

Steering Group meeting

Friday 12 September 2025

Action Notes

Attendance:

Cllr Davies (KD), Ben Earl (BE), Graham Owens (GO), Sigrun Wagner (SWR),
Jeremy Smith (JS), Elaine Keating (Youth Council)

Apologies:

Chris Joyce, Cllr Werner, Donna Stimson, Simon Wilkes

Council Officer: Heather Mynott (HM)

1. Welcome to Ben Earl to represent Abri!

Steering Group Introductions

2. Big Climate Pot

Due to the numbers of the Steering Group Members attending the last meeting the final decision on funding was to be made in this meeting. The summary of the three projects were summarised.

The Leisure Focus project will be explored by RBWM council.

Maidenhead Community Farm

The Steering Group agreed with the previous discussion. For the Maidenhead Community Farm.

- No land has been secured yet.
- Lack of identified farming expertise.
- Uncertainty around whether funding would lead to a viable community farm.

Steering Group Feedback: The Climate Partnership is open to providing financial support in the future, contingent on securing land and developing a clearer concept. They suggested exploring successful models such as:

- Incredible Edible Lambeth
- Oasis Farm Waterloo
- Growhampton (Roehampton University)
- Horsenden Community Farm

They also recommended considering a distributed model using smaller plots across the borough and exploring partnerships with BCA or local landowners.

Action: HM to feedback that the Steering Group would welcome a more detailed proof of concept to guide future collaboration.

Ray Mill Island

The Steering Group agreed with the previous discussion and would like to award the large Climate Challenge Fund contribution of £5000. However, they would like the following areas addressed:

- Clear plans for engaging visitors to the island.
- Alignment with the council's Natural Environment team.
- A robust monitoring framework to track biodiversity improvements and stream health following planting and clearing activities.

Action: HM to provide feedback and information around the next steps for the Climate Challenge Fund.

Trinity Community Hub (Sunningdale)

The Steering Group agreed with the previous discussion and are enthusiastic about the project, recognising it as a genuine community initiative with ambitious sustainability goals.

- Further Information Requested
- Confirmation of project costing
- Identification of a supplier

It was agreed the Trinity community hub would receive the funding from this year's Big Climate Pot.

Action: HM to organise meeting Revd Jon Hutchinson

Other points from the discussion for future spending pots: Make it a requirement to for there to be more details about project management. This can be managed in future steering group meetings.

3. Climate Challenge Fund – Eco Action Hub

Noted for the minutes GO left the room.

HM shared the overview of the project. Project details had been sent to steering group members beforehand. For the Steering group HM provided a summary of the previously funding projects.

From the discussion:

- The Steering Group responded positively to the overall concept of a renewed social media campaign.
- Clarification requested on how the proposed campaign differs from or builds upon the initiative delivered last year. Current proposal appears repetitive of the previously funded work.
- Concerns raised about the continued reliance on Facebook as the primary platform, which may limit engagement to the same demographic.
- The group requested information on:
 - Whether the campaign will be extended to other platforms.
 - Which platforms are being considered.
 - Evidence of successful outreach to new audiences via these channels.
- A short report outlining approach and outcomes would be valuable for sharing with other community groups.
- The Steering Group requested more details about the proposed consultant(s), including:
 - Relevant sector experience.
 - Examples of successful past work.
- This information is needed to support their decision-making process regarding the funding request.

- The group noted that Eco Action Hub has previously received funding through the Climate Partnership and the Council.
- They are keen to understand how this support has contributed to:
The organisation's development.
Capacity-building efforts.

Action: HM To email the feedback and questions to Eco Action Hub and the response is to be brought forward to the next Steering Group meeting.

4. Draft Strategy Feedback

Steering Group provided with draft of the Strategy so that feedback can be incorporated into the draft before going forward Overview and Scrutiny on the 29th September.

Feedback provided by the Steering group:

- Recommended the removal of less relevant contextual references, such as comparisons to the "Top 100 Councils," to maintain focus and clarity.
- Emphasised the importance of ensuring the strategy remains ambitious and is not diluted in tone or scope.
- Requested greater specificity within the Climate Action Plan to clearly outline actions, responsibilities, and measurable outcomes.
- Suggested refining the wording in the energy section to distinguish between:
 - i. Council-owned assets
 - ii. Privately owned properties
 - iii. Rented accommodation
- Stressed the need for an ambitious Delivery Plan that accurately reflects the scale of the challenge and sets out a clear pathway for implementation.
- Highlighted the importance of adopting a whole-community approach, ensuring that all sectors and residents are engaged and empowered to contribute.
- Identified a Communications Plan as essential to the successful delivery of the strategy, supporting awareness, engagement, and behaviour change.
- Welcomed the CEC's suggestions for Flagship Projects, noting strong alignment with the strategy and ongoing departmental conversations.
- Asserted that the strategy should act as a catalyst for transformative change across the borough.
- Recommended using scorecards to identify gaps in both the strategy and the delivery plan, supporting continuous improvement and accountability.

Action: HM to take away the feedback and incorporate it either into the Strategy or Climate Action Plan.

Steering Group to provide more feedback via email if they would like to.

All Actions:

- HM to invite members to next meeting in October.
- HM to feedback that the Steering Group would welcome a more detailed proof of concept to guide future collaboration.
- HM to provide feedback and information around the next steps for the Climate Challenge Fund.
- HM to organise meeting Revd Jon Hutchinson
- HM To email the feedback and questions to Eco Action Hub and the response is to be brought forward to the next Steering Group meeting.
- HM to take away the feedback and incorporate it either into the Strategy or Climate Action Plan.
- Steering Group to provide more feedback via email if they would like to.