

Climate Member Working Group Minutes

Meeting

4.30pm to 5.45pm, 30 September 2019 in The Ground Floor Conference Room at The Deane House in Taunton

Cllr Attendees: Peter Pilkington, Federica Smith-Roberts, Loretta Whetlor, Dave Mansell, Brenda Weston, Dixie Darch, Chris Morgan and Gwil Wren.

Programme Team Attendees: Brendan Cleere, Graeme Thompson

Democratic Services Attendees: Andrew Randell

Apologies and minutes.

An apology was received by Robert Downes.

The minutes of the previous meeting were noted as a correct record.

1. Housekeeping (Brendan) Expectations and processes for feedback and influencing the final documents.

- Following the declaration of the Climate Change Emergency in February, there were challenges experienced with the limited amount of time the framework had taken.
- Early projects were requested to be put into the budget process and how these projects would fit into the priorities.
- A Commitment was made for the working group to be involved on the proposals and the budget process so that key tasks would be explored and budgets assigned.
- Concerns were expressed about the timescales of fitting climate change projects into budget setting processes.
- NALC - Save the planet conference agenda was being held on October 28th 2019
- The Heart of the South West and LEP meeting was being held in November focusing on Climate Change, as a result of this, it likely that all authorities would pen a letter to Central Government as a result of this.
- The need to consult with adjoining authorities was emphasised and concerns were expressed over potentially underplaying role of the natural environment.
- There were implications for planning committee members along with the need for specific training.
- The group were in favour of having a key member for each workstream – this would be considered.

Resolved that:- The working group looking forward to considering more details projects and proposals once the Framework had been considered at Full Council.

2. Somerset Climate Emergency Framework (Graeme/Brendan/All)

Presenting the County-wide Framework document and then group discussion

- Land use, Land use change and forestry was requested to be mentioned on page 4.
- It was requested for consumption vs territorial emission mentioned and checked.
- Page 8 was considered too negative leading to paralysis by analysis. The need was understood but the balance is wrong. Trialling was important to show people why change isn't always that bad...
- Further concerns were expressed that this felt too Council-centric and not focusing about what everyone can be doing.

Resolved that:- the update be noted.

3. SWT Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan Framework Document

(Graeme) Presenting the Somerset West and Taunton Framework document and then group discussion.

- The Next Working Group were to have the discussion about specific things the Council could and are doing now including about retrofitting of council housing stock.
- An aim was to focus on blazing a trail on the Built, Natural Environment and Transport but realised the difficulties that would be encountered.
- Councillors were keen to be interacting with the public on this.
- The group were keen on resourcing a dedicated climate change officer. Wider recognition that budget issues, re-prioritisation of existing resources, and potentially monitoring how the Mendip officer role worked
- The group agreed the amendments to remove "immensely" and "everyone" from top of page 8 - and add "widely" before owned.

Resolved that:- the update be noted.

4. AOB and next meeting

- The Group agreed for the next meeting to be held on 18th November.

6.00pm - Close

If you have any queries about the agenda please contact Robert Downes from the Programme Team by phone on 01984 635 190 or by email at r.downes@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk.