

Climate Leadership Gloucestershire Meeting #15 16/04/2024, 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		Cllr Alisha Lewis Debbie Baker
Cotswold District Council	Cllr Mike McKeown (Vice Chair) Angela Claridge Olivia McGregor	
Forest of Dean District Council	Cllr Chris McFarling (Chair) Dr Nick Murry	
Gloucester City Council	Cllr Richard Cook Jon McGinty	
Gloucestershire County Council	Cllr David Gray Colin Chick Kelly Osborne	
Stroud District Council	Cllr Chloe Turner (outgoing Chair) Brendan Cleere	
Tewkesbury Borough Council	Cllr Sarah Hands Simon Dix	
Hospitals Trusts	Jen Cleary	
Integrated Care Board	Mary Hutton	Cath Leech
Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner and Gloucestershire Constabulary	Mandy Gibbs	
GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership	David Owen Sarah Danson	

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Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership	Nicola Hillary	Doug Hulyer
Gloucestershire Association of Town and parish councils GAPTC	Kerrin Wilkinson	
Youth Climate Group	Polly Ganaway-Pitts Megan Land Rebecca Fulford	
Secretariat	David Sharman Afriqnmun Lovejoy (note taker)	
Observers	Observers: Cllr Juliet Layton (Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulatory Services at Cotswold District Council) Chris Uttley – incoming Climate Change and Sustainability Manager at Stroud District Council	

1) Welcome, apologies and introductions

The chair welcomed attendees and noted apologies from Doug Hulyer, Cllr Alisha Lewis, Debbie Baker and Cath Leech.

The Chair also welcomed the new non-voting members for the first time, two non-voting members from the Climate Youth Group, joined by group facilitator Polly Gannaway-Pitts and group members Megan Land, Rebecca Fulford and Kerrin Wilkinson from the Gloucestershire, Association of Parish and town councils. He noted that both new non-voting members will be giving a short introductory item under the behaviour change segment of the meeting.

The Chair also took a moment to recognise the contributions of Cllr Richard Cook and formally thanked him for his invaluable support of CLG since its inception and following his announcement that he is not seeking re-election next month in Gloucester City's elections.

2) Declarations of interest

The Chair sought declarations of interest from attendees.

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No declarations were received.

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

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

Decision: Climate Leadership Gloucestershire approved the February meeting notes.

4) Action plan and funding update (paper 7)

The Chair notified attendees of the recent publication of the Greener Gloucestershire action plan and encouraged them to access this via the provided links. He then sought any final comments on this published version.

No comments were received on the published plan.

The Chair then sought a decision regarding review timeframes for the published plan- to review on a six-monthly or annual basis, proposing six-monthly.

Decision: Climate Leadership Gloucestershire agreed six-monthly progress updates, to include RAG ratings on the external version of the action plan.

The Chair then flagged the new standing items on the agenda, an update on funding and spend, and then a reminder that as a result of installing the agreed action plan, we should now have an updated tracker version of the plan provided for each CLG meeting. This replaces the previous thematic updates.

The Chair passed to the Secretariat to present on the action plan and funding update:

The Secretariat introduced the slides starting with further consideration of the group's feedback received at the February AGM. Topics raised broadly covered the following key improvement areas:

- A need to move on to delivery of actions
- Slow release of project funding
- Focus on reporting on agreed actions, not presenting further ideas/proposals
- Officers and Members should liaise on action progress between CLG meetings
- Sharing of further best practice
- Focus on working with community groups/activities to enable action
- Focus on deliverable action in large carbon emitting areas
- Need to access more sources of funding

The secretariat then went on to highlight some of the solutions identified so far:

- More focus on action delivery-
 - To be the content of theme updates over this next year

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- Standing item to update on Action Plan progress at each CLG, and retain time for members to query progress
- We're progressing funded projects-
 - Bid Writer interviews took place in April; our preferred candidate has accepted an offer.
 - Green Skills Coordinator recruitment process underway
 - LAEP project commenced via SWNZH and brief now drafted
 - Review approval processes for bids to see if can create efficiencies in the future
- We will be creating a library of case studies and briefings to showcase best practice further as part of our comms plan work, to report back to CLG in June.
- We'll now be working more closely with communities-
 - Via the Behaviour change theme
 - As part of our stakeholder work conducted under the LAEP project
 - Via our new non-voting members- Glos Climate Youth Group, and GAPTC
- We will be accessing more sources of funding
 - Via our new bid writer
 - And we have put in recent funding bids already this year (see subsequent slide)

The Secretariat paused the presentation to allow for questions from the group- Partners queried the form and frequency of reporting from CLG to Leadership Gloucestershire. Attendees agreed the need to have a formal relationship with Leadership Gloucestershire to maintain awareness of our activities and preparedness for future resource or funding asks on climate change and that we would offer to update them on our work at their next meeting.

Action: Confirm regular CLG update item with Leadership Gloucestershire

The Secretariat then returned to the slides to focus on the key updates in relation to the action plan and any funded projects including:

Action Plan update

- Action 0306- The Community fund which was launched by the county council, and which was hugely oversubscribed.
- Action 0501- The Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) project is now commencing.
- This Planning action is currently paused 'Achieving sustainable outcomes through CIL in section 106 payments' due to a need to focus on .
- Actions 1002 & 1005 – Delays in moving forward these actions re cross-boundary collections and further decarbonisation of fleets. Further work and support with Ubico will take place to progress these.

Funding and spend update:

- Confirmation that the bid writer interviews took place last week and that the preferred candidate has accepted an offer.
- Green skills coordinator recruitment will proceed next month.

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- Recent retrofit-related bids made into both the Southwest Net Zero Hub Local Net Zero Fund and The MCS Foundation's Local Area Retrofit Accelerator pilot programme.
- Five of the six district authorities have agreed to fund the procurement of expert support to develop and launch the countywide retrofit support platform.
- A business case is currently in development for a shared planning resource as agreed at the February meeting of this group and in the action plan.

Key points arising from the discussion:

Attendees first discussed the gaps around the progression of the waste theme and raised concerns around duplication with the Gloucestershire Resources and Waste Partnership (GRWP).

The Secretariat reassured attendees that the workplan for the Waste theme was aligned with actions and priorities under the GRWP's strategy, but that it was helpful to acknowledge poor delivery areas via both groups to develop the momentum needed to resolve them.

Attendees then discussed various options around route mapping, vehicle refurbishment and transition. This includes current work that the FoDDC and CDC were already doing with Ubico on pathways mapping and vehicle option .

FoDDC also flagged their recent purchase of two electric Roamaquip trucks and offered to share learning from the trial use of these with partners.

Partners then discussed the regional examples of existing vehicle refurbishment to EV or HVO.

Partners agreed that it would be helpful to discuss these various options with Ubico as a partnership instead of one to one.

Action: CLG Secretariat and theme leads to work with GRWP to progress joint work on fleet decarbonisation.

5) Behaviour Change (external) theme update (paper 3)

The Chair invited the group to move to the next session and Kelly Osborne to present on progress under the behaviour change theme:

Kelly Osborne as the officer lead in Gloucestershire County Council for the behaviour change theme first updated on the five key areas:

1. Policy review and influencing demand – there is still a lot of work to do here but agreed that the GRWP commitment to smaller bins was a clear win.
2. Carbon literacy courses - are a key tool in helping to change the behaviours of our own staff but also to influence communities in Gloucestershire. A new trial is being launched on a public-facing carbon literacy course for residents, the success of which will be monitored via follow up surveys.
3. Targeting areas of high emissions – this is a current area of focus with specifically proposed actions including training courses and comms targeting high emissions users, focusing projects or campaigns using evidence-based intelligence. For example food campaigns targeted at types of households most likely to waste food.
4. Climate Community Fund – The fund proceeded with County Council Funding earlier this year. Applications were open for 1 month, with an initial grant budget of £50k.

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Sixty-six applications were received, with a combined project cost of £250k, so the fund was significantly over-subscribed. The budget limit allowed awards for the top 12 projects, with a great variety location and applicants- from community interest companies and charities to schools and youth groups, and even parish councils.

Kelly noted the next steps for the Engagement working group-

1. Continue current work to map policies and actions to influence demand across all partners
2. Review the success of work delivered this year in particular on the carbon literacy project and the community fund
3. And to continue to meet and collaborate on behaviour change messages

Key points arising from the discussion:

The group recognised the excellent work under this theme and encouraged continued sharing of best practice including with the NHS.

It was noted that work on the public facing carbon literacy training needed to actively avoid people who are already engaged and instead focus on those who have not previously engaged or harder to reach groups, the link to the Carbon Literacy's ¹ report in this area was referenced.

Town and parish engagement was also referenced as a key area under this theme including as an opportunity to increase funding for this area by helping others to figure out how to spend smaller funding pots available locally.

Attendees also discussed how to monitor progress on behaviour change and to identify areas not already a point of focus where we might use external funding existing engaged groups to help spread our limited resources further.

A final point was made around the need to increase projects which focus on demand/consumption reduction.

6) Youth Climate Group presentation

Megan and Rebecca introduced the Gloucestershire Youth climate group – GYCG – a group of 16-25 who live work and study in Gloucestershire and are passionate about the sustainability and climate. The group engages in activities from canoeing and tree planting to consultation with councils and presentations to schools.

They went on to present previous successes and contributions from the youth group which might help inspire the role they could provide as member of CLG, success included:

- Training for youth group members around behaviour change and how to have difficult conversations around climate and environmental issues. Also sessions on public speaking and building confidence to support panel members in confidently discussing climate change issues.

¹ <https://carbonliteracy.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/MCL-Evaluation-Report-Highlights-27.11.12.pdf>

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- Community outreach - stands, events and activities, encouraging young leaders in the group to plan and deliver activities and talk to the community about climate change.
- Collaboration with local organisations such as with the Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership, and assisting the Cotswold National Landscape community project panel with applications.

The speakers encouraged CLG attendees to [sign up to the monthly newsletter](#) to keep up to date. Young people can also join the wider group and get involved in workshops, trips and monthly events, or they can join the panel to lead the direction of the programme, speak with local climate action representatives and be involved in active youth voice on sustainability.

Key points arising from the discussion:

A question was asked around the key motivations for young people; the presenters directed the group to a study by Interclimate². Highlighting some of the key findings including that young people were recorded as being keen to be involved in climate outcomes including on nature and active travel.

It was noted that although lots of young people were already taking action they wanted more support to deliver action in their communities, particularly in relation to incentives and equipment. It was also noted that schools needed to be empowered to take a stronger role on climate change as the study had recorded schools as providing the most trusted and inspiring sources on climate change.

7) Introduction from the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils (paper 4)

Kerrin Wilkinson introduced GAPTC, which is one of 44 associations of its type nationally, representing all the town of parish councils within the county.

There are a total of 11,000 town and parish councils in the country; in Gloucestershire there are over 260 town and parish councils in the county of which around 240 are GAPTC members.

GAPTC work includes the hosting regular sessions for councillors and clerks, including numerous sessions on climate change, climate emergency declaration, or supporting development of climate action plans, or model policies around biodiversity and climate change.

There are many opportunities to gain best practice from the work that Parish and Town councils, such as the recent [Hucclecote Green Guide](#) example.

There are numerous relevant projects in parishes and towns such as to set up repair cafes; reducing food waste through community fridges and pantries; composting schemes through local food banks; planting wildflower meadows, ensuring pollinator corridors; and new recycle bins.

GAPTC also assists with larger scale projects: Supporting neighbourhood development plans to include concepts such as canopy cover; retrofitting new builds; EV charging point infrastructure; creating more space for allotments; and parish renewable generation projects. All of which provide numerous opportunity to partner with district and county initiatives to deliver increased visibility and scale for climate outcomes.

² [3 in 4 young people in Gloucestershire are already acting on climate change - InterClimate Network](#)

Key points arising from the discussion:

The Chair thanked Kerrin for her introduction and the work of GAPTC, having been a parish councillor himself he recognised the brilliant work of GAPTC and its closeness to our communities.

A key priority was raised regarding aligning county and district work on EV infrastructure with what town and parish councils are doing, a fine example of this is the Plug in Suffolk model³.

8) Food and Farming – presentation from GFFP (paper 5)

The Chair invited David Sharman to speak to the Food and Farming item.

David reminded the group that Olivia McGregor will be the taking on the lead officer role for Cotwold DC the thematic lead for the Food and Farming theme. David flagged the approved recommendation that CLG formerly endorse the work of the Gloucestershire Food and Farming Partnership (GFFP), and seek their support to coordinate activity under this theme. At time of approval the group had requested a representative from GFFP attend CLG to provide further information on its work. David then introduced Benjamin Dent to provide detail about the GFFP's work, and how they could work with CLG on Food & Farming climate aims.

Ben introduced the slides and the role of GFFP working across the sector to develop innovative collaborations with policy makers, others in the public sector, farmers, businesses, advisors, community groups ,and the excellent education research establishments that we have in this field in the county.

He then focused on the scale of the challenge based on recent work by the Cotswold National Landscape and its assessment of the need for but a 70% reduction in emissions from the food and drink that we consume; alongside significant land use change. This creates a very significant challenge to meeting a net zero target of even 2050, which represents only 26 harvests remaining in agricultural cycles.

Ben then further outlined the interrelationships between integrated solutions in food and farming, climate change, nature recovery; local economies; food security; and affordability and health of the people in the county.

Ben then outlined the key priorities on climate change shared between the portfolios of CLG and GFFP including:

1. A clear pathway to net zero for the county, and the food and farming sector's contribution in particular.
2. An integrated food and farming action plan to identify the most significant public and community initiatives that are involved in the food environment and how to integrate these and reduce duplication.

³ [Plug In Suffolk - Suffolk County Council](#)

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3. A multi-functional land use framework – based on the methodology developed by the [Food, Farming and Countryside Commission](#) – to look at how we can use the land use system to reconcile the different needs of livelihoods, food production, housing and infrastructure, climate and nature, landscape conservation, renewable energy generation, flood management and water quality.
4. Farmer clusters as a means of farmer engagement - with one already established in north east Cotswold district and another being set up in Stroud, providing peer to peer learning, and developing shared objectives.

Ben also went on to highlight the importance of working alongside partners, such as the existing Agrifood and Rural Business Group set up by the LEP, to figure out how we deliver the urgent 5% emissions reduction target for the sector as set out in the CNL assessment

Ben then moved on to the part that GFFP can play. This includes-

- An ability to support the development of further farmer clusters
- Work with the CCRI to get baselines to drive forward the integrated action plan, including via an infrastructure gap analysis.
- Convene partners to review the sector's contribution to our net zero trajectory, including development of a sustainable food and farming summit.
- Work with partners to codesign and deliver pathways projects and continue to join the dots across the economic and health and social environmental issues.

Key points arising from the discussion:

The Chair thanked Ben for his presentation and noted that it was important to capture these slides and share more widely within the CLG network.

The Chair then recognised the important role of GFFP as a medium for farmer engagement and particularly in the helping to encourage farmer clusters which could have a valuable role in driving forward change for the sector.

Partners then reflected on other areas of Ben's presentation including the suggestion of a Land Use Framework. Two early pilots⁴ in Devon (focussing on grassroots engagement mechanisms) and Cambridgeshire (focussed on data tools) were referred to. With a suggestion that the group contact the Food, Farming and Countryside Commission to get further information on these pilots. It was agreed that further conversations regarding a Gloucestershire Land Use Framework would be taken forward jointly by the Biodiversity and Food and Farming themes of CLG (i.e. with support from both GFFP and the GLNP). Other themes will likely also have a part to play- particularly Energy and Planning.

Partners offered general support for the aims of the GFFP and welcomed a further conversation on joint working. Ben highlighted existing resource constraints and risks for GFFP and current work to secure ongoing funding for the existing partnership resource.

⁴ <https://ffcc.co.uk/publications/the-multifunctional-land-use-framework-report>

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A request was also raised for GFFP to consider how action to influence diet was balanced with wellbeing and mental health, recognising this as an important area of sensitivity particularly for young people.

Actions: GFFP to continue work to develop mechanisms along with theme lead, to achieve CLG Food & Farming aims.

Secretariat to contact FFCC to explore Land Use Framework pilots further.

Secretariat to circulate Ben's slides with the notes of the meeting.

9) CLG Risk Log (paper 6)

The Secretariat outlined the log, which captures seven risks - all of which are high level strategic risks, unique to this group, and which are not being addressed individually by partners.

1. Unrealistic goals – either over- or under-ambitious - need to continue to quantify the climate action contribution of actions to our plan and to seek external support to deliver these (allowing us to remain ambitious)
2. Lack of skills and resources - good work recently by partners to fill key roles, support provided from the centre such as the new bid writer, which will also aid partner strategic objectives.
3. Conflict between local and central priorities - increasing awareness and commitment to CLG from all funding partners continues to mitigate this
4. Finances – a key risk but lots of work is going into this, such as the bid writer post- but also programming to make the case for a further fixed term Action Fund budget (September)
5. Political change - Secretariat will be producing a briefing pack for new members (not just to this group but in case of any changes in the wider local political landscape). Political consensus remains a continuing strength of this group.
6. New national policy direction - we are already setting our own direction locally – so the risk is somewhat mitigated, and there will be further work to develop central government relationships, respond to key consultations, and influence upwards.
7. Ability to drive community action – this is one of our largest challenges. We are increasing work with more grassroots organisations such as GAPTC and the Youth Group, but also the work that Kelly has presented today, and her Behaviour change theme work overall will provide further avenues for engagement.

The Chair thanked the Secretariat for the summary of the new CLG risk log and sought approval to add as a standing item to the agenda.

Decision: Climate Leadership Gloucestershire approved the risk log and its appearance as a standing agenda item/background paper.

10) Any other climate business

The Chair closed the session and opened for any other climate business:

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One item was raised by the Vice Chair, Cllr McKeown in relation to taxi licensing and the need to consider licensing as a tool to encourage drivers towards electrification.

Specifically regarding the role of CLG to provide a consistent approach across licensing authorities - to stop drivers registering with an alternative authority in the county if one authority tries to address this.

The Vice Chair suggested a coordinated approach in incentivising transition, and support before considering more restrictive measures as many other authorities nationally have already done.

Attendees referred to a possible existing countywide licensing officers group, with which this could be explored.

The Secretariat offered to raise this work area with the existing Transport Decarbonisation Group under the transport theme and to confirm whether the licensing group is still placed to input into this.

Action: Secretariat to find out if the countywide licensing group is still operational, and get in touch to progress conversations on taxi incentivisation to EV.

The Chair then thanked attendees for their time and flagged that the next CLG meeting is on 11th June. The Chair Encouraged attendees to get in touch with the Secretariat if there was anything that they wanted to discuss or add to the agendas in the meantime.