

GLOUCESTERSHIRE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP BOARD
Meeting Notes
2nd November 2010, Shire Hall

Present:

Cllr. Chas Fellows, Chair
Dan Judges, Gloucestershire First
David Hagg, Gloucestershire District Councils (Stroud District Council)
Diane Mautterer, Voluntary and Community Sector
Gill Morris, Urban LSP Representative Deputy (Cheltenham Borough Council)
John Beattie, SWARD
Karen Robinson, Severn Wye Energy Agency
Kaye Welfare, Severn Wye Energy Agency
Nigel Riglar, Transport Sub-Partnership
Sue Oppenheimer, Voluntary and Community Sector
Sally Pearson, Health and Wellbeing Partnership
Simon Pickering, Glos Biodiversity Partnership
Stuart Baker, Environment Agency
Tim Quinton, Natural England

Apologies:

Catrin Maby, Severn Wye Energy Agency
Daniella Tillbury, University of Gloucestershire
Kierson Wise, Severn Wye Energy Agency
Tony Childs, GCC
Sophia Price, Rural LSP Representative (Cotswold District Council)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chas Fellows welcomed the Board members and speakers to the meeting.

2. Notes of the last meeting: 27th July 2010

Notes of last meeting agreed.

3. Matters Arising

- **NI 185 Carbon Reduction Targets:** Tewkesbury now has updated carbon reduction figures and will speak to the 185 Task Group to have them included in the report so that it can be re-circulated.
- **GEP Budget Proposals:** The proposals for the remaining GEP budget to be spent on the following projects - £15k for Young Energy People, £4k for the

preliminary work of a much larger project on public sector energy generation, were agreed.

4. VCS Presentation on Waste

Sue Oppenheimer gave a presentation on the work of the VCS Waste Strategy Group.



GEP Waste
Presentation 2nd Nov

John Beattie explained that the VCS had found the Waste Core Strategy frustrating and, for legal reasons, had found themselves excluded from a number of important discussions. CF explained that the Waste Core Strategy will go to GCC cabinet in November and then depending upon whether it is adopted or not, will go to the Secretary of State. The consultation period is now over.

GCC has employed Professor Harrison to look at the health impacts of all the different technologies under consideration.

David Hagg (DH) indicated that the figures in the presentation were misleading and not a true representation of the effort Stroud residents made with regards to recycling. He asked whether the VCS had looked into the expense involved in clean kerbside waste collection, as recommended in their report. His experience was that it was incredibly expensive. JB explained that his understanding was that this method drastically improved the quality of the collection which in turn made it more affordable. He understood the problem that in buying large and expensive collection lorries, waste collection had to be quick but that using more people with simpler technologies it could perhaps be made more affordable.

There are often problems associated with resident cooperation when implementing mixed recycling. It was felt that we need a better understanding of how people can be encouraged to participate in more intensive recycling schemes. Simon Pickering (SP) suggested that perhaps the county council should offer waste collection contracts to their parish councils.

There was some discussion as to whether the issue of waste was something that needed to be addressed by GEP. The overall feeling of the group, however, was that if GEP wanted to be a part of this issue that it would need to be part of a far more informed debate with the participation of other more relevant bodies.

At this stage, it was agreed that the concerns of the VCS surrounding the waste core strategy, in particular the development of an incinerator, be noted. It was agreed that although waste is a climate change issue it be acknowledged that this group was not the relevant body for an in depth discussion on the topic.

The presentation will be passed to the relevant cabinet member for their feed back and comment. **(Action NR)**

5. Round Table Discussion – CSR and update on Government Policy

- **Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC)** – Nigel Riglar (NR) updated the group on current government thinking. The CRC will now be a straightforward tax which will be administratively simpler, but will have a greater fiscal hit. This he feels may focus people’s minds more on energy efficiency. Overall, it is possible that this will result in an extra £1-2million cost for Gloucestershire public sector.
- From 2013, the **Green Deal** will enable households to borrow capital to invest in energy efficiency measures and fund repayments through the savings on their energy bills.

Green Deal is the name for the next phase development of PAYS (Pay as you Save Scheme). The PAYS pilot in Stroud, one of only 5 in the UK, was very successful. SWEA participated in Stakeholder discussions around the Green Deal with DECC. Whilst DECC were doing lots of listening, SWEA remains concerned that the emerging scheme may be limited in coverage in terms of measures and income levels of households, at least initially, due to constraints with sources of finance, interest levels etc. It is still a little unclear as to what is involved in the Green Deal but it will become clearer over the coming months.

- SWEA is also collaborating with B&Q on a small piece of research funded by Sainsbury Family Trusts to review alternative approaches and will report back in the Spring.
- Fuel Poverty – Warm Front is being reduced by one third to £110m for the next 2 years, after which time it may disappear altogether. It is suspected that the Green Deal will take over from Warm Front in the long term. A review of fuel poverty targets and their definition will take place by the end of 2010.
- CERT – Funding is still available until 2013 after which it is also likely to be encompassed by the Green Deal.
- From April 2011, energy suppliers will be obliged to provide help with energy bills for the most vulnerable fuel poor householders through the **Social Price Support** – with total support of £250 million in 11/12 rising to £310 million in 14/15.
- **Feed In Tariff** – FiT for photovoltaics is not likely to be reviewed until 2013 so there is now a very aggressive market for landowners to take up PV if they have good access to the grid. DECC stated in the CSR that the Feed in Tariff will be “re-focussed on the most cost-effective technologies” in 2014/15, in line with the original timetable for review, unless “higher than expected deployment requires an early review”.

- The **Renewable Heat Incentive** is to be launched from June 2011.

There was agreement from within the group that Gloucestershire should see some ownership of green job investment – this could be a reasonable growth area that Gloucestershire could be well placed to fulfil. Dan Judges confirmed that this was an area the economic partnership was taking forward.

6. Updates

- Community Strategy Executive Board – the last CSEB meeting scheduled for 18 October, was cancelled.
- Risk Register and Equalities Impact Assessments – Kaye Welfare (KW) confirmed that these will be completed by the deadline of the end of December.
- Communications – Following the VCS concerns of the communications strategy discussed at the last GEP Board meeting in July, SWEA staff met with the VCS to produce a brief review of partnership communications. This review was circulated with the agenda.

The overall feeling was that the majority of the members had their own mechanisms for communicating back the work of the partnership. Additionally, with the current uncertainty surrounding the future of the strategic partnerships, it was decided that changes to the current communications process was not necessary.

A report on the future of the Gloucestershire Conference is currently being written. Members of the group were keen to ensure that GEP provides a legacy to ensure that the work it has done in the past can be picked up by whatever structures are in place in the future.

7. Key messages for Gloucestershire Conference Bulletin

Agreed that the following key messages:

- The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) is soon to become a simple tax which could result in higher costs to the public sector.
- GEP expresses its concern as to how the work that it has been involved in will be taken forward once the LAA and Gloucestershire Conference structures are no longer in place.
- GEP want to acknowledge that waste is a climate change issue.

8. A.O.B

9. Dates of next meeting

Tuesday 8th February 2011

At 2.00pm – 4.00pm, Members' Room, Shire Hall, Gloucester