



WARRINGTON
CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMISSION

Warrington Climate Emergency Commission

Teams meeting – Monday 14th July 14:00 – 16:00

Organisations present:

- Natural England
- Warrington Borough Council
- Independent Chair
- Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington
- Warrington Youth
- Cheshire and Merseyside integrated care board

Agenda:

1. Notes of previous meeting and action points not covered elsewhere on the agenda

- Notes were approved from the previous meeting.
- Action log was updated.

2. Developing resilience and adaptation – *Overview of Warrington Borough Council's adaptation process*

- The climate response co-ordinator at the council gave an overview of the approach they have taken to climate adaptation.
- A workshop process has been developed using local authority toolkits. In total 5 workshops were held with officers from across the council.
- The aim of the workshops was to gather insight into our previous response to weather events and how they impact service delivery; what the barriers and drivers to climate adaptation are; and what actions we may be able to take to become more resilient to climate related hazards.
- The outputs of the workshops will be used to draft a climate adaptation plan.
- There may be an opportunity to use the LNRS to highlight where nature-based solutions could be helpful in delivering actions.
- It was requested that the workshop structure and content are shared with Culture Warrington
- Reflecting on the process taken, it was flagged that it is important to get the right people around the table as they directly shape the outputs. It is helpful to move the conversation away from solely focusing on statutory duties and instead build a richer picture of impacts of climate hazards at a service level.
- It was recommended to any other organisations planning to begin a similar process to get as many people from across different parts of the organisation as possible.

3. Communications and engagement update

- a. Progress with the commission's website
 - A meeting is to be arranged with the council's communications team to discuss.
 - A name for the website must be agreed.
- b. Developing new engagement networks

- A young people's network has now been set up.
- The first meeting has now taken place, with two people attending.
- The meeting was productive, and it was agreed that they want to play an active role in local climate action.
- They have been tasked with thinking about what areas or campaigns that they are interested in.
- Advertisement of the group will take place again in September once schools, colleges and universities have returned.
- It was highlighted that the next young people's forum meeting could take place as part of this years' climate emergency forum.

c. Newsletter

- A request for content for August's newsletter has been sent out. Commissioners were reminded to pass on any content and continue to promote the newsletter amongst their networks.

d. Event opportunities

- The Sky Garden is hosting a range of events over summer where there is an opportunity to promote the commission's work with flyers and posters already available.
- The Cheshire Sustainability Network is hosting an in-person meeting at the end of July.

4. Partner updates

Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington

- The GB Community Energy Fund is now open for expressions of interest. The fund aims to reach out to community groups including ones that may not necessarily already be involved in community energy, who have an interested in developing a project.
- Funding has been confirmed from the NWNH for two feasibility studies. One is to look at EV recharging across Cheshire and Warrington and another to look at water availability for industry.

Public Sector Forum

- A meeting took place last week. Cheshire Fire and Rescue are investigating the opportunity for a solar farm at the back of HQ linked to the national sustainability charter.
- The hospital is refreshing its green plan and are working more closely to Bridgewater Community Healthcare Trust.
- Avoiding duplication across other Cheshire sustainability groups was raised such as the Cheshire Sustainability Network. However, currently there is limited representation from Warrington on the network. The Warrington forum has a Warrington specific focus

Culture Warrington

- The sustainability lead at Culture Warrington is speaking at a national conference in September for a national education and museums group.
- Eco Arts day is taking place at the Sky Garden on the 25th July.
- Work is underway to investigate whether the Right to Grow campaign could be implemented in Warrington. This would mean that the council would need to maintain a free map of public land which is available for community growing or wildlife projects.



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- A meeting is planned with Warrington Voluntary Action to discuss green social prescribing.

Council

- There was an APSE Energy event at Walton Hall with around 60 people from other local authorities in attendance.
- The council presented on Carbon Culture, Warrington's electric bus replacement and the Walton Hall heat pump project. There were also presentations from other councils.
- The Carbon Culture project is now complete apart from some admin tasks to wrap up the project with the funder Innovate UK.
- There is a new cabinet member for climate change, sustainability and the environment who will be attending future meetings.
- A Detailed Project Development study for a potential heat network in the centre of Warrington is underway. The study aims to build the business case for a potential scheme revisiting information and assumptions from the earlier feasibility work which identified the opportunity. The consultants are contacting anchor buildings in central Warrington to gather relevant data.

Any other business

- The commission's annual workshop is scheduled for the 30th July.
- A bid has been put together for the National Lottery's Climate Action Fund. It is expected that applicants will be informed of whether their bid will successfully progress to the next round within 8 weeks.
- There has been discussion about support in kind to help run the annual forum event.
- As the commission is not a registered charity it is not possible to secure funding directly.
- A discussion with Warrington Voluntary Action may be helpful to determine whether a supporting charity could be established.

Next meeting: Our next meeting is Monday 8th September 2-4pm