

JOINT CLIMATE ACTION BOARD 12 JANUARY 2024



Present:

Councillor Mary Temperton (Chair), Bracknell Forest Council

Councillor Tony Virgo, Bracknell Forest Council

Councillor Adrian Haffegge, Bracknell Forest Council

Councillor Tina Eberle, Bracknell Forest Council

Lauren Lee, Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Working Group
Representative

Bob Collis, ESDP Infrastructure and Climate sub-group
Representative

Ian Evans, Parish, and Town Council Working Group Representative

Councillor Tina McKenzie-Boyle, Parish and Town Council Working
Group Representative

Paul Adkins, Biodiversity Working Group Representative

Councillor Sheila Collings, Biodiversity Working Group Representative

Russell Julier, Transport Working Group Representative

Samantha Gibbins, Transport Working Group Representative

Dr Justine Alford, Health Working Group Representative

Sarah Taylor, Health Working Group Representative

Ben Earl, Abri

Councillor Cristoph Eberle, Parish, and Town Council Working Group Representative

Sarah Thornley, Parish, and Town Council Working Group Representative

7. Chair's Welcome

Councillor Temperton welcome members to the meeting.

8. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 October were agreed as a correct record.

9. Current Administrative Arrangements

Damien James provided a progress report on the current administrative arrangements of the JCAB. Plans were underway to setup a Microsoft Teams group, which would allow each working group to update their information. It was hoped this could act as a central repository of information for the JCAB as well as ensuring work

would not be duplicated by the working groups. Board members were asked to provide email addresses with a non-generic domain as the system would not allow generic email addresses to ensure the systems security. Those without access to a non-generic email address were asked to identify themselves so that other options to allow them into the group could be investigated.

The JCAB was presented with its current draft terms of reference for discussion. The JCAB requested the following changes to the terms of reference **(ACTION)**

- A correction to add the Education Working Group to the list of working groups.
- A rewording of the groups purpose to emphasise the creation and monitoring of a coordinated climate strategy in the borough.

10. **Update from the Council, Focusing on the Refresh of the Council Strategy and how it fits in with the Community Climate Emergency Strategy**

Damian James provided an update on the refresh of the council strategy and how it could fit in with the Community Climate Emergency Strategy (CCES). The council's previous climate strategy which had run since 2020 would be coming to an end in 2024 and would therefore be reviewed to create a refreshed strategy for the next 4 years to 2028. The JCAB received the timetable of this review, which would be ongoing until the autumn.

The business change team within Bracknell Forest Council had begun a piece of work focused on training on the issue of climate change. An E-Learning course on climate change was already available to both members and officers. Furthermore, there were plans to implement carbon literacy training for council staff from April 2024.

The Board received a proposed model for developing the CCES. It would initially start with each working group agreeing it's individual aims which would then be fed into the JCAB for approval and to help the JCAB agree the overall borough aims. These aims would then help formulate the CCES which would then allow working groups to form an action plan to implement the strategy.

In discussion on the plans for the CCES the following ideas were raised:

- It was agreed that there was a need for a programme management group to ensure that the interrelated activities were carried out effectively and efficiently. It was agreed that Russell Julier, Councillor Haffegée, Councillor McKenzie-Boyle and Samantha Gibbons would join Councillor Temperton in this group.
- It could be beneficial if the JCAB was to look at work being done at neighbouring authorities such as Reading Borough Council's Climate Action Network. Councillor Haffegée offered to undertake this research. **(Action)**
- It was agreed that the development of a risk register would be beneficial. Councillor McKenzie-Boyle offered to lead on the risk register. **(Action)**

11. **Feedback from Working Group Leads on Activities and Progress**

Updates were provided on the ongoing work of each working group.

Lauren Lee gave an update on the Voluntary, Faith and Community Sector Working Group. Work was underway to expand the working group to ensure it represented as wide a range of faith groups and charities as possible. The working group had looked at potential training platforms, which it would share with the rest of the JCAB. The working group agreed its role would be to engage with the community to help ensure work done by the JCAB could be implemented effectively in the borough.

Councillors McKenzie-Boyle and C Eberle, Ian Evans and Sarah Thornley provided an update on the Parish and Town Council Working Group. The working group had identified the cleaning of rivers within the borough as a key priority as stats had shown that 0% of rivers were in good chemical health and just 14% in good ecological health. Therefore, the working group was proposing an initiative called the "Bracknell Big River Clean Up". The proposed initiative would involve representatives of each ward and parish helping to mobilize volunteers in their community. Feedback from the initiative from the JCAB was very positive and it was requested that anybody who wished to help support the initiative contact Councillor McKenzie-Boyle and Ian Evans.

Damian James updated the JCAB on the work being undertaken in the Officers Working Group. The Solar Together scheme, in operation for a year, aimed to encourage households in the borough to install solar panels on their roofs. Of the 208 households enrolled, 90 installations have been completed, and the rest are scheduled to be finished by March 2024. Work was also ongoing to find new locations for electric vehicle charging points as well as eco reward checkpoints. Work on the council's website had been done to ensure it was up to date with information on climate change. A new refuse truck had been secured ahead of schedule, which would be the subject of a trial on alternative fuels. The JCAB was also notified of new government legislation mandating kerbside collection of soft plastics by March 2027 and glass by March 2026. In preparation, a trial for collecting soft plastics in the borough would commence in the spring.

Russell Julier provided an update on the Transport Working Group. The Transport Working Group had agreed its terms of reference as well as a forward work programme, which had a focus on supporting the Local Transport Plan. A workshop was planned for the end of January which would look to explore in further detail what transport was needed in the borough, and what the current constraints were.

Bob Collis, Chair of the ESDP gave an update on the Business Working Group which had formed out of an ESDP sub-group. The working group had identified decarbonisation and the use of renewable energy in business as its most pressing aim. The working group had identified several issues for business such as restrictions on spaces to charge electric vehicles within the borough. Businesses had also highlighted frustration over the quality of public transport. It was hoped that some of the larger companies in the borough would like to get involved in the scheme and potentially be able to offer some funding for the JCAB's projects. As businesses had often struggled to be fully aware of potential grants and schemes from central government, it was suggested the Business Working Group be sent the link to the local authorities' web page on business and climate change which would help signpost businesses to these schemes (**ACTION** Sebastian Wright)

Paul Adkins gave an update on the Biodiversity Working Group. The working group had nearly finalised its terms of reference. The Biodiversity Working Group had been working closely in co-operation with the Nature Partnership to ensure no duplication of work. The working group had identified surveying as an important task, to ensure that all work was being done based on data. As well as doing mitigation work on

biodiversity and habitats, the working group would also seek to change public behaviour to try and get them more actively involved.

Justine Alford and Sarah Taylor provided an update on the Health Working Group. A draft term of reference had been produced with 122 actions, divided into 9 main sub themes, that would need to be reduced before the terms of reference were finalised. The terms of reference would be shared around post the meeting with members of the JCAB to see where there is any overlap in terms of work.

Ben Earl from Abri provided an update on the work being done by Abri. Every Abri property was on course to have an EPC C rating by 2030 as part of their carbon reduction programme. The Housing Working Group was being setup and would be up and running shortly.

The Councillors Working Group had started a piece of research looking into the work that was being done by neighbouring local authorities, hoping to learn lessons and gain ideas for Bracknell Forest Council's Climate Strategy. It was hoped this research would be ready to feed back at the next meeting.

12. **Discussion on Development and Goals of the Community Climate Emergency Strategy**

The JCAB discussed what they key goals off the Community Climate Emergency Strategy should be. Suggested goals that emerged from the discussion were:

- To be able to effectively measure and monitor the borough's carbon footprint.
- To be able to set the goals, which the individual working groups can then implement activities to achieve.
- To be able to co-ordinate the working groups so that they work effectively in collaboration, and all work is targeted.

CHAIRMAN