

Norfolk Climate Change Partnership

Portfolio Holder Group

28 February 2022

Date: 28 February 2022	Venue: via Microsoft Teams
Time: 8.30am	Chair: Councillor Ian Sherwood

Attendees:	Cllr Paul Kunes	Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk
	Cllr Ian Sherwood	Breckland District Council
	Cllr Judy Leggett	Broadland District Council
	Cllr Paul Wells	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
	Cllr Nigel Lloyd	North Norfolk District Council
	Cllr Emma Hampton	Norwich City Council
	Cllr Graham Minshull	South Norfolk District Council
Officers:	Lorraine Gore	CEX, Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk
	Dave Robson	Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk
	Steve Blatch	CEX, North Norfolk District Council
	Annie Sommazzi	North Norfolk District Council

1. Apologies

An apology was received from Councillor Grant.

2. Welcome & Introductions

Lorraine Gore, Chief Executive of Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk welcomed Members and Officers to the meeting. Steve Blatch, Chief Executive of North Norfolk District Council had agreed to share the Chairmanship of the Officer group with Lorraine.

3. Appointment of Chair

Councillor Kunes nominated Councillor Ian Sherwood as Chairman of the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership. This appointment was seconded by Councillor Wells.

Councillor Sherwood in the Chair

4. Appointment of Vice-Chair

It was agreed that Councillor Emma Hampton be Vice Chairman.

5. Terms of Reference for the Portfolio Holder Group

The Terms of Reference had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Norfolk Leaders meeting had considered the Terms of Reference, and the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership Officer group felt it was extremely important for there to be Member oversight of this group.

RESOLVED –the Terms of Reference for the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership Portfolio Holder Group be approved.

6. Update on the work of the NCCP to date

The work plan was shared and explained that the Officer group had met on a monthly basis and the largest project carried out to date was the application for the Community renewal Fund.

Whilst the plan linked to local matters, it covered the 10-point plan that links to the Government Policy.

ACTION: The 10-point plan to be shared with Members.

Members heard that Norfolk County Council were working on a strategy for Electric Vehicles across Norfolk and as a result an Electric Vehicle Sub-Group would be set up.

The Chairman said that the work plan would provide future agenda items.

Councillor Kunes shared information on an exhibition that would be held in June, aimed at industry and share things that have been achieved in the borough. An exhibition for the public would be arranged for later in the year.

Members felt that whilst the work plan linked to the Government priorities there would not be the opportunity to influence at that level.

Members heard that Norfolk County Council were working on an Electric Vehicle Strategy but local authorities had not been made aware of this and were concerned that there had not been joined up thinking.

It was suggested that the next agenda include an item that looks at Electric Vehicle as well as Hydrogen strategy across the County.

ACTION: Officer from NCC to provide update on the Electric Vehicle and Hydrogen strategy to be added to the next agenda.

Members also heard that there was work being carried out by County on a Local Energy Asset Plan and should be added as a future agenda.

It was asked if there would be any funding or resource to support the administration of the website. Whilst the website was in its infancy it was managed by Kings Lynn and West Norfolk and would be an important tool to bring residents along the journey of climate change.

Once the programme gained momentum then a discussion would need to be had in order to consider future funding for the maintenance of the website.

The Chairman was keen on collaborative working and that individual councils supported in different ways.

7. Update on Community Renewal Fund projects

Annie Sommazzi is the Project Lead for the Community Renewal Fund for Norfolk. A bid was submitted in May 2021 for Net Zero Norfolk and were awarded the bid in full in November 2021.

The aim of Net Zero Norfolk is to identify where omissions could be reduced on both road and stationery assets (properties / housing) and would be achieved through undertaking two in depth feasibility studies.

The first study would look at Sustainable Hydrogen Infrastructure for Transport (SHIFT) that considered greener alternatives for HGV fleets and look at how these can be fuelled and the need for a costly grid reinforcement.

The second study would look at Community Energy and consider opportunities to decarbonise stationery assets by exploring community energy projects throughout Norfolk.

In December 2021 the Climate Change Partnership went out to tender for these studies and have awarded contracts to two separate consultants. The SHIFT project had been awarded to Ricardo, a multi-national firm of consultants experienced in hydrogen and were looking to move public transport to hydrogen fuels. They were also working with the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership on similar projects.

The Community Energy project had been awarded to Net Zero East, a firm of local consultants who had worked on projects at Hethel and Bacton.

Annie was pleased to inform that she was working on building the relationships between the two consultant firms which was working well.

It was hoped that both feasibility studies would be completed and evaluated by June 2022 when a workshop for Members could be arranged with the consultants.

The Chairman asked how much the funding had been for and how the projects had been chosen. It was confirmed that the amount was for £320k (approx.) but that the project was at a slight underspend so Officers were considering the opportunities that could be used for the shortfall. The Officer Group considered 13-14 projects overall that could have been funded, however these projects were best chosen as they were feasibility based. They would also compliment the delivery of respective authorities who would like to expand on Community Energy projects and the decarbonisation of the HGV fleet would also help to achieve net zero targets set by the Authorities.

Lorraine added that the Community Renewal Funding was set at a very tight timescale and the Officer Group considered what projects could be put forward. It was about working together collaboratively as there could be a danger of local authorities working against each other. The Officer Group would look to the Members to take back the message to their Leaders and Councils.

Annie said that there were regular meetings held between Norfolk County Community Funding Group and the Consultants as it was important that all were singing off the same hymn sheet.

The Chairman asked for an update from Norfolk County Council on the Community Renewal Fund project. He also asked for a brief summary of the two projects and the bids, where progress to date.

ACTION: NCC to provide an update on the Community Renewal Funding Project at the next meeting.

ACTION: Annie to provide a summary of the two projects.

Steve Blatch added that the Member Group together with the Officer Group would allow the opportunity to work together. Suffolk Climate Change Partnership were much further ahead and had also secured finance through a shared business rate pool. By working together across Norfolk it would allow smarter working and allow Members to champion the developments within each own local authority.

8. Climate Change Action Plan for Norfolk – Procurement of Provider and TOR

Lorraine explained that Suffolk Climate Change Partnership Officer and Member groups had been running for a while and had a dedicated resource, together with an action plan and an agreed shared target. She asked if it would be the members ambition for Norfolk to consider this and would look for specialist support to work on an action plan that could be championed through the Member group and ask respective Leaders for funding.

It was crucial to take Norfolk forward on the Climate Change agenda and would like the website to be the place that residents could see what the partnership were doing collectively on residents' behalf as well as highlighting the unique areas within the Districts.

It was asked if both Chief Executives prepare a brief to procure a consultant going forward and would ask for £25k across all Authorities in Norfolk. The brief would be shared with Members at the next meeting for approval.

Councillor Wells sought clarification that the Leaders had already agreed for £25k but asked if this was seeking for additional funding.

It was confirmed that £25k was required, and that Kings Lynn procurement team would work on sourcing a consultant that would provide costings on how to deliver the action plan across Norfolk.

Councillor Wells said he was aware that each District Council had significant finite resources and recognised that Suffolk had invested in additional resource in order to achieve their goals. However, he was also aware that some local Authorities in Norfolk were still setting their targets and that each Authority had different targets.

It was recognised that the geography within Norfolk was diverse and therefore the carbon impact was greater in some areas than others, however it was important to have a starting point.

The Chairman agreed and added that Breckland had asked consultants to provide a starting point which had proved very useful.

He suggested that it would be useful to have a document that shared where each Authority across Norfolk were at and their climate highlight. For example, if a climate Emergency had been declared, the targets that had been set.

ACTION: Dave Robson to provide this summary for the next meeting.

ACTION: Annie to add to the individual district targets to the note on the Community Resilience Funding project.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to receiving a proposal at the next meeting.

9. Any Other Business

Councillor Sherwood felt the meeting had been a great learning curve. As the admin support for this meeting would sit with the host Authority (Breckland) he suggested that Greg Pearson would act as a point of contact.

It was requested that his contact details be shared:
Greg.Pearson@breckland.gov.uk

It was asked for clarification if the work programme and terms of reference be added to the website. The Chairman agreed that this should be published.

ACTION: DR to publish the work programme and terms of reference.

Members were asked to inform Dave Robson if different Officer contacts be required on the website: <https://norfolkclimatechange.co.uk/>

A communication plan was in place and would include the review of the website.

Items for the next agenda:

- NCC to provide update on the Electric Vehicle and Hydrogen Strategy.
- NCC to provide an update on the Community Renewal Fund project.
- Climate Change Action Plan for Norfolk – Procurement of Provider and Terms of Reference to be agreed

10. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed the group would meet monthly until Members were up to speed. Members prefer the meeting to take place at 8.30am with the next meeting to be scheduled towards the end of March/early April.

Breckland would manage the administration of the meetings during the tenure of Councillor Sherwood being Chairman.

Meeting closed 9.50am.