

Steering Group meeting

Friday 31 October 2025

Action Notes

Attendance:

Cllr Davies, Sigrun Wagner, Jeremy Smith, Leanne Devlin, Graham Owens, Maria Evans, Simon Wilkes

Apologies:

Chris Joyce, Cllr Werner, Donna Stimson

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

Welcome

HM welcomed Maria representing the CEC. HM noted that the Steering Group is among the first to review the draft Climate Action Plan (CAP). Feedback is encouraged; however, it was clarified that not all suggestions can be guaranteed inclusion in the final draft.

Discussion Points and Feedback Summary

Introduction

- Feedback suggested the introduction needs a stronger call to action and overall improvement.
- CEC requested metrics for every priority target.

Energy

- Include carbon reduction numbers and clear metrics showing how actions reduce emissions.
- Add baseline data (starting point, current position, and projections for 2030/2035).
- Consider inclusion of the Tyndall Curve, though concerns were raised about public familiarity with terminology.
- Clarify actions under “Smoke Free – Cleaner Air,” including what is measured, ambition level, and roles of the Council and Public Health.

Carbon Literacy & Behaviour Change

- Question raised on why the target is not 100%.
- Discussion on whether training will be mandatory for new joiners; HM confirmed delivery will depend on capacity.
- Suggested inclusion of workforce numbers, current Carbon Literacy (CL) training uptake, and percentage target by 2030.

Fuel Poverty

- Action and monitoring approach need alignment.
- Suggestions included EPC improvements, publishing uptake of grants (Govt, Green Doctors, NEF), and retrofitting targets.
- Monitoring EPC ratings and ensuring housing resilience beyond private rented sector were highlighted.

Planning Integration

- EPC planning, embodied carbon, and Net Zero building standards are already in progress.

- Private housing engagement and behaviour change strategies suggested (not enforcement-based).
- Council estate should be showcased as a Net Zero example and included in communications.
- Scope 3 and embodied carbon considerations requested.

Sustainable Transport

- Feedback noted that inclusion of a single sedum roof appears tokenistic.
- SMART targets recommended where possible, acknowledging not all can be SMART.
- Clarify active travel definition and link to health, wellbeing, and carbon reduction.
- Aspirational targets should reference baselines and key routes (e.g., Maidenhead Plan).

Natural Environment

- Metrics suggested for engagement with nature in deprived areas, including baseline data.

Reducing Waste

- Examples shared of fly-tipping deterrents (crime scene approach).
- Calls for baseline data, ambitious metrics, and communications to encourage purchase of recycled goods.

Finance, Governance & Risk

- Actions and targets need better alignment.(3)
- Explanation of governance processes requested.
- Integration into all budget-setting processes recommended.

General Feedback

- CEC expressed concern that the CAP reflects existing Council actions rather than new, ambitious measures.
- CEC suggested a different format for next draft
- CEC invited Steering Group to a workshop on 21 November.
- CEC offered informal consultation on the communications plan and the Council host the event.

Next Steps / Actions

- HM to share feedback with relevant officers.
- HM to issue a Doodle poll for November meeting.
- HM to invite Steering Group to the 21 November workshop.

- Steering Group members encouraged to submit further feedback or new ideas via email.

Note: While all feedback has been recorded and will be considered, inclusion in the final Climate Action Plan cannot be guaranteed.