

**Note of the meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Partnership Board  
Held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017  
Kaposvar Room, Guildhall, Bath.**

Present:

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Position</b>
Chairman Cllr Martin Veal	Cabinet Member for Community Services, Bathavon North Ward Councillor, Conservative Banes Council
Cllr Patrick Anketell-Jones	Conservative Deputy Group Leader Bath, Lansdown Ward Councillor, B&NES Council
Dr Bruce Laurence	Director of Public Health, B&NES Council
Cllr Paul Crossley	Southdown Ward Councillor, Liberal Democrat Group, Member Advocate for The Sustainable Environment
Shaun Carr	Executive Director of Property Service, Curo Housing Association
Peter Andrews	Community Board Member, Transition Bath and other community initiatives
Andrew Pate	Strategic Director, Resources & Support Services, B&NES Council

<b>Board Advisors</b>	<b>Position</b>
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<b>Standing Officers Present</b>	<b>Position</b>
Jane Wildblood	Corporate & Community Sustainability Manager, B&NES Council
Micaela Basford	Sustainability Officer, B&NES Council
Sara Banks	Standards & Support Officer, B&NES Council

<b>Guests</b>	<b>Position</b>
Jeff Tatum	Energy Manager, B&NES Council
Cathy Hough	Sustainability Officer, B&NES Council
Sara Grimes	Sustainability Officer, B&NES Council

<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Position</b>
Cllr June Player	West Moreland Independents, Member advocate for Cleaner, Greener Streets
Barry Smith	Environment Agency
Cllr Robin Moss	Westfield Ward Councillor, Labour Group Leader
David Trethewey	Divisional Director, Strategy & Performance, B&NES Council
Peter Capener	Independent Sustainable Energy Consultant

## **1. Welcome, Introductions and Declarations of Interest**

Introductions were made.

There were no declarations of interest.

Board membership has altered since the last meeting due to the Cabinet reshuffle. The Chairman updated the Board on these changes.

- Cllr Patrick Anketell Jones will replace Cllr Mark Shelford
- Donna Baddeley, Curo has stepped down to be replaced by Shaun Carr, Curo
- Dave Crowson has now retired from the Environment Agency and will be replaced by Barry Smith
- Louise Fradd Strategic Director of Place within B&NES Council has resigned from the Board, with Andrew Pate remaining as the Council Strategic Director representative

The Chairman thanked those Board members who stepped down and welcomed those new to the Board.

## **2. Minutes & Actions from the last Board Meeting**

The minutes were agreed.

The following updates on actions were provided:

- JW confirmed that the refreshed strategy has been promoted in the community.
- The Cook It Project has been launched to teach people to cook healthily within our less wealthy areas.
- B&NES now have health champions in place across the Council to help encourage a healthy lifestyle amongst its employees.
- SC will provide an update as to whether BWCE & Curo met to discuss solar power on roofs of their properties and what the outcome of this discussion was.

## **3. Changing Strategic Context in Energy and Low Carbon Issues**

### **3.1 Jane Wildblood presented.**

An overview of the international situation regarding commitments to climate change. Although the USA have pulled out of the Paris Agreement, action has been galvanised in certain US states. The EU, China and India have renewed their commitment to the Paris Agreement and the Queens Speech pledged to tackle climate change.

We are seeing tipping points being demonstrated, such as vehicle manufacturers (e.g. Volvo) announcing that they will be making cleaner engines and in some parts of the world wind and solar power are becoming cheaper than fossil fuels. The 2017 Industrial Strategy Green Paper sees energy as an integral part, rather than sat on the outside – this is positive for helping to grow the green economy.

### **3.2 Cathy Hough presented.**

How renewable generation has grown in the UK in the last few years.

Last year 24% of UK power generation came from renewables. One Sunday the UK has seen a recent Sunday where 70% of power generation came from low carbon sources, (nuclear and renewables) which is where we need to get to by 2030. A good sign that its been managed once already.

Trend of solar panel PV costs reducing and affordable without subsidies through innovative business models. Global investment in renewables exceeded the investment in fossil fuels. With the development in battery technology happening, the economics of solar storage is becoming a reality.

National Grid recently published their annual latest 'Future Energy Scenarios' report – it publishes this every year – a future gazing exercise Head of Energy Insights says:

“We are in the midst of an energy revolution. The economic landscape, developments in technology, evolving business models and consumer behaviour are changing at an unprecedented rate, creating more opportunities than ever for our industry.”

Community Energy supported by the Council's Community Energy Strategy has grown nationwide in the last 7 years, from 10 groups to 220 and is now worth £190 million.

Electric vehicles are driving the development of battery technology and therefore storage. Range anxiety is becoming a thing of the past. Charging infrastructure is being rolled out and new technologies coming to market, such as wire-less induction charging, super rapid charging, internet of things and vehicle to grid where electric vehicles help with grid demand peaks.

**3.3** A discussion followed the presentations:

- Peter Andrews asked about whether the homes in B&NES that currently have solar panels, could benefit from batter storage in the future?
- Cllr Anketell-Jones referred to Australia and residents are disconnecting themselves from the national grid which is destabilising the market.
- Jane Wildblood confirmed that 10% of energy would come from renewables is a policy within the Placemaking Plan.
- Improvements to electric vehicles is moving rapidly and we need to move rapidly as well by increasing charging points. We currently have charging points in our public car parks. Currently users only pay for the parking space not the electricity they are using to charge the cars.
- Cllr Veal believes we are reaching a tipping point on this issue where the public will be forced to use electric cars as petrol ones are phased out.

- With regard to wind power there has been no change in planning legislation but schemes can be considered if they are within a community neighbourhood plan. This would mean an allocated site which had community support.
- Bruce Laurence commented that it great to see this move of low carbon issues from the fringe to the mainstream. Would like to have a discussion with the Healthy & Sustainable Places group of the Health & Welling Boeard to pull all the issues together as they are all relying on us heading in the same direction, i.e. Transport, healthy, air quality and active travel.

**Action**

Cllr Martin Veal, Chairman would like to take a joint party motion sponsored by himself, Patrick Anketell Jones and Cllr Paul Crossley to full Council on the low carbon vision for the area. JW to work with the Board members to prepare this.

**Action**

Discuss the proposal to take an agenda item to the Healthy & Sustainable Places group on future direction, based on the discussions at this Board meeting.

**4. Update on the West of England work on energy and low carbon**

4.1 Sara Grimes presented.

The WECA will now be responsible for Transport, housing, Adult Education and Skills across the 3 unitary areas.

How are the West of England (WoE) and the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) addressing climate change? The four unitary authorities have carbon reduction targets to meet by 2050. As an area we need to reduce emissions more quickly than we currently are to meet these targets. This presents a local opportunity for the area, an earlier study, lead by B&NES Council, estimates that the low carbon sector in the WoE is worth £12.5 billion.

There is work underway via the WoE LEP on a Energy Strategy. The LEP was awarded some funding by BEIS Local Energy Team. The officers in the WoE authorities have a working group in place and will ensure that all the good work already in place is referenced as well as setting out the future strategy.

4.2 Board members were asked for their thoughts on what should be considered for an energy strategy when the next round of devolution deals are applied for.

- Cllr Veal: Retrofitting listed buildings is a challenge, especially the glazing issue. This is a bigger issue than just a B&NES issue.
- Cllr Crossley: We should support harnessing the tidal energy from the Avon/Severn, using a technology that is not a barrage. What are the storage opportunities given what was presented earlier? Could we invest in this and generate an income?
- The opportunity of tidal energy in the area is bigger than WECA/WoE, it also includes Somerset County and the Welsh authorities.
- BL: re skills and WECA – it is important to include the colleges and universities in the discussions on the Energy Strategy work, so that they are on-board with the future demands within the area. JW responded to explain that the Energy Strategy work needs to feed in to the WoE Strategic Economic Plan (SEP).
- JW responded that regarding retrofitting skills there isn't the full range locally.
- SC: the key to building skills is about certainty of the market. Can the ESP Board/WoE promote certainty of market through a future WECA deal?

## **5. Any Other Business**

MB informed the partnership that The University of Bath have won £60M worth of funding to develop the Institute for Advanced Automotive Propulsion Systems. The research centre will be located at the Bristol & Bath Science Park, construction will begin in 2018 with completion in 2020. .

## **6. Review Actions and Next Steps**

Jane Wildblood and team to lead on developing a joint motion setting out a low carbon vision for B&NES to be sponsored by Cllrs Veal, Anketell Jones and Crossley.

Date of the next meeting 17<sup>th</sup> October.

END