

GLOUCESTERSHIRE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP BOARD
Meeting Notes
18th May 2010, Shire Hall

Present:

Cllr. Mark Hawthorne, Chair
Catrin Maby, NBE Block Champion
Tony Childs, Glos County Council
Nigel Riglar, Transport Sub-Partnership
Dafydd Evans, Environment Agency
Andrew Burns, Natural England
Tim Quinton, Natural England
Sue Oppenheimer, Voluntary and Community Sector
Martin Lane, Rural LSP Representative
Simon Pickering, Glos Biodiversity Partnership
Kierson Wise, Severn Wye Energy Agency
Sally Pearson, Health and Wellbeing Partnership
Daniella Tilbury, University of Gloucestershire

In attendance:

Natalie Evans, Glos County Council

Apologies:

David Hagg, Gloucestershire District Councils (Stroud District Council)
Peter Wiggins, Glos County Council
Diana Billingham, NHS Gloucestershire
Gill Morris, Urban LSP Representative Deputy (Cheltenham Borough Council)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Catrin Maby (CM) welcomed Board members, speakers and observers to the meeting and introductions were given by all present.

2. Notes of the last meeting: 9th Feb 2009

Notes of last meeting agreed – Sue Oppenheimer (SO) made request that the minutes of the meeting are fuller to give those not in attendance a better picture of the discussion and actions agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Kierson Wise (KW) gave a short presentation on 'Gloucestershire renewable energy targets in South West context' in response to questions at the previous meeting

regarding the county's position in the 'league' of south west counties produced annually by REGEN SW – see attached presentation.

Glos is currently lowest in terms of installed renewable electricity but is not very far behind the most statistically similar counties of Wiltshire and Somerset. Comparing performance with Devon and Cornwall is not comparing 'like with like' as these counties have significantly different renewable resource and support available. However there is a clear lack of large scale renewable electricity schemes in the county, and this point was illustrated by a slide showing current performance against 2010 'targets' set by REGENSW in 2004 for each county. On shore wind capacity was shown as particularly low against the target of 45MW installed.

Martin Lane (ML) questioned the methodology used for setting the targets as this may have resulted in unrealistically high targets, especially if other neighbouring counties were in a similar position.

Simon Pickering (SP) explained that he felt that the target for wind power in the county was achievable although commercial wind developers may use a more rigorous constraints mapping methodology than that used by REGEN. SP also pointed out that there are very few small to medium size wind installations taking place due to the issue of such projects facing a similar costs for getting planning permission as a large commercial schemes.

KW went on to point out that the county is performing better than the statistically similar counties in terms of renewable heat capacity, especially solar thermal and biomass, and is expected to continue this trend with the addition of this years installed capacity that has been supported by the work that SWEA and other partners have been doing in the delivery of the Local Area Agreement stretch targets and the domestic grant scheme.

A second matter arising concerned the GEP Communications Plan. The plan has been circulated with the papers and CM reminded all of its existence and that feedback on the plan was welcome. It is also the responsibility of all partners to communicate on behalf of the partnership to their members and relevant groups.

SO suggested that communications need to include other parts of the community such as Parish Councils that were not currently covered by the plan – CM invited the VCS to make some specific suggestions. SO explained that this will be after the next VCS strategic group meeting on the 5th July.

SP felt the plan was complicated and rather narrow in focus.

Dafydd Evans (DE) made the suggestion of celebrating successes as a good vehicle for communication as has worked well in Suffolk.

Mark Hawthorne (MH) pointed out that there are opportunities for high level communications via an agreement with The Citizen based around the 10:10 campaign and also the Business Awards. The GEP should make use of these opportunities and resources to publicise key successes.

Daniella Tilbury (DT) felt that the key messages of the GEP could be better defined and that would help focus the communications – group agreed that further work will be needed to define these especially after the recent refocus.

Nigel Riglar (NR) suggested and all agreed that the Executive group would make some suggestions on the 'Key Messages' that could be additional to the current Comms Plan and circulate to the group for comment.

Actions:

- VCS to reply with specific suggestions after July 5th meeting
- Exec group to make suggestions on key messages and circulate to the board.
- Success stories to be identified and promoted – all

GEP Delivery Plan for NI186 and NI187 - Commissioning Key Actions for 2010-2011

- **Confirmation of Reward Grant Allocation**
- **Support for recommended approach to reinvestment**

NR described the updates to the Commissioning Plan for NI186 and NI187 Delivery 2010-11 and asked the board to confirm its position in support of the proposed split of the reward grant for both the energy efficiency and renewable energy stretch targets as set out in Table 2 on page 7 of said document.

Approval given by the board

NR also asked for confirmation of the boards support for the allocation of £60,000 of the Area Based Grant on 3 Key Delivery Actions (Actions 4, 5 and 6 in the Table 1: Summary of Activities and Resource Implications).

Approval given by the Board

NR also asked the GEP Board to support the recommendation that CSEB encourage Gloucestershire Conference partners in receipt of LAA Reward Grant associated with LI19 and LI20/21 to consider using all or some of this for continued investment in climate change activity. NR also pointed out that currently funding is in place for only 6 of the 18 key actions for delivery of NI186 and 187 action plans and the allocation of reward grant funds could support delivery of the remaining 12 actions.

NR acknowledged that it may be difficult for partners to commit the reward grant 'windfall' when significant funds may already be committed to climate change activities.

MH commented that at present it was felt that the allocation of reward grant was not always linked to contribution to meeting targets and that this would be improved in the future. MH added that it is important to stress the ongoing financial benefits of the investments made in climate change including reduction of future financial risk and generation of future income.

All agreed to support recommendations to CSEB.

Action – NR to pass on GEP boards approval and support on all three items to the CSEB.

Introduction to Public Sector Total Energy

In a slight change to the agenda TC gave an introduction to the Total Energy as this related the proceeding item of encouraging public sector investment in carbon reduction activity. The main focus of the presentation was to show the current and predicted future public sector spend (£17,302,200 per annum) on energy and associated CO₂ emissions (115,348 tonnes pa) and to present the case of collective public sector action to reduce both costs and emissions - investment now in reducing energy consumption will put public sector organisations in a better position in future years.

Full presentation attached.

Sally Pearson (SPr) agreed with the principal but also pointed out that organisations such as hospitals face issues such as the increasing need and use of new technology leading to increased direct carbon footprint. However this technology may actually reduce overall footprint by reducing need for patients to travel.

Daniella Tilbury (DT) agreed and stated that the universities are looking to calculate indirect emissions from student and staff travel that can be reduced by improved technology. Data collection for sector 3 (indirect) emissions is more difficult.

MH stated that as the return on investment from energy reduction activities reduces public sector bodies need to start to consider energy generation – this will reduce dependence on external energy supplies and reduce exposure to costs in 7-8 years time.

Further discussion ensued and it was agreed by the group that collective action for public sector organisations should be taken forward but that in the longer term including private sector, communities and individuals should be considered as well. The public sector does have significant ‘purchasing power’ and this should be used as a catalyst for energy reduction and renewable energy production.

Also agreed that the public sector needs to use assets (land/buildings) wisely and base actions on the ‘invest to save’ principal as financial case will be crucial in raising investment capital.

Action – TC to follow up on Total Energy with a view to commissioning further work to scope out the boundaries of the project and develop a business case for the concept.

Update on LAA delivery:

- **Stretch Targets Final Figures**
- **NI186, NI187, NI188**

CM updated the board on the stretch targets and delivery of NI 186 and Ni 187 – see attached report.

In summary – the LI19 energy efficiency stretch target has been achieved subject to audit. The delivery of these targets has also levered in significant funding into the county – 218%

The Warm and Well steering group is working hard to ensure that momentum is continued with standard insulation measures but also looking to increase uptake of hard to treat and renewables measures.

Tim Quinton (TQ) asked whether the rented sector is included in the activity and what proportion of the overall Glos housing stock is rented.

CM replied that installations in the private rented sector were not included but that Rent Warm Rent Well is a sub-project aimed at addressing this sector.

SO suggested that the rented sector was very area based – parts of Gloucester and Cheltenham were predominantly rented.

CM explained that the renewable energy stretched targets had also been exceeded subject to audit (currently underway) – see report for figures.

CM reported that NI186 and NI187 delivery was underway with task groups for each sector established and active.

The idea is to match the top level UK per capita emissions data with quantified emissions reductions from known activity to get a sense of the emissions gap for the county.

NR updated on progress with NI188 Adaptation to climate change. This is a process indicator with a rating system of 0-4. 0 is no activity on adaptation and 4 is a fully active authority working in partnership with other organisations and having a resource plan in place.

GCC and district partners reached Level 1 in May '09, are currently at Level 2 and expect to be on target at Level 3 by this time next year.

Agenda planning for future meetings

KW presented a plan for the focus of future GEP board meetings as suggested by the executive group

It was agreed that this looks a sensible format however SO stated that the VCS would like to see the waste issue covered sooner.

The VCS felt that this issue had been sidelined in favour of other issues.

It was agreed to move this item forward to the November meeting where it could be combined with the Government Budget and Policy direction.

Also agreed that within each item speakers would be requested to identify an example of best practice from other areas of the UK and include that as part of the presentation/discussion to help the GEP learn from the experience of others.

Action – KW to circulate revised agenda plan – see attached document.

6. Updates

GEP Risk Register

KW described the key risks as outlined in the register and updated the board on outstanding items. These were very few but included the provision of a GEP newsletter – agreed that this can be included in the forthcoming discussion on communication.

Community Strategy Executive Board

CM reported that CSEB had agreed to include energy poverty in their 10 year targets.

7. Key messages for Gloucestershire Conference Bulletin

Agreed that the meeting of the energy stretch targets should be flagged up as a key achievement

8. A.O.B

Noted that the GEP representative from the Economic Partnership has left post

Action – KW to discuss with Economic Partnership to find a replacement

9. Dates of next meeting

Tuesday 27th July 2010
At 2.00pm – 4.00pm, Shire Hall, Gloucester

Tuesday 2nd November 2010
Feb 2011 – TBC