

Warrington Climate Emergency Commission

Teams Meeting – Monday 16 May 2022, 10am-12pm



WARRINGTON
CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMISSION

Organisations Represented:

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

Items Discussed on the Agenda:

- Communications Update
 - The Commission has been rebranded with a new logo
 - A banner stand and leaflets were produced for the Commission to improve presence and engagement at in-person events
 - A number of media releases have been published relating to climate work and ongoing work of the Commission
 - Discussion took place over the possibility of setting up a LinkedIn account for the Commission to reach a different audience
 - The report on the consultation was published on the Commission's webpage
 - Council's communication team have prepared a plan detailing upcoming climate-related content
 - Internally the council have recruited a group of climate champions
- Sustainable Procurement – the Commission received a presentation from the Head of Procurement at WBC
 - WBC spends around £250m per year on goods and services
 - Climate change and sustainability is included in the council's social value evaluations during the tendering process for new contracts, however current contract conditions mean climate and sustainability can only be taken into consideration for a company's fulfilment of a particular contract – it cannot take the wider sustainability credentials of a business into account
 - The council are developing a set of contractual conditions which will bind contractors to commit to net-zero and wider sustainability targets
 - It was agreed to look at best practice from other councils and organisations for examples of climate change assessments used in procurement
 - These will be a standard clause in all WBC contracts and an amendment to current contracts
- Developing a Warrington Climate Emergency Strategy
 - A report detailing the results from the consultation on the position paper was published on the Commission's webpage
 - A draft of the climate strategy was circulated to the group following a workshop held with Commission members to determine the structure and refine content
 - Feedback was requested from all Commission members on the draft strategy to fill gaps for recommended actions

- It was discussed how best to engage with stakeholders to sense check information in strategy and how to determine who the main stakeholders are
- It was agreed that due to the urgency of needing to publish the strategy as soon as possible, efforts to sense check elements of the strategy should target the sections where there are gaps to be filled
- A launch strategy needs to be prepared to determine how best to target different sectors and areas of the community
- Council updates
 - The council are working to prepare a climate action plan in response to the Commission's climate strategy
 - Council investigating possible future decarbonisation bids to install heat pumps on various council-owned properties
 - Possibility of a Warrington-based solar farm is being explored
 - The council have submitted a bid for pilot LEVI funding to roll out electric chargers across the Borough
 - A fleet electrification event was held at Birchwood Park in April in collaboration with GRIDSERVE to encourage Warrington businesses to convert their fleets to electric
 - The council's in-house carbon literacy training course is due to be piloted with a group of internal climate champions over coming months
 - Trial low traffic neighbourhoods in Orford and Westy are expected to be launched mid-June. A communications plan to residents is being prepared alongside this
 - The EV car club has been launched from Time Sqr car park where residents can rent an electric vehicle on a 'pay as you go' basis
 - The resurfacing of the TPT through Lymm is underway with a new material being tested that is made of recycled car tyres in replacement of tarmac
 - Several properties on the Incrementum housing developments have been occupied with positive feedback on the use of the heat pumps and solar panels
- Any other business
 - Several members of the Commission attended a consultation event held by the Cheshire & Warrington Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission
 - The Commission expect to prepare an annual report to take to Cabinet once the climate strategy has been completed and launched

Main Actions:

- All Commission members were requested to follow and engage with Commission social media channels to improve online following
- Final feedback was requested from Commission members relating to the draft climate strategy, particularly in relation to filling gaps in the priority areas for action and recommended actions
- It was agreed the draft strategy would be shared with a targeted group of stakeholders in request of feedback to sense check content and fill gaps where needed
- It was agreed that a final version of the strategy would be signed off at the July meeting

Next Scheduled Meeting: 4th July 2022 2-4pm