

Climate Leadership Gloucestershire Meeting #12 24/10/2023, Meeting Notes

Climate Leadership Gloucestershire

Notes and actions of the meeting

Attendance

The following partners were in attendance:

Partner organisation	Attendees	Apologies
Cheltenham Borough Council		
Cotswold District Council	Cllr Mike McKeown Rob Weaver Chris Crookall-Fallon (presenting)	
Forest of Dean District Council	Cllr Chris McFarling Nick Murry (standing in for Andrew Grant)	
Gloucester City Council	Cllr Richard Cook Jon McGinty	
Gloucestershire County Council	Colin Chick	Cllr David Gray
Stroud District Council	Cllr Chloe Turner (Chair) Brendan Cleere	
Tewkesbury Borough Council	Cllr Sarah Hands Simon Dix (standing in for Alistair Cunningham)	Alistair Cunningham
Hospitals Trusts	Jen Cleary	
Integrated Care Board	Mary Hutton	
Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner and Gloucestershire Constabulary	Mandy Gibbs	
GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership	Sarah Danson	
Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership	Doug Hulyer	Nicola Hillary
Secretariat	Afriqnmun Lovejoy	

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	David Sharman	
Observers	Anya Hyndside – currently providing support to the Forest of Dean District Council on their climate partnership work Orlagh Stoner – County Transport team	

1) Welcome, apologies and Introductions

The Chair welcomed Cllr Chris McFarling in this, his first meeting since resuming his role as Vice Chair.

The chair also noted apologies from Cllr David Gray, Nicola Hillary (LNP) and Alistair Cunningham.

2) Declarations of Interest

No declarations.

3) Updates from the Chair

The Chair took a moment to reflect on the importance of our role as local leaders on the climate agenda and the need to maintain our leadership even during challenging times, to ensure we maintain momentum and meet our ambitious targets.

The Chair sought agreement for CLG endorsement of the already individually approved Transport Decarbonisation Annex.

Decision: Climate Leadership Gloucestershire endorsed the Transport Decarbonisation Annex and look forward to seeing the action plan which will support it.

4) Approval of meeting notes: October CLG meeting (paper 2)

The Chair sought agreement for the minutes of the October meeting of this group.

Decision: Climate Leadership Gloucestershire approved the October meeting notes.

5) Secretariat updates

- CLG Action Plan

Afriqnmun Lovejoy presented on progress towards the development of a central countywide climate action plan. She identified the proposed benefits and outcomes expected of a central plan and reassured partners that the plan would focus on delivering on areas beyond the reach of individual partners' plans and will build on and not duplicate partner's decarbonisation and adaptation efforts.

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The plan is being created through the pulling together of the recommendations presented under each theme, to this group, and will be focused on the practical delivery of these approved recommendations.

Afriqnmun then went on to reference a comparison with the action plans developed by the Hertfordshire Climate Change and Sustainability Partnership and the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership before presenting the draft Greener Gloucestershire Action Plan for 5 of the 10 themes.

Approval was sought on the proposed Action Plan format.

Key points arising from the discussion:

A question was asked around the use of stress testing to ensure the robustness of the Greener Gloucestershire Action Plan. It was agreed that this would be a useful exercise and that the development of the countywide Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment would support this wider review of the action plan as it evolves.

Clarification was sought regarding the sharing of learning between the partnerships mentioned in the presentation and Climate Leadership Gloucestershire. Afriqnmun agreed that this was a useful product of having other similar partnerships in existence and that much of the stages of the setup of CLG and the development of the action plan to date was supported by learning from the Hertfordshire partnership in particular.

The example of the reference to HVO fuel use was noted as a key area of potential shared learning. Afriqnmun confirmed that this is an area that we are already exploring under the Waste theme and subgroup and that a demonstrator visit has been planned.

Action: Waste theme lead to share intel re HVO fuel for waste vehicles following demonstrator visit.

The use of carbon metrics to assess progress against the action plan was queried, this idea was generally supported but it was acknowledged that this will need supporting infrastructure (including the development of thematic/sector specific targets and countywide baselining) to make them effective for monitoring purposes.

It was noted that the Global Covenant of Mayors (of which many of the council partners are members) already specifies the need for monitoring of carbon reduction progress and bi-annual reporting. Therefore, this allows for some form of monitoring councils' individual progress towards our targets.

The action plan format was generally supported, and it was agreed that one central plan would avoid duplication of effort and provide opportunities to highlight interdependencies and to deliver shared outcomes across the county.

The Red Amber Green rating was also supported as a quick way to temperature check progress against actions as we move into the delivery phase.

Decision: Climate Leadership Gloucestershire approved the action plan template.

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- **Greener Gloucestershire Action Fund Expressions of Interest shortlist**

David Sharman then spoke regarding the £200k Green and Gloucester Action Fund (GCAF) and the work to develop bids to deliver thematic priorities and form a pipeline of activity for future funding.

He went on to update on the work so far to draft and compare eight Expressions of Interest (EOIs) with five being shortlisted for full development:

- i) Green Skills Coordinator post
- ii) Climate community fund
- iii) Supplier to consumer 'Green Economy' matching platform
- iv) Countywide shared bid writer resource
- v) Energy planning – completion of initial Stages 1-3 of LAEP process

David also flagged those bids not shortlisted: (vi) Countywide food waste campaign; (vii) Shared planning resource; (viii) Sustainable food project.

He noted that full bids will come to CLG for prioritisation and approval at the next meeting: 21 November. During this time, the Secretariat alongside Strategic Director leads are also exploring funding from outside of the GCAF to allow us to take forward as many of these projects as possible.

Key points arising from the discussion:

The lack of a food focused project in the shortlist was questioned, and it was agreed that further works should be done to re-consider/improve on this for future rounds. David confirmed that the food waste campaign, in particular, will proceed in some format via the County Council, but perhaps not at the scale sought in the EOI. He also noted that we will return to looking at potential food work opportunities under the food and farming theme later today.

Clarification was sought on the approval process for the bids and the Secretariat agreed to resend this information to interested parties.

Action: Secretariat to remind interested members of the process to approve bids to the GCAF.

- **CN2030 future structure**

David then went on to provide a brief update on the work of the climate officers group. He noted that the CLG Secretariat has taken over as formal chair for these meetings and since instigated a review of objectives and structure. Initially meeting through a workshop, key outputs from the group were: A desire to enshrine and maintain the current function of the group, that being sharing of best practice projects and learning across the county; A desire to support officers and aid in their personal development and; To address more focused conversations on countywide actions that come under the CLG Action Plan.

New draft objectives and terms of reference have since been developed for the group alongside a meeting structure which includes more focused thematic sessions. The group

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has also been renamed as the Climate Leadership Officers Group (CLOG) to align more closely with CLG. The Secretariat also offered to share the regular notes of these CLOG sessions with CLG to increase transparency and two-way information sharing.

Key points arising from the discussion:

The Chair agreed that this group would like to see the notes of the officer group meetings.

Action: Secretariat to share CLOG notes with CLG.

The Vice Chair noted the name change and raised the need to maintain a sense of sense of urgency and not to lose momentum within the officer group whilst accepting that not all partners have a net zero target of 2030 at this time.

It was also noted by the group that further work was needed on the mechanisms to adopt delivery of/resource CLG actions through the existing governance of partners.

6) Adaptation – Countywide Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment next steps

Jon Burke updated on the project brief for the development of a Countywide Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment. He highlighted the key objectives to:

To understanding the history of, and assessment of, the risk and magnitude of potential extreme weather events.

The project will also aim to identify and price the risks to the county, and individual sectors, and identify opportunities to reduce and mitigate against the risks faced by the county.

There is also an expectation that this piece of work will take into account the views for the various range of stakeholders, including the County Council, the district councils, the NHS Foundation Trust, NHS Hospitals Trust and Integrated Care Board as well as emergency services. The work should look to include categorisation and pricing of the full range of climate risk related to their activities.

Finally, that the project will seek to provide spatial representations of hazard to allow partners to assess their climate risk scenarios, agree options to take action, and utilise levers which they can apply to future proof the delivery of key services.

Jon reminded partners that the funding had already been approved for this work and noted the previous launch of an adaptation sub-group to shape and lead the project.

He also noted the requirement for the project to be conducted through the lens of the Climate Change Committee's "ten principles for good adaptation", which has previously been agreed as part of the earlier recommendations under this theme.

Jon highlighted that the next steps for this work was to test the project brief with trusted suppliers to provide early feedback on the viability and cost of this work before going to tender. Part of this early engagement will be to ensure alignment with the two-district scale climate risk assessment currently underway (in Gloucester and Forest of Dean).

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Gloucester City Council via Jon Burke will then take a lead on this work on behalf of all partners. Recognising the hub and spoke model which will allow one authority to lead on a topic but gaining the intelligence from the other nine themes being led by the other partners within CLG.

Key points arising from the discussion:

Attendees queried the management of the work once it had been commissioned. Jon Burke clarified his intent to lead the project on behalf of Gloucester City and Cllr Richard Cooke as the sponsor for this project and the Adaptation theme. Jon referenced the power of the CLG model being the opportunity for a single piece of work to be done once to the benefit of the whole community. The commissioning and management of the countywide Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment being a prime example of where one partner can deliver an output on behalf of all partners.

Jon clarified that bids for the work would be reviewed by members of the adaptation sub-group and that going forward his role as project lead would be to manage the consultant on behalf of the CLG community.

Mary Hutton sought a clarification and the inclusion of NHS Integrated Care and Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation trust alongside the NHS Hospitals Trust for the purposes of the draft project brief, and as key interested partners in the outputs of the risk assessment.

Attendees questioned the requirements of the study to look at the effects of beyond 2 degrees warming. It was agreed that whilst the group absolutely want to direct all carbon reduction efforts and targets at achieving a below 2 degrees increase, for the purposes of understanding the potential risks to health and environment from global warming it is still sensible to assess these impacts at a number of heating scenarios including above 2 degrees warming.

7) Food and Farming

1) Presentation on recommendations

The Chair invited Chris Crookall-Fallon to update on the work to produce recommendations under the Food and Farming theme.

Chris opened his presentation with a reminder of the context in relation to climate change and agriculture, with the sector recorded as being responsible for around 16% of the county's emissions. He also flagged the very important role of the sector in terms of carbon sequestration. He then referred to work done by the Cotswold National Landscape, which identified that about 1/3 of an individuals' footprint in that district relates to food and drink, whilst about half of the footprint of Cotswold visitors is from food and drink.

Chris then went on to identify the high-level priorities under the Food and Farming theme:

He first flagged the recent work by Cotswold District Council to co-host Cotswold Climathon, a thoroughly successful event, presented on in the next item. He also noted that he will be working with the team to progress recommendations from the event including via inclusion

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within the next update of the Cotswold DC climate emergency action plan and where possible to scale up for delivery within the Greener Gloucestershire action plan.

He then went on to detail the two key actions recommended for the theme:

To maintain a close relationship with the Gloucestershire Food and Farming Partnership (GFFP) and a recommendation to endorse the partnerships' climate related priorities, and to practically support where possible the work of the partnership by using our convening powers. For example, through providing access to our stakeholder networks of decision makers and opinion formers. It was also suggested that the theme lead take an active role in reporting between the GFFP and CLG to ensure continued join up on ambition, action and engagement with the agriculture and food and drink sectors. He finally noted that the GFFP was already supported by LEP agriculture group.

The second area of work identified was to develop and support a new programme of activity, focused on actions identified via the GFFP and other activities such as the Climathon to take forward to the next stages those projects which have already identified focused solutions to decarbonisation and adaptation for the farming sector.

Key points arising from the discussion:

The Chair asked that the theme leads ensure we are effectively capturing all existing work under this topic, including current work across the county on engaging farmers around Biodiversity Net Gain, setting up of local cluster groups and recent Local Nature Recovery Strategy farmer engagement sessions. She noted that the already wide range of engagement under this topic already happening both locally and at county level made the case for moving more swiftly into the second recommendation i.e. the identification of the individual projects which are and can be being delivered under this theme.

She also reminded the group of the previous recommendation under the biodiversity theme on the potential benefits of a Land Use Framework and the need to jointly consider this across the two themes, she then sought further comments from the group.

The Secretariat confirmed that we are continuing conversations with the Food Farming and Countryside Commission who are developing this particular Land Use Framework model. With the next meeting planned for after they publish the results from their two pilot areas in Cambridge and Devon.

Chris Crookall-Fallon also suggested the GFFP as well placed to understand the existing initiatives and activity and to advise on where the input of CLG could bolster these and help to generate climate focused projects and outcomes.

Clarification was sought on the constitution of GFFP and whether we were suggesting providing funding to this group. Chris clarified that the suggested support to this group was intended to be in terms of shaping of objectives and supporting information dissemination.

Doug Hulyer also noted that the LNP are already engaging with the GFFP to identify opportunities to work more closely, but that the partnership was still very much in its infancy.

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The group went on to discuss the importance of prioritising work under the Food and Farming theme based on an asset-based perspective and thinking about some of the assets we have in the county. Reference was made, in particular, to our three academic institutions that have a particular specialism in sustainability, land use, land management and soil. Such a strong representation in Gloucestershire would suggest an opportunity to lead on particular areas for example research on land or soil management. A further comment was made around the possibility that some combination of those universities would have a future have a role in CLG as to make this an even broader partnership.

The anchor institution work ongoing with the NHS and the opportunities that this might bring was also raised.

The group also discussed the need not to lose focus of the 'food' side of the Food and Farming theme due to the important links from local food production, though to farming and the carbon intensity of certain land management and food production techniques.

2) Presentation on the Cotswold Climathon

Professor Damien Maye and Aimee Morse from the CCRI presented on the recent Climathon initiative in partnership with Cotswold District Council, as part of a bigger project on behalf of the national innovation centre for rural enterprise.

The general Climathon model works to bring together groups of actors to work locally to develop net zero solutions across sectors such as energy, transport and food and farming. These actors were invited to attend and contribute their ideas, pitching to a panel of judges with winners then announced, the CCRI feeling that the approach would benefit from several adaptations to better suit the need of rural communities.

Aimee then introduced the Cotswold Climathon methodology:

She identified that the first steps were crucial in ensuring the Climathon event is embedded in current work in the area. These steps involved a series of around 20 meetings with organisations involved in climate action in the district to ensure alignment with existing work in the area.

The actual Climathon event then brought together teams focused on advice and support under the farming and climate agenda. From the event a number of solutions were presented, including: A solution focused on soil health; one on local food and; one on renewable energies.

Once each team had presented, they received feedback from the panel. Following the panel's feedback, questions and comments were also welcomed from other participants and rather than selecting from the ideas participants were tasked with finding solutions to help take this forward including by bringing different projects together to create collaborative outcomes.

The team then identified the next steps for the Climathon ideas developed on the day including continuing to engage other farmers on these ideas through other existing engagement routes. She also explained the new approach with the next Climathon being

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designed with a family to be hosted on their own farm, to continue to try different approaches and evaluate the outcomes.

The Chair thanked the presenters and opened the floor for questions:

Key points arising from the discussion:

Attendees thanked the presenters and questioned how well the farmer engagement element of the Climathon had gone. The presenters acknowledged that further conversations were needed on how to increase farmer representation around the table.

The presenters also invited attendees to consider other potential uses for the Climathon model which need not be restricted to the farming sector. Attendees discussed the potential to run these across other sectors, for example for energy and transport. A future climathon on behaviour change and food purchasing, and consumption practices was also suggested. It was agreed that this could loop in distribution experts in Gloucestershire.

The Chair then asked to revisit the initial recommendations of the Food and Farming theme and asked attendees to agree high level endorsement to continue to develop these via Cotswold to as our conveners of this theme to progress and develop the detail of these recommendations.

Decision: the initial Food and Farming theme recommendations were approved by CLG.

The Chair closed the session whilst flagging and seeking agreement for a request to move the Energy theme up from our February meeting to November.

Any Other Climate Business

The Chair then sought any other business from attendees.

Cllr Mike McKeown asked if any other partners were looking into Grid battery storage options. There are apparently companies which will rent council land for the installation of batteries taking power from the grid at low-cost times and providing it back in times of surge.

Action: Cotswold DC will continue to look into this opportunity and will share back an update with this group.