

# Warrington Climate Emergency Commission

Teams Meeting – Friday 5 May 2023 from 10am-12pm



## Organisations Represented:

- Warrington Borough Council
- Business Declares
- Warrington Chamber of Commerce
- Natural England
- Cheshire Wildlife Trust
- Culture Warrington
- NHS Integrated Care Board
- Warrington Vale & Royal College
- University of Chester
- Warrington Community Energy
- North West Net-Zero Hub

## Items Discussed on the Agenda:

- **Outstanding actions**
  - The Commission welcomed a number of new members to the meeting
- **Warrington Community Energy update**
  - An update was presented to the group on the activities of WCE, a community benefit organisation supporting the delivery of local energy projects
  - WCE were recently successful in securing £390k via a joint bid to the Energy Redress Scheme. This will support the launch of a free and impartial energy advice service for residents in the borough
  - An additional £23k has also been secured to establish a smart meter advice service
  - A number of smaller projects have been delivered while work is ongoing to develop a work plan for the forthcoming year
- **Warrington Climate Emergency Forum 2023**
  - The Commission plan to organise a climate emergency forum in 2023, to involve a series of events spanning several dates and locations, yet to be determined
  - Discussion took place on developing the proposed programme of events, which link in with the main themes of the Commission's climate strategy
  - Support is needed from members of the Commission to organise events and determine suitable venues
  - It is hoped that the forum will also link in with existing events planned, including the Schools Climate Conference
  - It was agreed that a working events list is established which identifies relevant local events that the Commission could potentially link in with
- **Communications Update**
  - Work has begun to build a following on the Commission's LinkedIn page
  - A short video introducing the climate strategy has now been published online via social media

- Feedback was welcomed on the proposed Climate Action Network to boost communication impact
- New members were encouraged to support and share social media channels where possible, and promote the new e-bulletin sign up
- **Council Updates**
  - The council's climate action plan has now been drafted and is to be presented to Cabinet for approval at the May meeting
  - The council were successful in securing funding via Innovate UK's Fast Followers fund. This enables the recruitment of a new post to deliver a local net-zero project and participation in a wider innovation programme
  - The council were successful in securing funding via the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to replace end of life gas boilers at the Town Hall and Walton Hall with ground source heat pumps
  - Some support has been offered to Parish Councils and schools across the borough in the development of their own climate action plans
- **Any other business**
  - Guidance and regulations for the Local Nature Recovery Strategies have now been published, work has therefore begun to establish resource for the development of the Cheshire & Warrington LNRS
  - Culture Warrington are progressing a scheme with Warrington's Own Buses to offer an electric 'Culture Bus' to complete school visits to their venues across Warrington
  - A number of funding opportunities were identified aimed at various sectors. The Commission have a role in promoting these opportunities to local organisations/groups and potentially supporting applications. It was proposed that a smaller group is set up to progress these discussions.

**Main Actions:**

- All members of the Commission to consider volunteering resource to help organise the Climate Emergency Forum event/s
- Relevant Commissioners to determine suitability and availability of venues across the borough to be utilised as part of the forum event/s
- Members of the Commission to contribute feedback on the proposed Climate Action Network
- A working events list is to be prepared which identifies relevant upcoming events taking place locally
- Further discussion is to be had about potential support for local organisations to access funding opportunities

**Next Meeting:** Friday 7 July 2023 from 10am-12pm (*later rescheduled to Friday 21 July 2-4pm*)