

Steering Group meeting

Monday 6 October 2025

Action Notes

Attendance:

Donna Stimson (DS) chaired in Cllr Davies absence, Prof Sigrun Wagner (SWR), Jeremy Smith (JS), Ben Earl (BE), Molly Bower (YC)

Apologies:

Graham Owen, Chris Joyce, Cllr Werner, Cllr Davies,

Council Officer: Heather Mynott (HM) and Hayley George (HG)

1. Strategy Update

HM – outlined how O&S went which is for public viewing here.

- The Strategy was presented to Overview & Scrutiny (O&S) on 29th September.
- Questions on carbon emissions have been referred to James Thorpe, Sustainability Lead.
- Community group questions will be answered in writing.
- Annual monitoring and a Climate Partnership Impact Report are planned.
- The current draft is not final; the upcoming Climate Action Plan will influence its content.
- The Partnership has played a key role in shaping the Strategy by engaging stakeholders across sectors.

Contributions include:

- Connecting local organisations.
- Providing feedback and ideas.
- Supporting collaborative action.
- Planning the Climate Action Plan.

The Strategy and Action Plan will go through council processes before Cabinet adoption.

JS: Asked whether the strategy will be amended/updated with the actions from the Climate Action Plan.

It was confirmed that would be the process. The draft that went to O&S was to confirm that the process was correct and the way engagement was managed was correct, this is not the final draft.

2. Climate Challenge Fund – Eco Action Hub and Friends of Raymill Island

HM – Both Eco Action Hub and Friends of Raymill Island provided responses which were emailed to the Steering Group to provide further context for their decision making.

Discussion around Raymill Island: Steering Group felt more confident in providing the grant with the stipulation that Friends of Raymill Island will meet with the Parks and Natural Environment Team around their costings and monitoring for the project.

Discussion around Eco Action Hub: Steering Group discussed the proposal and felt the proposed campaign lacked sufficient diversification. There was concern that the approach largely repeated previous efforts without clearly demonstrating how it would reach new or underrepresented audiences.

The Steering Group also had questions about the purpose and expected outcomes of the proposed consultancy workshop. While the consultant's credentials are strong, it was unclear how the session would directly support Eco Action Hub's strategic development or community impact.

It was also noted that the Eco Action Hub were asking for funds for projects that they have asked for before. One of the key aspects of the grant is to consider the sustainability of a project beyond Climate Partnership funding.

3. Climate Action Planning

The Steering Group shared their views on the next steps for community engagement in the development of the Climate Action Plan. The following suggestions were made to guide the structure and delivery of upcoming workshops:

Thematic Workshops/Drop Ins

- Recommended organising workshops around specific themes to enable focused discussions and targeted input from participants.
- Though with the CAP already drafted it was also suggested drop-in sessions would be more appropriate as residents can also provide feedback during the six week consultation period.

Council Ambitions and Draft Plan

- Suggested that workshops should be informed by a draft Climate Action Plan, outlining the Council's ambitions and proposed actions to provide a clear starting point for engagement.

Community Contributions

- Encouraged the inclusion of opportunities for residents and community groups to reflect on and propose how they can contribute to the Climate Action Plan.

Use of Scorecards

- Proposed using scorecards as a tool to help assess the impact and coverage of the Delivery Plan, and to identify any gaps or areas for improvement.

CEC Workshop Format

- Recommended that the CEC workshop include participation from relevant Council officers, enabling a broader range of questions to be addressed and ensuring technical and strategic queries can be responded to effectively.

AOB:

Youth Council – there is an AfC/Council Take over day on the 25th November allowing young people to have a go a day of an AfC/Council officer role.