

Climate Leadership Gloucestershire Meeting #18 24/10/2024; Meeting Notes

Notes and actions of the meeting

Attendance

The following partners were in attendance:

Partner organisation	Attendees	Apologies
Cheltenham Borough Council	Cllr Iain Dobie Frances Crick	
Cotswold District Council	Cllr Mike McKeown Olivia McGregor (substitute)	Rob Weaver
Forest of Dean District Council	Cllr Chris McFarling (Chair) Marcus Perrin (substitute)	Nigel Brinn
Gloucester City Council	Cllr Sebastian Field Jon Burke (substitute)	Jon McGinty
Gloucestershire County Council	Cllr David Gray Colin Chick Sarah Danson	
Stroud District Council	Cllr Chloe Turner Brendan Cleere Cllr Martin Brown (observer)	
Tewkesbury Borough Council	Cllr Cate Cody Simon Dix	
Hospitals Trusts	Jen Cleary	
Integrated Care Board	Dan Corfield	
Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner and Gloucestershire Constabulary	Mandy Gibbs	
Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership	Nicola Hillary	Stephanie Sargeant
Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils	Kerrin Wilkinson	
Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group	Polly Gannaway-Pitts Rachel Billingham	
Secretariat	Afriqnun Lovejoy David Sharman	

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1) Welcome, apologies and Introductions

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, in particular those attending for the first time- Cllr Field from Gloucester City Council, and Frances Crick, Cheltenham Borough Council's new Climate Manager.

Chair also noted that a number of members could not attend due to attendance at the LGA Conference.

It was noted that Cllr Martin Brown from Stroud District Council was attending as an observer for this meeting.

2) Declarations of Interest

No declarations.

3) Approval of meeting notes: September CLG meeting (paper 2)

Meeting notes approved by members as a true and accurate record.

Decision: Climate Leadership Gloucestershire approved the September meeting notes.

4) Action Plan and Funding update

The Secretariat began by recapping the actions captured from the last September meeting. The Secretariat confirmed that all actions had been progressed, or were being explored.

Action Plan update

The Secretariat presented some updates to actions since the publication of the September Action Plan.

- Action 0205– Biodiversity. The Gloucestershire Nature + Climate Fund are working with OneLegal and Publica Legal to approve a s106 agreement(s). A lead across OneLegal authorities is still required to progress this in a timely manner, and enable Biodiversity Net Gain to be ideally leveraged in the County in the next few months.

Action: Secretariat to urgently confirm with Chief Execs a senior officer lead to take forward s106 comments and agreement with OneLegal councils.

- Action 0404 – Economy. Net Zero Business Conference is taking place on 11th December 2024. There is limited capacity but any authorities keen to obtain additional places can contact David Sharman, or Growth Hub colleagues to be added to reserve list.
- Action 0601 – Integrated plan on Food & Farming now going ahead. Senior officers will receive requests for interviews. It would be appreciated if those could be prioritised.
- Action 0702 – Planning central resource work to be aligned with the emerging ambitions of the City Region Board in relation to developing a Spatial Development Strategy next discussed at the meeting on the 15th November. CBC planning theme lead will report back to CLG at the November meeting.

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Funding update

The Secretariat confirmed that a shared funding/priorities database had been circulated with partners' climate leads and this was now being populated. This would assist in identifying further partnership/consortium bids.

The main areas currently being explored by the shared bid writer for external funding were also confirmed: Tree planting and maintenance funding (various funds); Access to nature greenspaces project (Heritage Lottery Fund); Farmer cluster expansion (via TNL Climate Action Fund); Support to decarbonise own estate.

Previous suggestions of a countywide crowdfunding platform and a funding officer sub-group are also being explored.

Key points arising from the discussion:

It was confirmed that a Heritage Lottery Fund 'Nature, Towns and Cities' bid was being developed by the Wildlife Trust, in collaboration with Gloucester City, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Borough Councils. The Countywide Coordinators will liaise with the Wildlife Trust to ensure any further efforts across the county are considered for inclusion.

Action: Secretariat to meet with Glos Wildlife Trust staff to consider cross-county approach to Heritage Lottery 'Nature, Towns and Cities' bid.

It was asked whether future support to decarbonise own estates was only applicable to only Local Authorities. The Secretariat confirmed that the support would be provided across the public sector, and applicable to all CLG partners.

Retrofit theme update - Introduction to Furbnow (Paper 3)

Introduction

Chris Uttley from Stroud District Council, introduced the item as the theme lead:

- Since the last update minor edits have been made to the existing Retrofit Centre platform.
- A participation agreement was made between all six District Councils- to pursue a joint procurement of the expert support needed to engage the 'able to pay' retrofit market.
- The contract will align with our work to develop and stimulate green skills in the county.
- The contract was awarded to the company Furbnow and we're pleased they could join us today.

Furbnow presentation

Laurence Watson (Furbnow Co-Founder and Chief Product & Technology Officer) and Adam Wilson (Project Lead) presented Furbnow's approach for a retrofit delivery service for those residents able to self-finance energy efficiency installations:

- Furbnow was set up two years ago, with the support of Nesta, to assist the under-served able-to-pay market.

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- Furbnow provides a complete end-to-end solution for residents to take forward energy efficiency installations in the right way, at the right time.
- This is done via three stages: A Home Energy Plan; Design and Tender stage; and Project Delivery.
- The web platform will likely be evolved from the Retrofit Centre- to a Furbnow Gloucestershire landing page, working with the Centre for Energy Equality's Fairer Warmth app- which provides a plan builder function, gives general advice, and will triage eligible people to Warm & Well scheme.
- Residents will be able to access a free consultation call; then going on to procure:
 - A full home energy plan: Plan follows a home survey, and is laid out in a phased approach, considering the full benefits and trade-offs for all possible energy efficiency measures within their home.
 - Design and Tender support: Advice on designing and implementing measures, and retrieving quotes from a quality-assured network of suppliers.
 - Project delivery: Full project coordination and management, liaising with suppliers.
- Furbnow have clear KPIs to develop local supply chains and ensure that the quality assured supplier network is Gloucestershire based- 50% by end of Y1; 100% by end of Y3.
- Furbnow will be requesting support and engagement from comms colleagues and partners on emerging marketing and comms plan.
- Furbnow confirmed they were considering an official launch of the new platform before end of November 2024.

Key points arising from the discussion:

- Furbnow confirmed their approach to vetting suppliers- they have rejected 70% of suppliers with whom they have engaged historically. Suppliers' professional qualifications, insurance, trade body memberships, and other specific qualifications are checked. Furbnow also request and review references and recent examples of work. They also look for suppliers that share the values and approach of Furbnow. Quality assurance is monitored once partners are onboarded.
- Discussion was had on Furbnow's ability to encourage drive up of local apprentices and work to encourage young people into these professions. Laurence confirmed that they will encourage suppliers to get involved in skills initiatives in the county, and take on apprentices. It was confirmed that Furbnow will be looped into the work of the incoming Green Skills Coordinator to develop schemes aimed at young people.
- Furbnow confirmed that they would be interested in utilising demonstrator sites, to give residents' a practical idea and example of measures within a home.
- Marketing engagement will comprise press releases, online social media campaigning, event materials, and attendance at certain events.
- The Retrofit Engagement Officers, brought into Forest of Dean, Cheltenham and Cotswold via a grant from the South West Net Zero Hub, will work closely with Furbnow to drive up engagement. The relationship between Furbnow and these officers will commence later this week.
- As part of the grant remit of these engagement officers- we will be developing a number of grassroots engagement events over the coming months.

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- It was confirmed that this contract, and most of the work under the theme is focussed on homeowners. Further work to encourage measures within businesses and SMEs will be explored via the Growth Hub's net zero business support team.
- It was asked whether Furbnow could provide advice and support on simplifying planning advice and requirements for retrofit. Furbnow was supportive of the request and, exploring this will be taken up by the planning theme, and the proposed centralised planning resource.

Action: Coordinators and planning theme lead to ensure that further planning advice and guidance on retrofit is developed collaboratively across LPAs under the planning theme, and considered and tested with Furbnow colleagues.

5) Adaptation theme update - Countywide Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

Introduction

Jon Burke, Gloucester City and Adaptation theme lead introduced the item:

Jon reiterated the actions approved under the theme-

1. To take forward work following the [10 principles of good adaptation](#).
2. To take forward a countywide Climate Risk & Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA).
3. Jon has now overseen the procurement process for this CRVA, assisted by a project board of Afriqnmun Lovejoy (Countywide Coordinator), Marcus Perrin (Forest of Dean DC) and Cath Leech (NHS).
4. Ensure that adaptation is considered and included in all recommendations and actions across CLG themes.

Jon then updated regarding point 2; that AtkinsRealis have been awarded the contract for the CRVA and that he was pleased to introduce them to speak on their plans for this.

Introduction to AtkinsRealis colleagues

Benjamin Smith and Cara-Marie O'Keeffe from Atkins joined the call to present initial plans for the CRVA:

- Atkins confirmed that Sustainability West Midlands was their partner on this project, given their specialism in stakeholder engagement, which will be utilised to take forward to CRVA- organising workshops and facilitating knowledge exchange.
- The primary purpose of the project is to understand the areas and policies that should be prioritised for highest impact, lowest-cost interventions when it comes to climate-related risks.
- The project stages will include a current climate risk assessment; a future assessment- 2050-2100, looking at future scenarios for heat waves and flooding; and recommendations for adaptations, including capital measures to take forward.
- There will be three engagement events that coincide with these stages to obtain local knowledge, input and capacity within the county.
- The CRVA will include assessment of extreme heat, flooding, drought, cold spells and storms.

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- The key outputs will include: intro to recent weather events; stakeholder mapping; spatial visualisation of the risks; pricing of risks- putting an economic value on climate impacts; assessment of the specific vulnerability, accessibility and adaptive capacity of Gloucestershire communities; risk prioritisation; and key recommendations for adaptation projects.
- The project should be starting in November; initial workshop will happen at end of year; second workshop in February; with final workshop in June. CRVA should be delivered in September/October 2025.

Key points arising from the discussion:

- It was asked how the CRVA would interact with tools recently made available to Local Authorities- the Local Climate Adaptation Tool, as well as the Met office Local Authority tool. AtkinsRealis confirmed that information already available across the authorities will be used as a baseline as part of the initial assessment. Further analysis will then be done to focus in on particular elements of this that need further development- such as granular risk mapping for particular assets.
- A query was raised on the relationship between mitigation and the adaptation recommendations posed in the assessment. AtkinsRealis confirmed that the assessment criteria for all measures included consideration of the synergy and benefits to emissions mitigation, or at a minimum ensuring that these activities won't contribute towards emissions.
- It was asked what temperature scenarios were modelled against within the assessment. AtkinsRealis confirmed that two different levels of warming would be examined- 2 degrees increase and preparing for 4 degrees of warming by end of the century, as a worst case scenario.
- The specifics of the prioritisation criteria were queried. It was confirmed that adaptation options would include costings for measures, and cost of impacts. Prioritisation will be done on the advice of the project board, as this can be done in a number of ways, but will follow the 10 principles for good adaptation.
- It was asked what the stakeholder groups would look like, and if all demographics will be accounted for, and would be as inclusive as possible. It was confirmed that this was in process, and inclusivity would be ensured.
- The role of Town and Parish Councils was raised, and whether they would be included as stakeholders? It was suggested that the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils should be utilised as a mechanism to ensure engagement with this tier of government.
- It was asked if Ben and Cara's contact details could be shared for follow up on engagement conversation.

Action: Secretariat to share AtkinsRealis contact details alongside draft meeting notes, for members to provide further points on CRVA stakeholder engagement.

- It was asked how the CRVA would consider black swan events- extreme weather events and conditions. It was confirmed that the CRVA would consider extremes. Extreme value analyses would be conducted for heat and heavy rainfall- examining the very high end of what could be seen.

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- Forest of Dean have developed risk assessments for three of the four towns in the district, and the District Council would be looking to build on that within the CRVA. The District Council have also produced a guidance document for towns and parishes on the Local Partnerships' tool.

Action: Secretariat to share a copy of Forest of Dean Local Partnerships adaptation tool guidance with the draft notes of this meeting.

6) Any Other Climate Business

No further business raised.