

GLOUCESTERSHIRE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP BOARD
Draft Meeting Notes
19th February 2009, Members Room, Shire Hall

Present:

Stan Waddington (Chair)	Gloucestershire County Council (Cabinet Member, Environment)
Barry King	Gloucestershire County Council (Transport Sub-Partnership Rep)
David Hagg	Glos District Councils (Stroud District Council)
Catrin Maby	Block Champion (Severn Wye Energy Agency)
Daniella Tilbury	University of Gloucestershire
Nigel Riglar	GEP Executive Group (Stroud District Council)
Peter Holmes	Natural England
Michael Heap	Voluntary and Community Sector
Gill Moriss.	Urban LSP Representative, Cheltenham Borough Council (Deputy for Chris Hickey)
Paul Tullet	Environment Agency
John Seddon	Gloucestershire County Council
Andy Pritchard	Gloucestershire County Council
Kierson Wise	Severn Wye Energy Agency
Jagdish Patel	Environment Partnership Manager (Severn Wye Energy Agency)
Apologies:	
Chas Fellows	Gloucestershire First (Leader of the Council, Stroud District Council)
Colin Studholme	Voluntary and Community Sector (Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust)
Julie Girling	Gloucestershire County Council (Lead Cabinet Member, Environment & Community)
Peter Wiggins	Corporate Sustainability Manager Gloucestershire County Council
Duncan Jordan	Group Director: Environment Gloucestershire County Council
Helen Thompson	Government Office South West
Chris Hickey	Urban LSP Representative (Low Carbon Partnership)
Martin Lane	Rural LSP Representative (Cotswolds Conservation Board)
Sophie Price	Rural LSP Representative (Cotswold District Council (Deputy))

1. Welcome & Introductions

In Julie Girling's absence, Stan Waddington chaired the meeting. Stan welcomed Board members to the meeting. Danielle Tilbury (University of Gloucestershire) joined the Board for the first time, replacing Mike Jesnick.

2. Notes from last meeting

Agreed subject to amendment to item 3.1 'LSP Representation on the Board'. This should read.

'Cheltenham LSP is the representative for the urban LSP's. Chris Hickey will be the representative to the Board. Chris is also Chair of the Low Carbon Partnership in Cheltenham. Cotswold District LSP is to represent the rural LSP's.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 LSP Representation on the Board

Cotswold LSP has put forward the following to represent the rural LSP's on the Board:

Martin Lane, Director, Cotswolds Conservation Board
Sophie Price, (Deputy) Cotswold District Council

3.1 GEP Business Plan

Action outstanding: JP to amend section on Environmental Management System and to circulate the final Business Plan.

4. NI 186: Per capita reductions in CO₂ in the LA area

Catrin Maby, NBE Block Champion, Director, Severn Wye Energy Agency gave a presentation on National Indicator 186

CM explained that NI 186 relies on centrally produced statistics to measure end user CO₂ emissions in the local area from the business and public sector; the domestic housing sector road transport. There have been some delays with the provision of accurate data.

Action by Gloucestershire CC and district councils' is critical to the achievement of Government's climate change objectives. Gloucestershire's local authorities are uniquely placed to provide vision and leadership to local communities by raising awareness and to influence behaviours. Through their powers and responsibilities, and working through Partnership, Gloucestershire CC can have significant influence over emissions in the local area. GCC has agreed with GOSW to 9.1% reduction in per capita emissions by the end of the current LAA (2011).

(Presentation and additional briefing note attached.)

5. GEP NI 186 Task Groups Update

Business Sector Task Group

JP gave the update. The group has met 3 times. Those who have attended include representatives from Business Link, SWRDA, Cheltenham Borough Council, and Stroud District Council. University, Carbon Data and Severn Wye Energy Agency. Emerging work plan elements include:

- SWRDA's Environmental Performance in Business Programme. Expanding existing SME advice work undertaken in Stroud.
- Establishing a Glos. Low Carbon Partnership of top 50 employers
- A scheme to engage micro-businesses of 1 – 4 employees which make up 74% of Gloucestershire's businesses.

Domestic Sector Task Group

CM gave the update. The group has met 3 times. Those who have attended include representatives from Stroud DC, Cheltenham BC, Cotswold BC, Gloucester CC, Tewkesbury BC and Severn Wye Energy Agency.

Emerging work plan elements include

Retrofit energy efficiency and microgeneration: Warm and Well, fuel supplier work under Carbon Emissions Reduction Target

- Fuel poverty: Advice to LA's and Registered Social Landlords, health partnerships, Warm Front
- Behavioural change programmes
- Area-based initiatives – whole house packages

Public Sector Task Group

In Pete Wiggin's absence JP gave the update. The group has met once with second meeting scheduled for March 16th. Membership includes the 6 districts and Gloucestershire County Council, Severn Wye Energy Agency, Gloucestershire University and the PCT.

The group has reviewed what each LA and organisation is currently doing and will develop a workplan at their next meeting.

Transport Sector Task Group

John Seddon gave the update. The draft membership of the Transport sub-partnership has been drawn up which will be circulated to the GEP board. The NI 186 group is expected to prepare for Local Transport Plan 3 which has as one of its goals – climate change. There are opportunities with working with business on business travel planning building on recent experience at Tewkesbury Business Park.

6. Adaptation Task Group - NI 188: Planning to adapt to climate change

Nigel Riglar provided the update on the Adaptation Task Group. NI188 is designed to measure progress in preparedness in assessing and addressing the risks & opportunities of a changing climate. Local Authorities are expected to determine what their priority needs are to adapt and to develop relevant action plans in partnership. A workshop has been run by COIN to bring lead officers up to speed and to hopefully achieve a common understanding with regards to the issues. A future workshop will be held in Quarter 1 of next year to plan for moving forward, to determine what Gloucestershire local authorities will do on a practical basis. For background information see The Gloucestershire Approach.
http://www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/community/climate_change_glos.asp

7. Renewable Energy Installations and Capacity and Glos Renewable Energy Grant Scheme.

Kierson Wise from the Severn Wye Energy Agency gave an overview of the LAA renewable energy stretch targets and the Gloucestershire Renewable Energy Grant Scheme. Targets for installation of renewable energy technologies on community and domestic properties are well on track to be met by the end of the LAA period (2011). Targets for capacity to generate renewable energy in the county have been met. The grant scheme has boosted the installation of the renewable energy and whilst the economic down turn is of concern Kierson was optimistic that with the support of the district councils and GCC the target of 300 installations will be met. (Presentation attached)

8. GCC Waste Strategy and Voluntary and Community Sector

Michael Heap explained that as the VCS were a significant grouping in Gloucestershire they were seeking a process through which they could be involved in the county's waste management in a strategic way. He mentioned that Glos County Council have signed up to the Compact which recognised the VCS as equal partners and the valuable perspective they brought to strategic decision making. In particular, the VCS wanted to know if a VCS representative could be part of the existing Gloucestershire Waste Partnership. Discussion raised the following points

- The Gloucestershire Waste Partnership is currently just the six districts and GCC. It is primarily focused on operational aspects. Concern was raised how widening the partnership could effect the operation of the waste partnership.
- The VCS, through GAVCA had the ability to capture a diverse group and bring it into a coherent whole. In some cases the grouping could be an advocate for County objectives. The VCS voice could enhance the GWP's overall perspective.

Decision: It was agreed that the Gloucestershire Waste Partnership would invite a VCS representative to give a presentation at the next Gloucestershire Waste Partnership Meeting on the 18th March.

Action: Andy Pritchard to take forward.

9. Environmental Data Task Group

Michael Heap gave an update on the task group. Colin Studholme was leading on developing this task group. The Task Group is set to meet on 6th March to look at environmental data needs in the county, especially in the context of State of the Environment reporting, which the Partnership has agreed should be re-instated. Systematic habitat survey for the county is long out of date and therefore it is not possible to assess adequately the state of habitats in Gloucestershire. Funds are already being sought to carry out a "Phase 1" survey. Natural England has identified a possible £25,000 which could be used as a contribution towards various aspects of the survey, but a lot more is needed. It is hoped that NE's contribution and applications for funding being submitted by GCER will lever further funding from partners to ensure county-wide coverage.

10. GEP Budget

(Budget manager, Pete Wiggins is on paternity leave. JP gave the update)

Unallocated funds 2009/2010

As the NI 186 Task Groups (Business, Domestic, Transport and Public) have yet to present their delivery plans, the GEP Executive Group were not in a position to recommend any expenditure for any NI 186 activities (except for energy efficiency work, possibly scaling up existing SME projects). Other calls on GEP funding are likely to be based on GEP priority areas of action.

11. Update

- Community Strategy Executive Board

The impact of the economic downturn was discussed at the last CSEB. It was noted that in a climate of cutting costs energy efficiency measures could lead to the creation of jobs.

- Gloucestershire Strategic Partnership

The Severn tidal power scheme was raised. A GEP discussion focussed on whether to have the Severn scheme as an agenda item at the next meeting. It was noted that the consultation period for comments on the Severn tidal options closes on the 23rd April.

Decision: To schedule a GEP meeting in April

12. Key Messages for Gloucestershire Conference Bulletin

- Overall the Natural and Built Environment elements of the LAA continue to perform well with many of the tasks and milestones on target for Quarter 3. The renewable energy stretch targets, LI 20 (installations) exceeding the current target by 22% and LI 21 (capacity) is exceeding the current target by 61%. Good progress has been made on NI.175: Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling with targets exceeded by 6%
- Task Groups covering public, business and domestic sector emissions are preparing delivery plans to address NI 186: Per capita reduction in CO2 in the LA area.

13. Any Other Business

Vice Chair

With the upcoming elections it was noted that GEP has no Vice-Chair. Under s. 11.1 of the Partnership Agreement and Terms of Reference GCC's lead Cabinet member for Environment holds the Chair (to be reviewed after two years).

Decision: In keeping with section 11.1, and in Julie Girling's absence, Councillor Stan Waddington will chair the GEP meetings as the vice –chair.

14. Items for next meeting

- Severn Tidal Power scheme
- Glos First Economic Strategy

14. Future Meeting Dates for 2009

April meeting to be arranged

3rd September , 10am – 12 noon, Members Room, Shire Hall

19th November 10am – 12am noon, Members Room, Shire Hall