

Warrington Climate Emergency Commission

Teams Meeting – Monday 7th November 2022, 2-4pm



Organisations Represented:

- Warrington Borough Council
- Business Declares
- Warrington Chamber of Commerce
- Warrington Youth Voice
- Natural England
- Cheshire Wildlife Trust

Items Discussed on the Agenda:

- **Innovate UK Funding Call**
 - A new Innovate UK funding call, Net Zero Living Pioneering Places, available to local authorities and businesses was introduced by council representatives
 - The fund supports the development of detailed feasibility plans for innovative approaches to unlock non-technical systemic barriers to deliver net zero in particular localities
 - The initial funding phase is for £50-75k, with applications due by end of November
 - The second phase would unlock greater funding (up to £8 million per project) to implement measures identified in phase 1
 - Detail of the funding opportunity was shared and it was agreed that the call, though complex and requiring a speedy submission, was a potential opportunity to help advance the delivery of the climate strategy, and a local bid was thus worthy of support from the commission
 - More information on the fund can be found [on the gov.uk website](#)
- **Business Declares Update**
 - Business Declares is a not-for-profit organisation representing more than 130 organisations
 - It recently conducted a large survey of members to collect data on business response to climate change
 - A brief overview of findings was presented at a previous meeting but a more in-depth summary was given
 - Business action has a majority focus on scope 1 and 2 emissions, with scope 3 proving much more difficult
 - Actions are mostly targeted around energy and transport, but many are progressing action to tackle emissions associated with procurement, consumption, materials, investments and offsetting. Some have biodiversity plans also.

- Businesses need most support in strategy and action plan development, scope 3 and supply chain emissions
- Discussion took place over possible support or resources the Commission could provide to businesses. Further discussion to be had.
- **Launching Warrington Climate Emergency Strategy and communications update**
 - Strategy launch event took place in Golden Sqr in September, allowed opportunity to engage with public direct and spread the word more widely through associated media work
 - Commission had presence at annual business conference in October
 - Commission due to present at upcoming faith climate event at University of Chester Time Sqr centre
 - Council colleagues are working to arrange advertising for the commission's social media accounts to coincide with COP27 to improve following
- **Report from task group on outreach and engagement**
 - A task group was set up following the last meeting to progress discussion on outreach and engagement with different sectors
 - The task group met and recommended the Commission focus initially on the first of the planned annual climate emergency forum events. This would be open to all interested parties who live and/or work in Warrington
 - Such an event will give the opportunity to showcase local climate action, report progress and action on the strategy, target sectors through sector-specific content and engage with the community on climate change.
 - Discussion took place around the logistics of such an event e.g. organisers, funding, timeframes
 - Discussion to continue at next meeting
 - It was agreed in the meantime to engage through any existing events/opportunities
 - It was also agreed to investigate creating a mail list option via the website of those interested in climate issues. A newsletter could be circulated to those signed up
- **Review and update of commission membership and terms of reference**
 - The updated draft terms of reference were agreed
- **Council Updates**
 - Transport colleagues are awaiting outcomes of several funding bids
 - West Cheshire Chamber are leading on a bid on behalf of the five Cheshire Chambers to the local skills improvement plan. The fund would be used to develop a skills strategy, with one area focused on decarbonisation skills
 - The council's in-house carbon literacy training course has now been accredited by the Carbon Literacy Trust. The pilot workshop is due to be held in November following which the course will be launched to all council officers and members

- The Commission's strategy has been presented to cabinet and the council have now adopted a new climate change policy which confirms support for the strategy and outlines the council's own ambitions in response
- The council's EV strategy is on the forward plan for January cabinet
- **Any other business**
 - Cheshire Wildlife Trust offered support to businesses in delivering biodiversity ambitions. CWT are progressing 30 by 30 vision statement (30% of land protected for nature by 2030) across Warrington, Cheshire East and Cheshire West
 - Natural England offered to present on Local Nature Recovery Strategies at a future meeting

Main Actions:

- Council to progress bid for Innovate UK funding and update at next meeting
- To further discuss logistics of hosting the annual climate forum
- To investigate setting up a Commission mailing list

Next Meeting: 2nd January 2023 2-4pm (later rescheduled to 23rd January due to bank holiday)