

**WPEG CLIMATE CHANGE TASK GROUP  
TUESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2011, 10:00 – 12:00  
KIDDERMINSTER ROOM, COUNTY HALL**

**Attendees:** - Elizabeth Alston (Worcestershire County Council), Hayley Bosworth (Worcestershire County Council – minute taker), Heather Lammas (Worcestershire County Council), Katie Morrow (Worcestershire County Council), Rachel Jones (Act on Energy), David Dowson (Worcestershire NHS), Lyndon Essex (Environment Agency), Ruth Johnson (Worcester City Council), Phillip Oliver (Friends of the Earth), Allan Warnock (Malvern Hills District Council), Jane Ridgley (Worcestershire County Council), Ceridwen John (Bromsgrove and Redditch Borough Councils), George Barr (West Mercia Police), Martyn Wilson (Worcestershire County Council), Paul Di Mambro (Wyre Forest District Council), Patrick Travis (Worcestershire County Council), Richard Davis-Leech (Worcestershire County Council), Steve Salter (Morgan Technical Ceramics)

**Apologies:** Cherrie Mansfield (Wychavon District Council), Rupert Brakspear (Worcestershire County Council), Sharon Buckley (NHS Worcestershire HQ), Rosin Hanks (The Duckworth Trust), Kate Bailey (Wyre Forest District Council), John Bryson (University of Birmingham) (Chair), Katy Boom (University of Worcester), Hayley Pankhurst (Natural England), Amy Lunt (Worcestershire County Council), Ben Horovitz (Worcestershire County Council), Helen King (Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce), Alistair Waugh (Worcestershire transition)

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION	BY WHOM
<b>1. Introductions &amp; Notes of Last Meeting</b>	EA chaired the meeting in the absence of JB. EA opened the meeting and welcomed the group.	
<b>2. Minutes and Actions</b>	EA went over minutes of last meeting.  <b>Proforma for Climate Change Pledge Report</b> – This was emailed to the group. <b>ACTION: Please return completed proforma to EA if not already sent.</b>  <b>Green business bid – Outline application has been approved. Detailed bid to be submitted.</b>  <b>Climate Week</b> <b>EA asked the group to share any information they have as part of Climate Week:</b>	<b>HL/EA ALL</b>



<p><b>4. Progress update:</b></p> <p><b>a) NI186 Per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in LA areas.</b></p> <p><b>b) NI188 Adapting to Climate Change</b></p> <p><b>c) Future reporting arrangements</b></p>	<p>EA – Currently rated as Green for level of activity. There is uncertainty over future funding e.g. for home energy efficiency with advent of Green Deal , good progress on carbon management in some WPorganisations. Funding for some sustainable transport programmes has been cut . For the future would be good to be able to attach CO<sub>2</sub> savings to actions in the plan.</p> <p>HL – We are at amber and work has been shared with District Council's and County Council. The next update for this is 22 April 2011.</p> <p>EA will email a proforma for quarter 4 progress to the Climate Change group.  <b>ACTION: Please return completed proforma to EA by 19 April 2011.</b>Redditch and Bromsgrove will not continue reporting on NI 188.</p> <p>Group needs to clarify a reporting arrangement structure for action to reduce CO2 and Climate Adaptation following loss of national Indicators.  WCC likely to include NI186 as a priority indicator for Corporate Plan.</p> <p>Suggested that group continue reporting on CO2 reduction and climate adaptation to WPEG. Could produce an annual report with 6 monthly progress update on targets/activities, and quarterly exception reporting. Could use NI186 action plan as a base for reporting on CO2 reduction activity. Could request 6 monthly updates for this plan from group members and other colleagues. Annual report and 6 monthly update could also go to WCC.</p> <p>We need to be smarter about the impact of WP member's actions on climate change, about what we influence, what we control and what is out of our control. For CO2 emissions we can only influence/control a proportion of them, Central government is responsible for a greater proportion. <b>ACTION: EA to consider work to clarify areas where it best for partners to focus.</b></p> <p>Proposed Climate change adaptation reporting arrangements listed in item below</p>	
<p><b>5. Climate Change Adaptation</b></p> <p><b>a) Worcestershire LSP Climate Change Adaptation Report</b></p>	<p>HL – Worcestershire County Council is aiming for to reach level 3 on NI 188.</p> <p>For this WCC need to encourage members of the LSP to consider climate change risks and adaptation. report outlines the current consideration for severe weather risk by partners. Three organisations (Environment Agency, Severn Trent and Highways Agency) covered in this report are reporting to the Secretary of State for DEFRA via the Adaptation Reporting Power.</p> <p><b>Richard Davis-Leech gave a presentation on 'Preparing for Severe Weather in Worcestershire'</b></p>	

This included the dangers of weather and the role of the Worcestershire Severe Weather group; part of local resilience forum structure for West Mercia.

chaired by Emergency Planning Team meet 3 – 4 times a year to discuss different weather topic prior to occurrence. (e.g. meet in March to discuss heatwaves/high temperatures.

Organisations including police, health, Highways Agency, Volunteers, Utilities, Ambulance, Fire and Met Office have a role in this.

Group considers extreme rainfall, tornados, flooding and drought.

Worcestershire County Council put in place a Winter Service Policy for winter weather arrangements.

Sharon Buckley put together the Heat Wave planning policy.

RL gave a brief outline on surface water mapping and volunteer sector emergency response protocol.

For any more information you can contact Richard Davis-Leech  
[rdavis-leech@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:rdavis-leech@worcestershire.gov.uk) (01905) 766173.

**CJ gave a brief presentation on impact of work on NI 188 for Redditch & Bromsgrove councils.**

Using the NI188 process enable Redditch and Bromsgrove to improve communications with the residents during the snow last winter (2010/11) compared with the previous winter. The main function to be disrupted was waste and recycling bin collections as it was considered dangerous to send out collection vehicles in those conditions.

During the snow (2010/11) there were updates on Twitter, Face book, in newspapers, on radio stations and the TV news to let public know what we were doing, advice being given if needed. This worked out well as the public were responding and giving feedback via the social networking sites.

CJ outlined the importance of social networking in communicating with residents quickly and allowing for feedback.

Climate Change Adaptation work was useful and helped with customer experience for the council. but it was considered difficult to put a price on customer experience and so cost the value to the organisation of resourcing climate adaptation work.

<p><b>b)UK Climate Change Risk Assessment</b></p>	<p><b>Recommendations from LSP Climate Adaptation Report</b> (attached to minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change and severe weather risk be embedded in risk assessment &amp; business continuity processes for partner organisations</li> <li>• A standard method of reporting on climate change adaptation for all partners</li> <li>• Plans should also consider projected changes in severe weather frequency and intensity as well as a more gradual shift in climate.</li> <li>• Future climate projections be considered in all major and critical infrastructure development</li> </ul> <p>Now NI 188 has gone, we need to agree on a way of reporting on the progress towards climate change adaptation. Proposed process for reporting;  Three stages of progress;  Stage 1: risk assessment  Stage 2; Possible adaptation response  Stage 3: implementing, embedding and monitoring</p> <p>Delivery of adaptation will change from UKCIP to the Environment Agency in September2011. Regional adaptation funding to fill gap between end of March and the hand over in September. Potential for Worcestershire to benefit from this funding. <b>Action: HL &amp; EA to put forward suggested projects.</b></p> <p>The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment is a requirement under the Climate Change Act 2008. The final report will be presented to Parliament in January 2012. The key priorities from this risk assessment will inform the National Adaptation Programme to be developed throughout 2012. The risk assessment will be divided into the following themes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Natural environment</li> <li>- Agriculture and forestry</li> <li>- Business and services</li> <li>- Infrastructure and buildings</li> <li>- Health and wellbeing</li> </ul> <p>The coalition government have added the requirement for an international report to be completed to look at the impacts changes elsewhere may have on the UK (e.g food security).  A review of the Adaptation Reporting Power will be undertaken before any other organisations are directed to report to ensure it is fit for purpose. Although the Act allows for local authorities to be directed to report there are currently no plans for this to happen.  It is expected that any requirement for local authorities to report will come from the Adaptation Sub Committee to</p>	
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<p><b>b) Design for Future Climate Project</b></p>	<p>align with the key priorities in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment. <b>Action: HL to keep group updated on this.</b></p> <p><b>Patrick Travis from Property Services gave a presentation on the Future Climate project</b>  This included funding research projects for the Wyre Forest Primary Schools and the projects supplemented with a team of consultants.  Research looking at two school sites, one a refurbishment and one a new build. This will look at the possibilities for adaptation and at what point they would need to be implemented to fit with projected changes in climate. Other members of the team include representation from landscape architects and the construction industry.  The design teams have also met with the teachers at the schools to look at how they view the risks of severe weather and climate change. The children are also getting involved in mapping where they notice problems of classrooms being too warm etc.  This report will be made public upon completion and it is hoped that adaptation methods can be used for other sites including the business sector. Adaptations do not have to be expensive technological innovations, can be simple ideas used elsewhere (e.g. retractable awnings) .</p>	
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<p><b>6. Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Plan</b></p>	<p><b>Martyn Wilson gave a presentation on Worcestershire Sub Regional Green – Infrastructure Framework (CHECK WITH MARTYN)</b>  This included preparing evidence of green infrastructure across Worcestershire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing an evidence base to inform a green infrastructure framework.</li> <li>• Developed by theme recognising the multifunctionality of green infrastructure. Themes include:</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Landscape character</li> <li>• Historic environment</li> <li>• Blue infrastructure</li> <li>• Access and recreation</li> </ul> <p>2 research projects out to tender include mapping strategic access and recreation at a county scale and developing a matrix for testing funding and viability of green infrastructure (not just for development).</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <p>Developing evidence in relation to multifunctional benefits of green infrastructure for health, economy and climate change.</p> <p>Initial findings 38,000 people employed in County who deal with environment; ie tree surgeons and ecologists.</p> <p>The Next Steps include developing a communications strategy by Spring 2011 which will include a shorting briefing paper on Green Infrastructure for wide audiences (i.e. elected members, general public and community organisations).</p> <p>For example planting more street trees as these would cool buildings down to prevent them getting too hot.</p> <p>At the end of the presentation Martyn posed a question to the group Question: How can the climate change task group help? (e.g. evidence gathering, raising the profile)</p> <p>Action: Any suggestions to be emailed to Martyn <a href="mailto:mwilson2@worcestershire.gov.uk">mwilson2@worcestershire.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>ALL</p>
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<p><b>7. Vantage Point Proposal</b></p> <p><b>- Collation of CO2 emissions data, target setting and planning where best to focus efforts on CO2 reduction</b></p>	<p>This is a tool which is used to gather data on emissions, and help set strategies for achieving carbon reduction targets for a local area. Can also give an idea of cost effectiveness.</p> <p>It enables the setting of baseline emission levels for a Local Authority areas against which targets can be measured. .</p> <p>The group felt that more information on this tool was needed prior to deciding whether to make use of it.</p> <p><b>ACTION: EA to contact Carbon Descent (who have produced the tool) and Birmingham or Herefordshire to get them to come for a meeting with EA, AW, RJ and CJ, RJ,PD to discuss their experiences of the tool.</b></p>	<p>EA</p>
<p><b>8. Updates from District and Non Council Groups</b></p>	<p>Non council group</p> <p>DD spoke on behalf of KB – There will be an external audit in May, emissions will be increased due to expansion of buildings portfolio and reporting will include scope 3.</p> <p>The environmental policies are on the website with green travel plan.</p> <p>A workshop 'Addressing environmental sustainability – the role of Third Sector organisations' is on Friday 25 March 2011, 10:00 – 14.30 at The Bulmer Foundation, Hereford Cider Museum, 21 Ryelands Street,, Hereford HR4 0LW. This is aimed at making a better environment, better local economy and better local conditions.</p> <p>If anyone is interested in going on this workshop, a booking form and information will be circulated around the group. (this event has already gone)</p>	
<p><b>9. Items for next meetings</b></p>	<p>Procurement will be discussed at the next Climate Change Task Group Meeting.</p> <p><b>Action: Please let EA know if you have a related item you would like at the meeting or would be willing to give a short presentation on sustainable procurement arrangements in your organisation.</b></p> <p><b>If any would like to discuss anything at the meeting, please contact EA on her email address on:</b></p> <p><a href="mailto:EAlston@worcestershire.gov.uk">EAlston@worcestershire.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>ALL</p>

<b>10. A.O.B</b>	None	
<b>11. Date of next meeting</b>	<p>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at 10:00 – 12:00 in the Kidderminster Room at County Hall. The non council group and the District Climate Change Meeting will be held in the same room.</p> <p>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July meeting will focus on the new climate change strategy</p>	ALL