

Warrington Climate Emergency Commission

Teams Meeting – Monday 10 January 2022 2-4pm



Organisations Represented:

- Warrington Borough Council
- Warrington Youth Voice
- Business Declares
- Warrington & Co
- Warrington Community Energy

Items Discussed on the Agenda:

- A presentation on the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery and Sustainable Warmth
 - Approximately £1.8m has been allocated to Warrington to deliver upgrades to 184 properties by the end of June 2022
 - Warrington were unsuccessful in securing Local Authority Delivery phase 3 funding because 20% of the proposed properties were Band D
 - There are issues with the way the funding is allocated and the short time that is expected to prepare bids. There are lessons learned that will shape the approach used in the future
- Communications – an update on the communications strategy and a discussion of developing the public profile
 - Work has progressed to develop the visibility of the commission; various social media channels, webpage, pledge campaign launched
 - The position paper was designed and published in wake of COP26 and consultation opened, promoted via social media channels
 - January edition of the council staff newsletter is going to be a Climate Emergency special, with branding for a New Year's 'Green' resolution
 - Plans to bring a more comprehensive report on impact of communications works to the group every 4 to 6 months
 - Discussion over publication of meeting notes to go on the commission web page, to improve visibility of commission's activities
- Developing a Warrington Climate Emergency Strategy – an update on the position paper published by the commission and an overview of the responses on the associated consultation
 - The position paper was published in the wake of the UN's COP26 climate conference
 - The associated consultation survey ran until 7th Jan 2022
 - Total of 67 responses to the consultation – an initial overview of results was presented
 - Majority agreed that the areas for action set out in the paper covered the main points that need to be addressed in a local strategy. Most who disagreed argued for more urgent action or suggested additional areas for action

- Majority who responded appear to already be engaging with climate change. Next steps are to put together a report of the results to inform the development of a local strategy
- Developing the commission and extending engagement
 - The intention has always been to develop wider means for engagement to encourage wider action beyond the commission
 - Steps to increase the commission's visibility were generating interest from people who wanted to find out more and get involved
 - Membership of the commission needs to be reconsidered with respect to what areas are not currently being represented, ie., need to relate to the strategy under development
 - Need to develop wider infrastructure and connections to engage with different groups, e.g. business, youth, community groups. A public climate forum through which interested individuals could become involved was currently missing
- Council updates
 - Further Carbon Literacy training sessions held.
 - Successful bid to fund heat mapping and heat network feasibility
 - Consultation on draft electric vehicle strategy
 - ZEBRA bus electrification bid
- Any Other Business
 - Potential schools conference

Main Actions:

- To draft a document to express the challenges being faced within each phase of the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery, to be submitted on behalf of the commission with a view to influence how future funding could be distributed better
- Commission members to promote the commission's new social media accounts to help build the online presence and audience and to flag up relevant content that might be shared via these channels
- To use the commission's new channels (web page and social media) to increase the visibility of its work with the intention to share future meeting notes
- To complete analysis of the consultation response to help inform strategy development work
- To programme an additional commission meeting specifically to progress strategy development work

Next Scheduled Meeting:

- 7th March 2022 2-4pm