

MINUTES OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

25 JANUARY 2023

PRESENT:

Members of the Working Group: Councillors Mrs Crane (Chair), Edwards, Harrington, Ms Livesey, Picker and Roodhouse

In attendance: Representative from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

20. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2022 were approved.

The Deputy Chief Executive provided a verbal update on items raised at the meeting held on 30 November 2022:

- Rugby Borough Council's Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Plan – in discussions with Sustainability West Midlands to support the council in progressing the work on Rugby's risk assessment and adaptation plan.

[The West Midlands Local Authority Sustainability Benchmark 2022 Summary Report](#) provided a summary of the progress that local authorities in the West Midlands were making against various aspects of sustainability associated with the West Midlands Sustainability Roadmap to 2030.

- Councillor Climate Change Toolkit – the Communications Team was in the process of finalising the councillor toolkit. Upon completion of this work, a final approval would be sought from the Working Group. The work on a parish council version had begun.
- An Event with Local Businesses – a business breakfast on broader topics hosted by the council would take place on 21 March. The inclusion of the topic of climate change would be discussed with the relevant officer. A business roundtable specifically on climate change would be planned for late April, subject to purdah restrictions. Members were asked to email any suggestions for potential locations for the event to the Deputy Chief Executive.

21. PARTNERSHIP WORKING – WARWICKSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

The Working Group received a verbal presentation from the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust on the approach of the work taken by the trust over the next seven years including the [2030 Strategy](#), the [Team Wilder](#) and the [Sherbourne Valley Project](#).

The Trust was in the process of developing a training package to upskill communities to deliver meaningful actions in their neighbourhoods. The free training was open to all in the Trust's area – Warwickshire, Coventry, Solihull – including councillors.

Partnership working was key in securing funding. The [Climate Action Fund](#) was funding aimed to help communities across the UK to address climate change. The Working Group to investigate funding opportunities of the Climate Action Fund further.

The Trust was also in the process of designing a map of green space deprivation. The aim of the map was to identify priority areas for nature recovery and gaps in nature corridors and nature pathways. Following the launch, a link to the map be shared with the Working Group.

An invitation be extended to the Director of Living Landscapes for Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to attend a future meeting of the Working Group to present on ways to enhance and restore nature on council owned land.

The representative be thanked for his attendance and informative update.

22. LEISURE AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO

The Working Group received a presentation from the Chief Officer for Leisure and Wellbeing on the work undertaken within the portfolio in relation to the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan and the ongoing work with various partners.

The Working Group was informed that Friends of the Earth created an "[opportunity map](#)" of areas in England that might be suitable for creating woodlands.

The Chair felt that a more robust process was required around trees and long-term plans. It was noted that a tree policy was in place. Subsequently to the meeting, the Chair would meet with officers to discuss a tree strategy setting out how the council will address the shortcomings in tree coverage in the borough and more broadly in the longer term. A proposal be presented to the Working Group at a future meeting.

The Chief Officer be thanked for his attendance and informative update.

23. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF UK NET ZERO

The Working Group considered the [findings report](#) of Rt Hon Chris Skidmore OBE, former Energy Minister and chair of the Independent Review on Net Zero.

CHAIR