

# MINUTES OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

8 AUGUST 2023

## PRESENT:

**Members of the Working Group:** Councillors Ms Livesey, Picker, Rabin, Roodhouse and Slinger

### 1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Councillor Picker be appointed as Chair of the Working Group.

### 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2023 were approved.

### 3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Edwards and D Keeling.

### 4. REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

It was good practice for a working group to review its Terms of Reference at the first meeting of a new municipal year.

The working group considered the Terms of Reference presented by the Deputy Chief Officer and agreed that:

- 1) the Deputy Chief Executive to revise the Terms of Reference considering the working group's comments made during discussion and circulate via email for further feedback;
- 2) the draft Terms of Reference be considered at the next meeting of the working group; and
- 3) networking events with businesses and with communities be discussed at the next meeting of the working group to allow time for logistics of each event to be worked out.

Subsequently to the meeting, the councillor toolkit be circulated to the working group for comments prior to wider councillor circulation.

### 5. DISTRICT HEAT NETWORK

The working group considered the presentation concerning an overview of 1Energy, introduction to heat networks, the developer's existing projects and Rugby's heat network potential.

At the initial meeting with the council, 1Energy requested introductory meetings with key stakeholders within the Borough.

The working group agreed to facilitate introductions following due diligence by the Deputy Chief Executive.

## **6. CLIMATE EMERGENCY CENTRES**

The working group received a brief overview of the national project.

Climate Emergency Centres were a network of eco-centres across the UK bringing together diverse groups and local communities focused on building resilience and solutions to social and environmental crises.

Further information on Climate Emergency Centres can be found on <https://climateemergencycentre.co.uk/>.

Preliminary discussions had taken place with community groups regarding the potential to establish a Climate Emergency Centre within the Borough. A meeting was scheduled for mid-August to establish a steering group to develop a business plan and take the project forward.

The working group agreed that the council through the Climate Emergency Working Group should provide support and guidance to the project as required.

A progress update be provided at the next meeting of the working group.

## **7. FORWARD PLAN**

The working group considered the briefing paper concerning the basis for formulating a forward plan for future meetings.

During discussion, it was noted that:

- councillors would benefit from a conversation on biodiversity net gain led by the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust;
- the Rugby Net Zero website and other channels such as councillors' social media could be better utilised to provide incremental progress updates on the forward plan to keep public and stakeholders engaged;
- development strategy would form part of any emerging Local Plan review; and
- the Climate Emergency Working Group would feed into the Town Centre Regeneration Working Group as and when required.

The working group resolved to meet on a monthly basis with each meeting focusing on a specific workstream together with the standing agenda items identified during the review of the working group's Terms of Reference.

The Deputy Chief Executive to draft a forward plan considering the working group's comments made during discussion and circulate via email for further feedback.

Review of the Forward Plan be included as a standing agenda item.

**8. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL COUNCILS' CLIMATE EMERGENCY PARTNERSHIP**

Councillor Ms Livesey be appointed to the Warwickshire Local Councils' Climate Emergency Partnership as the council's representative together with Councillor Rabin acting as her deputy.

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Visit to Cemex

The working group had a standing invitation to visit Cemex. The date and time for the visit be agreed via email.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the working group be held in September 2023. A date and time be agreed via email.

**CHAIR**