

## Steering Group Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025

**Attendance:** Cllr Davies (KD), Jeremy Smith (JS), Donna Stimson (DS), Prof Sigrun Wagner (SWA), Gavin Miller (GM), and Graham Owens (GO)

**Apologies:** Chris Joyce, Cllr Werner, Simon Wilkes (SWI), Elaine Keating (YC) and Martin Fry

**Council Officers:** James Thorpe (JT), Hayley George (HG) and Heather Mynott (HM)

### Agenda

#### 1. Roadmap for Climate Partnership

HM updated the roadmap for the next few minutes

#### 2. Updates:

The Climate Partnership has had 9 proposals funded and are still receiving applications on a rolling basis.

Project	Community	Grant Processed
Vegan Café and Social Media	Eco Action Hub	£2365
Community Garden	Kerith Church	£2662
Thrive Club	Queen Anne School	£3771
Moving with Grief	E Ramsay-Jones	£3050
Decarbonisation in Schools	Saveenergy	£5000
Community Calm	Community Calm	£5000
Community Garden	All Saints Church (Dedworth)	£1400
Verges	Maidenhead Lions	£750
Reusable Festival Cups	Windsor and Eton Pride	£3640

#### 3. Impact Report

JT walked through the Environment and Climate Strategy 2020-25 Impact report.

(The report will be published and available to the Public from May.)

Highlights include:

- The Borough is doing well in regard to the aims it set itself and against other Local Authorities. This is due to the efforts of community groups in the borough and the support of a growing sustainability team.
- The Borough is the only council in Berkshire that has a Sustainability Supplementary Planning Document in action and a dedicated officer.
- Significant decarbonisation
- 100% renewable energy usage by the council
- Leading Berkshire on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy which has engaged hundreds of people across the borough and thousands across the county.
- Secured significant grants to decarbonise the council estate
- Solar Together

The document is divided by themes: Circular Economy, Energy, Natural Environment and Transport. Then at the end of the document are the actions the initial strategy has set out to achieve and is traffic lighted.

Steering Group raised:

- Who supplies the metrics?
- Why are they messaged in the way that they are? (The local authority comparison)

JT: established that the Government measure the emissions – they do it yearly but there is a two-year delay on the reports. We will be receiving 2023 data in June 2025. We use the 2018 metric as a baseline.

- Comparisons are always going to be difficult.
- Each Local Authority is going to have their variables e.g. population density (rural/urban), population size
- Chosen nearby local authorities as residents are likely to see what it happening in nearby local authorities.

June will help provide more data for the Steering Group to help develop the new strategy. The new emissions report for 2023 from government and the Council Climate Score Cards will be published.

Climate Challenge Fund Proposals:

-St Luke's Community Garden

-Discussion around: size of the garden, amount of residents it will impact, what will happen around the initial 12 months.

Steering Group appreciate the project is working with partners and received match funding from elsewhere.

Agree to fund the project up to £5000 but need a response to:

- Who will be responsible of the ongoing maintenance? If it is the school/gardening group – would they sign a contract (similar to that of the verges project)
- Is there a plan to put an additional litter bin/ and or dog waste bin?

#### Claire's Repairs

-The Steering Group will be in favour of funding the amount. Discussion focused on the payment. There is a concern that paying for a ticket could be off putting so would prefer a donate if you can/ pay it forward style instead.

Would be sensible to establish links with Green Skills Library and Maidenhead Repair Cafe so that they can advertise each other's services.

#### Bisham Ice House Hibernacula Habitat

-Steering Group enthusiastic about the project, agreed to fund the £350 asked. It was well thought out will data relevant to the BAP and LNRS. Confidence in the project lead.

#### AOB:

DS brought up the Harmony Project. They are looking to work with 60 schools in the UK. It would be a great opportunity for schools in the borough to be involved. DS would really appreciate any contacts with science teachers in primary, middle or secondary school.