

# MINUTES OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

14 May 2025

**PRESENT:** Councillors Livesey (Chair), Freeman, Harrington and McKenzie (substituting for Councillor Roodhouse).

NOTE: Councillor Daly resigned from the Working Group as of this meeting.

## 100. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 April were signed and approved by the Chair.

## 101. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Edwards, Roodhouse and Willis.

## 102. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

## 103. UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Climate Change Project Officer gave a verbal update on the actions emerging from the previous meeting. This centred on the actions taken towards Great Big Green Week and the events being arranged for it. This included the organisations being invited to host stalls or separate events and the Communications surrounding the week. The Working Group agreed it was a very positive starting point that could be built on for future events.

**AGREED THAT** – Councillor McKenzie to pass on information to the Climate Change Project Officer about the Litterbusters.

## 104. OPERATIONS AND TRADED SERVICES UPDATE

The Chief Officer – Operations and Traded Services introduced Agenda Item 5 – Operations and Traded Services Update. This was an update on the Food Waste Project, the Fleet Decarbonisation Project and further smaller updates.

The Working Group discussed the following points:

- The status of the Food Waste Project,
- The Communications Plan surrounding the Food Waste Project,
- Issues surrounding contamination of food waste,
- The work being done at the Depot to ensure the Food Waste collections could go ahead,
- The status of the Fleet Decarbonisation Project,
- The impact of changing technologies on Fleet Decarbonisation,
- The Deposit Return Scheme and the impact of Recycling Rates,
- Smaller Electrical Battery collections,
- The launch of soft plastics recycling, and
- The increase of Rugby's recycling rate.

The Working Group also viewed one of the new Food Waste caddies that would be distributed to households.

**RESOLVED THAT –**

1. A briefing on the outcome of the Fleet Decarbonisation work would be shared at a future meeting of the Working Group, and
2. The Chief Officer – Operations and Traded Services to look at targeted, ward specific, communications regarding recycling rates.

**105. TESCO**

The Acting Chief Executive gave a verbal update on Agenda Item 6. This included the lack of response from Tesco on action taken by the Council and what future actions could be taken to disincentivise the lack of action taken to clear watercourses.

**RESOLVED THAT –** the Acting Chief Executive to explore future actions for enforcement.

**106. COUNCILLOR TRAINING**

The Climate Change Project Officer introduced Agenda Item 7 – Councillor Climate Change Training. The Working Group discussed the possibility of receiving training from the CAME network but the focus of this network on blue, green and grey infrastructure, and the need for more general training. The Acting Chief Executive discussed the previous offers of Carbon Literacy Training for Councillors and the low uptake on the offer. Further sustainability masterclasses and events were also discussed by the Committee.

**AGREED THAT –**

1. The Climate Change Project Officer to look into providers of Climate Change Training for Councillors, and
2. The Climate Change Project Officer to report back to the Working Group on the Sustainability Event in June.

**107. CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT**

The Climate Change Project Officer introduced Agenda Item 8 – Citizen Science Project and shared that an academic from the University of Birmingham was interested in looking into a Rugby River Champions style project. The Working Group discussed which rivers should be looked at and who should be involved.

The Working Group also discussed that the Environment Agency had been invited to the next meeting. The Working Group discussed an issue of illegal tyre burning and further issues that should be raised with the Environment Agency.

**AGREED THAT –**

1. The academic to be invited to the next meeting of the Working Group to discuss an overview of the project and an estimated budget, and
2. The issue of illegal tyre burning to be escalated to the Acting Chief Executive.

**108. CLIMATE CHANGE EVENT**

The Climate Change Project Officer gave a verbal update and a presentation on Agenda Item 9 – Climate Change Event. This included an overview of what had been planned so far and who had been invited. The Working Group discussed the lessons learned from the previous Climate Change Event, such as ensuring that people are moved instead of the scribes to prevent alliances forming and avoiding single-use plastics. Further discussions were had

regarding potential speakers and organisations who may need to be invited or want a stall.

**AGREED THAT –**

1. The Acting Chief Executive and the Climate Change Project Officer to review the lessons learned from the November Climate Change World Café Event,
2. A Briefing to be arranged for members of the Working Group on the nature aspects of the emerging local plan before the Climate Change Event, and
3. The Climate Change Project Officer to reach out to the potential speakers for the event.

**109. REVIEW OF THE FORWARD PLAN**

The Working Group discussed Agenda Item 10 – The review of the Forward Plan – and suggested items that could be included. The Working Group agreed that presenters should be kept to two a meeting at most.

**AGREED THAT –**

1. The Chair of the Working Group to share a list of future agenda items with the Climate Change Project Officer, and
2. A Communications Column to be added to the Forward Plan.

**110. CLIMATE CHANGE TARGETS**

The Climate Change Project Officer introduced Agenda Item 11 – Climate Change Targets – and shared the initial review work that had been done. It was suggested and the Working Group agreed that a complete review should be undertaken before the Working Group reviews the Climate Change Targets.

**AGREED THAT –**

1. The Draft Annual Report and the Climate Change Target Review to be circulated together to the Working Group members.

**111. UPDATE ON THE ANNUAL REPORT**

The Acting Chief Executive gave a verbal update on the Annual Report to Cabinet. The Working Group discussed which meeting of Cabinet the report should be sent to and how the report could be used for communications surrounding the Council's climate activities.

**112. STANDING ITEMS – IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

The Climate Change Project Officer gave a verbal update on the Impact Assessment training being offered in conjunction with the Corporate Equality and Diversity Officer, with the focus being on officers not leaving it to the final stage. The Working Group agreed it was a very positive step for officers at all levels.

**113. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Working Group discussed a Flood Action Group in Stretton on Dunsmore that was interested in support for a Land Drains Survey to provide them with a baseline of land ownership. A discussion was also had regarding the Newbold Quarry and the flood risk present there.

**RESOLVED THAT –**

1. The Acting Chief Executive and the Climate Change Project Officer to investigate the support available from Rugby Borough Council and from Warwickshire County Council, and

2. The Climate Change Project Officer to discuss Newbold Quarry with the Chief Officer – Leisure and Wellbeing.

**114. MEETING DATES**

The next meeting of the Working Group is Tuesday 10 June 2025.

**CHAIR**