at the current time. However, not everyone was accepting of the human impact on the climate and that there needed to be better communication with people who were remained sceptical of the impacts.

- 2.3 MW outlined that the Councils next step is to develop a clearer and more comprehensive evidence base and to understand in greater detail the options Sheffield has as a city to achieve a 2030 ambition. This would be expected to include what the Council can do, what other organisations and individuals across the city can do and where we need support of Government, national agencies or external investment to help us to achieve our zero carbon ambition.

- 2.4 MW added that it was also important to understand what interventions were required in each sector such as transport, housing, industry, commerce and business.

- 2.5 MT commented that data collection was the key, and that the board should consider how we co-ordinate and share data to support climate change programmes.

- 2.6 JG emphasised that when drawing together the data and establishing the costs of a specific action we also need to consider the costs of not taking any action or doing nothing. He also commented that the absolute minimum target should be no more harm in the City and that Carbon emissions don't increase. The message should be that drastic measures are required to ensure that there was no further increase in carbon.

- 2.10 NW outlined that Veolia would have carbon emissions data within the next two weeks which could be shared, following a BEIS supported project within the organisation.

- 2.1.1 JC commented that she understood one of the purposes of the Board was to share information about how everyone was performing as organisations and that had not quite been achieved yet but should be a target for the future.

- 2.1.2 AS commented that a big question was the appetite of the City Council to make radical changes. He asked whether there was now recognition within the Council to introduce measures previously thought of as unpalatable.

- 2.1.3 Cllr MJ referred back to the Citizens Assembly and commented that this was not seen as a talking shop, and unlike the Leeds approach (an external advisory Panel) there was a will in Sheffield for it to be used as a mechanism for delivery.
- 2.1.4 MW outlined a series of events and meetings with SCC senior management that had taken place to discuss the issues of sustainability and climate change. The implications of the Tyndall Report had been presented for consideration and further work was being progressed to implement a climate change programme. This included a review of all climate and sustainability-related activity across the Council and the development of a Human Resources group to support employees, which would include scoping a 'carbon literacy' type awareness raising and support programme.
- 2.1.5 Discussions were also being held with other stakeholders such as the City Growth Board, which represents business and commerce across the city. MW reported a strong level of support for climate-related action in his feedback from this meeting.
- 2.1.6 JG supported the theory of Carbon Literacy training which he likened to Fire Awareness which should outline what people needed to know and how they can be part of delivery. Cllr MJ agreed with this and stated that the teaching of carbon literacy could be looked to be included in inductions for all staff. MW added that the Vice Chancellor of the University of Sheffield had stated that climate change would be included in all undergraduate courses across the University and this was an opportunity to share good practice.
- 2.1.7 EB informed the Board that her organisation had signed up an organisation called Climate Perks, which includes a programme where employees are encouraged and supported to take low carbon travel options outside of work (e.g. extra leave for travelling by train and not flying).
- 2.1.8 MT provided an update to the Board on the latest actions in respect of Veolia. The City had invested in new LED lighting and had 8000 new LED signs and there was now the functionality available to change how it was used. In terms of Traffic Regulation signs these were being de-illuminated where possible to save energy.
- 2.1.9 In terms of recycling and waste management of construction materials, Amey were looking into enzyme digestion for some waste streams which was not as carbon intensive as what was currently used.

Amey has installed over 500 bin sensors and they are working with other Local Authorities to help them with the collection of data including with a number of start-up organisations. There would also be a further 1500 Electric Vehicle charging points installed across the City (confirm the programme).

- 2.1.11 NW updated the board that Veolia were launching a joint bid with the City Council and Hallam University to expand the District Energy Network. However there it was difficult to get new or existing buildings to connect to the District Energy Network and so steps were needed to make it easier for buildings or developers to connect. The outcome of the outline business plan submission would be heard in the next two weeks and the final sign off would be no later than March 2020.

Nigel will provide an update to the next board meeting.

- 2.1.12 Veolia were working to on a project with the Council to provide two electric refuse collection vehicles powered by the energy recovery facility and grant funding had been obtained for that. There would be a trial of around 6-7 months to establish if the technology was sustainable for the future. They were the first vehicles in the country to be powered by their own waste.
- 2.1.13 NW also reported on the Snow Globe project which focused on Smart City technology and he would discuss this further with MW.
- 2.1.14 JC referred to the Climate Action Fund and possible Sheffield bids. There was support for a partnership bid which it was hoped would involve the City Council and the Universities as bids had to be community-led. The initial application needed to be submitted by 18 December. EB commented that bids for that fund would be very competitive so innovation would be required to be successful.
- 2.1.15 JC asked if consideration could be given to walk-in advice shops in the city centre to provide free advice and support for the public on the action they can take to support the climate emergency.
- 2.1.16 JG updated the board on research being undertaken on energy recovery as well as air quality data sharing and agreed to share further details with the board. He also updated the board on the Hallam University Masterplan but was concerned as no building in the city centre was proposing to be zero carbon and that at the current stage Sheffield Hallam University were not proposing to declare a climate emergency.
- 2.1.17 AS reported that Arup were undertaking significant work in respect of science based targets. Local work (within Arup) had taken place in respect of education, and communications had been a big topic of conversation in terms of getting ideas into the public domain. Contacts were attempting to be made with the Sheffield Property Association and JG agreed to forward details of key contacts.
- 2.1.18 EB commented that most of the staff at Community Energy England worked on a national basis. The organisation had launched a Community Energy Manifesto. The organisation had given a presentation at Bristol City Council regarding initiatives which could be introduced to make an impact. A guide was being launched as to why the Community Energy Network was important to Local Authorities. There was an event arranged in conjunction with Sheffield Hallam University to discuss why the Community Energy Network was not flourishing in Yorkshire and Humber.
- 2.1.20 GF commented that he had met with NHS institutions to discuss the importance of the Climate Emergency. Sheffield Teaching Hospitals were a leader on this as well as Sheffield Children's Hospital. There was more work to be done with the Primary Care Trust. All institutions were willing to collaborate the key was to accelerate the process.
- 2.1.21 MW reported that work towards improving energy efficiency was taking place

within the Facilities Management department at the Council. LED lighting was being used in the Moorfoot building. Services were looking into the use of Electric Vehicles. Sharing good practice in respect of electric vehicles and travel planning was considered as a good area for the Board to look at a future meeting.

3. GREEN CITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD – PROGRESS AND EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW

3.1 The purpose of this item was to commence a discussion with board members regarding progress they feel the board has made over the past 18 months, since its inception in July 2018. Board members were also asked to discuss and provide comment on whether the board has been effective in its role and how it should operate moving forward.

It was noted that several comment had been made earlier in the meeting relating to the purpose and future role of the board.

3.2 JG commented that he would welcome a 'back engineered' report from 2030 until the present day to highlight / identify what action needed to be undertaken.

3.3 MT requested that the Tyndall report be circulated to members of the Board to determine the current position and to be a method of deciding the methodology for moving forward. NW added that it was important to analyse what options were available to make a difference and to work out what was unpalatable so we can move forward as a city on these difficult choices.

3.4 EB stated that it may be worth revisiting the Terms of Reference of the Board to determine its future direction. JG agreed and said that members of the Board should be encouraged to discuss any ongoing issues between meetings.

3.5 Cllr MJ said that once the minutes are agreed by the board they should be hosted on the Councils climate emergency web page.

4. NEXT MEETING

4.1 It was agreed that meetings would be held in future on a bi-monthly basis and the next meeting would be held in January or early February 2020, and that a forward plan of meetings would also be programmed.