

MINUTES OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

18 April 2024

PRESENT:

Members of the Working Group: Councillors Picker (Chair), Harrington, Ms Livesey and Watson-Merret.

Officers: Dan Green (Deputy Chief Executive), Claire Preston (CO - Operations and Traded Services), Sharon Keenlyside (Interim Democratic and Scrutiny Officer).

44. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2024 were approved as a correct record.

45. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillor Roodhouse.

46. FUNDING PROPOSAL FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) INFRASTRUCTURE

The Chief Officer - Operations and Traded Services, shared a briefing note which explained the background to a request for funding from the Climate Reserve for electric vehicle charging points. The briefing also covered the benefits of electrical vehicles, the current status and the financial implications of the request.

The Group considered the request and assessed the implications for the Climate Reserve.

The Group raised concerns about the funding proposal and considered requesting funding allocation for the EV Vehicle Infrastructure from the Chief Finance Officer.

The Group recognised the importance of driving change within the Council to lead the way forward in terms of the climate change emergency.

The Deputy Chief Executive informed the Group that in agreement with Warwickshire Council, an EV Charging Strategy would be produced by Rugby Borough Council at the same time as Warwickshire reviewed their own so that the two could be aligned.

AGREED THAT –

- (1) the Deputy Chief Executive would contact the Chief Finance Officer regarding funding provision for the installation of EV charging points and longer-term provision and report back to the group before making a final decision,
- (2) the group noted the importance of clarifying the priorities of the allocation of the Climate Reserve once the adaptation report was available in the next municipal year.

47. CLIMATE EVENT UPDATE

The Deputy Chief Executive updated the Group on the Community Climate Change Event planned for later in the year. Key objectives included engaging stakeholders, and residents regarding climate risk and adaptations, improving recycling rates and publicising work with Garden Organic.

A weekend date mid-July had been identified as the best time for the event: before the school holidays and after the school exam period.

Benn Hall was likely to be the only place large enough to accommodate market stalls for agencies such as the Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust etc.

The Chair had circulated the stakeholder list for public realm work for cross referencing the invitation list.

AGREED THAT –

- (1) the event should take place on the morning of 6th July,
- (2) the Deputy Chief Executive would book the Benn Hall if available,
- (3) the Deputy Chief Executive would arrange a further meeting with Councillor Livesey, Alex Becker and Tom Kittendorf,
- (4) the briefing note would be circulated with the minutes.

48. STANDING ITEMS

- a) Environmental Impacts Assessments – new templates with guidance notes for officers were going live after the elections. The Deputy Chief Executive would circulate the guidance notes to the Group.
- b) Communications – there was limited activity due to the pre-election period.
- c) Exception reports from previous projects considered – there were none.
- d) Legislative/central government updates – there were none.
- e) Review of Forward Plan – the Terms of Reference will be agreed at the first meeting of the municipal year.

Any other business

A visit to Tyseley Energy Park, Birmingham to be considered at the first meeting of the municipal year. Councillor Livesey would send details to the Deputy Chief Executive.

CHAIR