

# Warrington Climate Emergency Commission

Teams Meeting – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022, 2-4pm



## Organisations Represented:

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

## Items Discussed on the Agenda:

- Communications – an update on the communications strategy
  - Work on communications has prioritised driving people to the commission's webpage and social media channels, to improve visibility and increase awareness. Moving forward focus will be on generating pledges
  - January publication of the council's staff newsletter was an extended feature on the Climate Emergency
  - Several press releases linked to the climate emergency have been published recently, e.g. details of ZEBRA funding, the position paper consultation, with more scheduled this month including the council's Carbon Literacy Bronze award and the Public Sector Decarbonisation funding for the Town Hall heat pump installation
  - A page of advertising secured in Warrington Guardian to direct people to the climate emergency web content and 'Count Me In' channels, also small focus on the commission itself and associated channels
  - Consideration of future editorial feature piece in the Guardian about the commission and its role
  - Article published in the Guardian regarding the recent engagement work in Golden Square
- Developing a Warrington Climate Emergency Strategy – discussion of detailed consultation report, feedback from the Commission's extra workshop session, proposed 'architecture' for the draft strategy and steps to complete the strategy
  - A report detailing the results from the consultation on the position paper published by the commission was circulated to the group prior to the meeting
  - The responses proved very valuable in raising a number of key issues relating to the position paper
  - A climate strategy workshop was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> February with commission members to shape the structure of the strategy, the key issues from the consultation were discussed and various climate strategies from other authority areas were compared
  - The workshop helped to determine three key domains and five themes where action needs to be focused
  - Moving forward need to identify how the areas for priority action are determined
  - Suggested to meet with targeted groups of people to ensure priority actions outlined are appropriate and achievable

- Agreed to set out a programme of meetings with clear objectives to refine material needed to complete the strategy
- Agreed to review the strategy and report progress on an annual basis
- Council updates/Any other business
  - Council successful in funding to install ground source heat pump at Town Hall
  - Council awarded Bronze level Carbon Literate Organisation status following climate change training to officers and members
  - Work is ongoing to produce updated carbon emissions report for the councils operations
  - 30 EV chargers being installed across five locations in Town Centre are soon to be operational
  - Active travel programme hoping to trial two low traffic neighbourhoods in town
  - Section 19 report on Storm Christoph (Jan 21) to be considered soon highlighting impacts of the type of event likely to be more common with climate change
  - Tragic situation in Ukraine has exacerbated energy crisis, effects are being felt by communities and businesses in Warrington

#### **Main Actions:**

- Feedback was requested from the group relating to the consultation report and the outcomes of the climate strategy workshop, relating to the development of a climate strategy for Warrington. Particular input was requested regarding suggested priority actions to be included.
- The consultation report to be published on the commission's webpage with an executive summary added
- A programme of targeted meetings is to be developed to refine the material needed to complete the climate strategy for Warrington priority actions

#### **Next Scheduled Meeting:**

- 2 May 2022 2-4pm (Subsequently moved to May 16<sup>th</sup> due to clash with bank holiday)