

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP BOARD**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> September 2008**  
**Stroud District Council, Committee Room**

**Present:**

Julie Girling	Chair, Gloucestershire County Council (Lead Cabinet Member, Environment & Community)
Barry King	Gloucestershire County Council (Transport Sub-Partnership Rep)
Simon Pickering	Biodiversity Partnership (Chair)
Kaye Welfare	Severn Wye Energy Agency Ltd (Assistant Director)
Peter Wiggins	Gloucestershire County Council (Corporate Sustainability Manager)
Colin Studholme	Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (Director of Conservation Policy)
Chas Fellows	Stroud District Council (Chair of Gloucestershire First and Leader of Stroud District Council)
David Hagg	Stroud District Council (Chief Executive)
Catrin Maby	Severn Wye Energy Agency (Director)
Duncan Jordan	Gloucestershire County Council (Group Director, Environment)
Helen Thompson	Government Office South West (Sustainability, Climate and Environment Lead)
John Seddon	Gloucestershire County Council (Transport and Planning Manager)
Darren Hall	Government Office South West

**Apologies**

Stan Waddington	Gloucestershire County Council (Cabinet Member, Environment)
Peter Holmes	Natural England (Team Leader)
Mike Jesnick	University of Gloucestershire

**In Attendance:**

Jagdish Patel	Environment Partnership Manager
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## **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Julie Girling welcomed members, especially those attending their first Environment Partnership Board meeting.

## **2. Notes from last meeting - agreed**

### **2. Regional Spatial Strategy & Transport Blueprint**

John Seddon gave a presentation on transport aspects of the Secretary of State's modifications to the RSS. The deadline for consultation comments is 24 October. (Powerpoint presentation attached, Annex1). Simon Pickering queried some of the assumptions on traffic growth and asked if congestion management was now the objective.

**Action Point: Barry K./ Jagdish P. to take forward the formation of Transport Sub-Group as part of the GEP business plan.**

- **Partnership Manager**

Kaye W. introduced Jagdish Patel, the newly appointed Environment Partnership Manager. He plans to meet GEP Board members over the next few weeks. Initially working part-time, he will start full –time in October.

- **Board Membership – LSP membership**

LSP's have requested that they have two representatives on the Board. One representing rural issues, the other urban issues. Other thematic Partnerships have accommodated this request.

The Board noted that a previous discussion considered whether the Environment Agency should be a member of the Board.

**Action Point: To agree to the LSP's request on the proviso that the LSP representatives are not local government officials.**

- **Terms of Reference and Partnership Agreement**

Peter W. explained that progress on this had been hindered due to capacity issues. Now that a Partnership Manager has been appointed, work on developing the terms of reference on Board membership could proceed.

**Action Point: Jagdish P to take forward the Terms of Reference for the Partnership.**

## **4. Local Area Agreement**

- **Indicators and Stretch Targets**

Kaye W reported that the NBE elements of the LAA were doing very well. The stretch targets on renewable energy systems capacity (LI 21) are

expected to exceed the 3 year target and the number of renewable energy installations in domestic, public sector and community buildings (LI 20) were on track with 50% of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year target being met.

On the energy efficiency ( L119) stretch target, progress was slightly below what was anticipated but this was due to the invoicing method of the company installing the measures.

- **Budget**

Peter W. reported that £57,602 remains unallocated. Julie G. proposed that part of the unallocated funds be spent on CO2 reduction and behavioural change. Peter W also highlighted the need to fund the Partnership Manager post.

**Action Point: Board agreed that unallocated funds be spent on initiatives that influence CO2 reduction and behavioural change and to invite bids from organisations that are under taking this work.**

- **Allocation of Reward Grant**

Meeting the stretch targets for NB1 and NB2 will attract a performance reward. It is expected that the grant will be paid out in 18<sup>th</sup> month's time. Darren H. explained that the Partnership can apply for 60% of the grant money if 60% of the stretch target has been achieved. Board members discussed whether the reward grant should be spent on further CO2 reduction measures. Chas F. said that there was no precedent for this and Local Authorities should be free to determine how they allocate the reward grant. Julie Girling proposed that the Board frame a recommendation to the local authorities urging them to spend the reward grant on further CO2 reductions.

**Action Point: Board agreed that a broad recommendation to local authorities be drafted urging that the NBE reward grant be spent on further CO2 reduction measures.**

## **5. Turning the Curve (TTC)**

Darren Hall from the Government Office South West (GOSW) gave presentation on the Turning the Curve (TTC) process. 'Turning the Curve' is the common name used to describe "Results Based Accountability (RBA)" TTC encourages a set of stakeholders including practitioners, senior managers and other partners to work together in a creative way to ideas that will lead to a refreshed delivery plan for specific national indicators.

Darren H. explained it helped people to consider

- what they want to achieve,
- how they might achieve it,
- how they will know they have got there, are getting there.

Darren H. is offering half day workshops on five national indicators with NI 186 (Per capita CO2 emissions in the LA area ) and NI 188, ( Planning to Adapt to Climate Change ) being two of the five.

**Action Point: Board decided that the GEP would be involved in the TTC process. Kaye W., Pete W. and Jagdish P. to meet with Rob Ayliffe on 5th September to take this forward.**

## **6. GEP Business Plan**

Catrin M. presented an outline structure for the Business Plan. She explained that this was work in progress to be developed over the next few weeks. Julie G. said that the Business Group could address commercial waste, energy and transport as it affected the business sector.

**Action Point: Board decided that the Business Plan be taken forward by a working group composed of Catrin M, Peter W, Jagdish P, Nigel Riglar with the group inviting others with relevant expertise to join the group.**

## **7. Monitoring Wildlife Sites**

Colin S. gave an outline of a project the Glos. Wildlife Trust and the Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records (GCER) is developing in order to help Local Authorities report against NI 197 (Improved Local Biodiversity –proportion of Local Sites where positive conservation management implemented). An application to fund a Phase I (Land Use) Survey of the Strategic Nature Areas in the county had been submitted. Colin S. also brought to the attention of the Partnership a "State of the Environment" Report produced by the County Council in 1994. Unlike other areas of the LAA, statistics on the state of the natural environment are not up-to-date and this handicaps priority setting and decision making.

**Action Point: The Board agreed that State of the Environment reporting should be re-instated and that this should be the topic of a task group on 'Environmental data'.**

## **8. Stroud Climate Change Commitment**

Catrin M. introduced the Climate Change Commitment which was adopted by Stroud District LSP. It is a declaration of intentions to combat climate change providing leadership on the issue and working through partnership. Colin S said he was at the Forest of Dean LSP meeting where a similar declaration was adopted.

**Action Point: The Board agreed to make a recommendation to the Gloucestershire Conference for a strong declaration on a Climate Change Commitment with the objective of putting the issue onto the agenda of partner organisations.**



## **9. Update**

### **Community Strategy Executive Board**

Catrin M. gave an update on the July CSEB Meeting. Nothing substantive to update. Catrin said the Olympics and the Cultural Olympiad for 2012 was raised. The GEP Board discussed possible partnership opportunities around the Olympics/Olympiad.

Catrin M. also mentioned that she had reported to the CSEB that a SWEA review of other LAA websites revealed that Gloucestershire was one of only 10 LAA's that have chosen all 3 NI's related to climate change.

### **10. Key Messages for Gloucestershire Conference Bulletin**

None

### **11. Any Other Business**

None

### **12. Date of next meeting**

November 27<sup>th</sup> 10am to 12 noon. Shire Hall, Gloucestershire County Council