

Monday 6th February 2020

Summary note – Green City Partnership Board

PRESENT:

Laurie Brennan - (LB) Policy and Partnerships, SCC
Emma Bridge (EB) - Community Energy England
Jenny Carpenter (JC) – Sheffield Climate Alliance
Councillor Mike Chaplin - (MC), SCC
John Grant – (JG) Sheffield Hallam University
Councillor Peter Garbutt (PG), SCC
Edward Highfield – (EH), City Growth, SCC
Susan Hird – (SH) Public Health
Councillor Tim Huggan - (TH), SCC
Councillor Mark Jones (Chair - MJ)- SCC
Laraine Manley – (LM), Place Portfolio, SCC
Victoria Penman – (VP) Economic Development, SCC
Andy Sheppard – (AS) Arup
Stella Steele – (SS) Sheffield Chamber of Commerce
Cllr Alison Teal - (AT), SCC
Martin Toland - (MT) Amey
Nigel Wilson – (NW) Veolia
Mark Whitworth – (MW) Climate Change and Sustainability, SCC

Apologies:

Prof Lenny Koh University of Sheffield, Greg Fell, Thomas Sutton, Annie Proctor,
Zak McMurray, Liz Ballard, Mark Swales

		ACTIONS
1.	<p>WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND AGENDA REVIEW</p> <p>The Chair of the meeting (Councillor Mark Jones) welcomed all those in attendance and noted that whilst the Board itself is not new, this is the first meeting of the newly constituted Board, with the addition of Members from the Green and Liberal Democrat parties and that he was looking forward to the Board working together in an open and collaborative way, although acknowledging that as Cabinet Member he takes responsibility.</p> <p>JC and JG suggested that the Board could be widened further and that SYHA and the Environment Agency would be good attendees.</p>	
2.	<p>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</p> <p>MW noted that he will be having a conversation with the Environment Agency regarding their representation. Zac McMurray, Medical</p>	

	<p>Director of Sheffield CCG has accepted an invitation to attend the Board, as has Liz Ballard, Chief Executive of Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, and Mark Swales, Director of Estates at Sheffield Hallam University, but all sent their apologies as they had pre-existing commitments. MW hopes that before the next meeting there will also be a representative identified from the University of Sheffield.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>GCPB 2030</p> <p>VP facilitated an activity to encourage the Board to answer three questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What are the most important things that the Board has done to take Sheffield towards being a sustainable, zero carbon city? 2) What contribution are you most proud of that your organisation has made to help Sheffield to become a sustainable, zero carbon city? 3) What activities, behaviours or ways of working of the Board and its members have helped make these happen? <p>The Board worked in two groups and collected comments (captured in Appendix A).</p> <p>The strongest themes (from written comments and subsequent discussion) for question 1 were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Achieving net zero b. Developing and delivering a plan to achieve net zero c. Leading, enabling, engaging and communicating with the city and its communities <p>There were also a number of specific themed outcomes – the most common themes were mobility (most popular by a clear margin), energy, waste and low carbon business.</p> <p>For question 3, the strongest themes (from written comments and subsequent discussion) were:</p> <p>For ways of working:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Collaborative (for some apolitical) working b. Openness and honesty c. Sharing learning d. Working with urgency – evidence-based but getting things done now that don't need to wait and seizing opportunities – but at the same time recognising that this 'a marathon, not a sprint'. e. Leading by example <p>Activities that the board felt that they should engage with focused around:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Making decisions and commissioning activity b. Communicating effectively with the city 	

	<p>Discussion indicated that there was interest involving a broader range of partners and using smaller task and finish or similar groups to deliver work packages.</p> <p>VP noted that these will be used to create a statement of commitment and ways of working.</p>	<p>VP</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>ZERO CARBON COMMISSION UPDATE</p> <p>AS declared an interest and offered to withdraw but it was agreed that nothing would be disclosed that would not be in the tender documents.</p> <p>MW provided an update on the Commission. The tender for the commission has been published on the Council’s procurement framework. The specification is in three parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A detailed carbon_(e) baseline inventory. 2. A gap analysis of current performance compared with what is required to achieve our zero carbon ambition, accompanied with supporting evidence and data. 3. Options and Interventions for achieving net zero emissions within a decade and over the longer term, whilst remaining within Sheffield’s carbon budget of 16Mt CO₂, including cost benefit analyses. <p>The expectation is that the final report will be received by September.</p> <p>MW noted that the report is likely to evidence how much work and resource is required to stay within the carbon budget and noted that other cities have found that despite a lot of work and investment, there is still a gap to achieve Carbon Zero which will require national lobbying and intervention.</p> <p>The report will provide options for actions.</p> <p>TD suggested that this could also be used to help us measure and roll out best practice. JG noted that it is possible to do this without the commission.</p> <p>There was discussion about how Sheffield should cumulatively monitor data. MW noted that the Commission would provide a tool to allow for this. There are different tools available e.g. UN Sustainable Development Goals used by Sheffield Hallam University and BEIS (UK Govt. Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy)</p> <p>LM suggested the report could be used to galvanise the community to understand the scale of the challenge and the implications to encourage action. MW noted that the tender requires some outputs to be accessible to a wide audience, for example through infographics which can feed into the Citizens’ Assembly and be used more widely.</p>	

	<p>JG urged that we shouldn't "reinvent the wheel" and should use best practice already in Sheffield, for example that held within Community Energy England.</p> <p>ACTION: It was agreed that the relevant parts of the brief would be circulated to members.</p>	MW
5	<p>CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY LB gave a presentation on Citizens' Assemblies (slides attached).</p> <p>MJ suggested that a reference group be convened to allow the Board to have oversight of the development of the Citizens' Assembly. MW to contact members to invite attendance.</p> <p>The Board accepted this proposal.</p> <p>Questions in relation to the Assembly were referred to the next item.</p>	MW
6	<p>FORWARD PLAN MW referred to the request for a Forward Plan at the previous meeting and presented an outline Forward Plan. MW noted that much of the Board's time over the next six months would be taken up with the Commission and the Citizens' Assembly, and that there would be actions which would come out of the plan, so there is a need to leave space for these.</p> <p>AT noted that the Commission is due to report in September and asked how this could feed into the assembly if this is in June and suggested that, whilst not wanting to delay, it would be better if the Assembly had the full information available to it. MJ noted that although there is a difference in timescale, it would be timed to allow it to receive the earlier work packages.</p> <p>EH pointed out that there is a choice and that if the Council waited until the commission had reported, the Assembly would not take place until almost next year.</p> <p>LB noted that although the Commission won't be complete, there is already plenty of information that can be shared with the Assembly. Citizens' Assemblies are usually iterative and can call for more information as they go on so information can feed in as it becomes available.</p> <p>MC expressed concern that information provided to the Assembly needed to be accessible and not to overwhelm them. LB responded that this would be taken into consideration and is why Assemblies are so costly: they require expert facilitation and coordination to allow participants to hear from experts who can communicate effectively and that they are supported to be involved.</p>	

	<p>It was asked whether the Assembly would be webcast. LB said that this was a possibility, but that if this was the case that evidence sessions would be webcast but not deliberations between citizens to respect privacy.</p> <p>JG expressed concern that the question is not being asked about how new developments can be zero carbon. There is currently nothing in the Forward Plan about planning zero carbon housing and that this is urgent as planning applications will be accepted and rejected.</p> <p>EB suggested that Sheffield could work together with other local authorities to put pressure on Government to legislate so that there is a level playing field.</p> <p>EB noted that the Board should keep talking about and looking for opportunities. LB suggested that there are things that we already know and opportunities that we could already be seizing.</p> <p>MJ said that the Council hasn't been sitting on its laurels and that there is already activity taking place. He reflected on the Citizens' Assembly and felt that it is likely to not be a single event and that it may need to be repeated as time goes on.</p> <p>LB agreed that the Citizens' Assembly shouldn't be seen as tokenistic and noted that the Council was keen to get capacity building out of the event so that the Council would be in a better position to resource internally moving forward.</p> <p>JC suggested that work should be on a South Yorkshire basis rather than the city as funding is often via the City region. EH recognised that there needs to be shared work and noted that the City region is not just South Yorkshire.</p>	
7	<p>UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION</p> <p>EB noted that the <u>Community Energy annual conference</u> would be taking place in Sheffield on 13th June at Sheffield Hallam University talking about community led climate action – over 300 people. JG noted that there would be brilliant minds in Sheffield and it could be an opportunity for the Citizens' Assembly.</p> <p>PG noted on the point of broadening the Board that the Police and Fire Service and national Farmers' Union might be good representatives and that food is an important issue. AS suggested the Sheffield Property Association. MJ recognised that this is a potential omission. It was noted by several members that whilst it is important to include a wide range of partners, that it may be better to find alternative ways of collaborating</p>	

	<p>rather than having a very large Board, and that this, and the membership of the Board, will develop as work packages become apparent.</p> <p>SS noted that the Chamber of Commerce is working with Rotherham, Barnsley and Doncaster Chambers to form one voice. She also noted that the Chamber is engaging with the <u>Sheffield Sustainability Network</u> and that she is happy to be a conduit.</p> <p>LB noted that the Festival of Debate has a lot of focus on climate change and that there could be an opportunity here to engage with the wider city.</p> <p>LB noted that Sheffield should work with SCR to encourage them to use levers to work with other northern cities and LEPs.</p> <p>MT reported that Amey is redeveloping their depot next to the First Depot and that he'd like to be able to talk with them regarding potential rationalisation. TFS said that he could make an introduction. TFS also noted that he sits on the SYPTE Board and will bring the issue to them also.</p> <p>MW noted that the Board identified some specific work around fleet collaboration at its last meeting.</p> <p>PG said that he didn't want to overburden the Board but that he didn't want to leave anyone out and perhaps the Water companies should be involved.</p> <p>AS emphasised that it was important that ambition doesn't slow us down.</p> <p>EH suggested that a core board with radial elements could be an answer.</p>	
8	<p>AOB/CLOSE</p> <p>JC reminded the Board of the need to achieve a 14% year on year reduction.</p> <p>Dates for next meetings: April 23rd 10 a.m. June 4th 10 a.m.</p>	

Appendix A - Responses to GCPB 2030 exercise

N.B. Responses are recorded verbatim from individual post-it responses and do not represent a collegiate view of the Board.

What are the most important things that the Board has done to take Sheffield towards being a sustainable, zero carbon city?

- Established a much clearer strategy.
- Champion city's assets – a strong base to work from (Outdoor City, District Heating Network etc)
- Tipped the balance so that it's easier, more convenient and more pleasant to walk, cycle or use public transport than drive a car.
- Leading on clean sustainability issues.
- Join up influences and thinking
- Clarify the objective
- Cross-party/institution ownership.
- Sustained multi-year commitment and action plan.
- Engage our citizens – done with honesty about change.
- Achieved buy-in from all our citizens
- Oversee the plan and hold each other to account.
- Socially just approach to climate emergency.
- Achieved (or nearly) net zero
- We have enabled the city to meet its climate/zero carbon target
- Ensured that across the city and within our respective organisations that CC has informed all decisions to achieve zero carbon in Sheffield
- Even though it seemed impossible in 2020 reaching zero carbon status for Sheffield is true – a “Hope for the future” we owe (f?)
- Achieved 14% year on year reduction of carbon emissions from 2020
- Tyndall Report
- Coordinate activity/build synergies across city and beyond – bring investments secure(?)
- Provided clear and honest information and support to citizens and businesses to achieve our outcomes
- Identified, commissioned and seen into delivery a number of specific projects/interventions/policies that have made a quantifiable step change in Sheffield's carbon reduction IE GOT STUFF DONE
- That we have developed a clear vision and plan to deliver it – seeking input and support at all stages
- That we communicate openly and honestly about the scale of the challenge to all people in Sheffield and the need for action

- Raised consciousness of problems associated with climate change amongst the people of Sheffield to the point where THEY were demanding we take more - and more - effective action

Specific outcomes

- Travel – An active travel city which is welcoming to cyclists/walkers; that buses/trams are accessible, frequent and connected
- Excellent public transport
- Massive shift from the car – underpinned by key investment in public transport – the best public transport system in the UK?
- That car usage has fallen within the city as other travel options have expanded.
- Instigated practical change in how people travel (low-carbon modes)
- Everyone has access to a safe, clean, renewable public transport system with at least hourly services in rural areas
- Massive reduction in private car ownership
- That our city streets are now spaces where people's first thoughts are not that cars are dominant
- City centre clean air, sufficient charge points to sustain electric vehicles, Support to businesses to charge fleets e.g. taxis, only ecars in city centre
- Massive reduction in consumption of meat and dairy
- Large scale community food growing projects
- All energy is renewable, smart and designed around people's communities
- Local renewable energy production
- All new commercial and residential developments are fully renewable energy, well-insulated with smart technology integrated alongside green rooftops
- All homes properly insulated for minimal energy use
- No waste to landfill (recycled/reused before ERF)
- Is a top performing recycler and that residents are bought into this.
- Helped businesses to become more efficient at going low carbon
- Stimulated a green jobs revolution in low carbon industries

What contribution are you most proud of that your organisation has made to help Sheffield to become a sustainable, zero carbon city?

- Coordinated across a wide range of organisations to get a just transition from our high fossil fuel dependent past to our current fairer, greener way of life
- Enabling our partners and communities to transition to zero

- Leadership and knowledge – honesty about the challenge but lack of fear of change
- Initiated and supported net zero carbon challenges
- Achieved 14% year on year reduction of carbon emissions from 2020
- Climate in all policies

Specific outcomes

- Veolia – Expansion and more efficient DE network; landfill diversion at 99%+
- Carbon Capture in our moorland peat bogs through Moors for the Future Project
- Reducing fossil fuel reliance
- Taken the lead/shown the way as an example of best practice
- School streets, no car days
- Homes – design in to new build, design out of existing (expensive)
- That the city's housing stock has undergone a transformation in energy efficiency/insulation
- Champion shift away from cars to clean travel, public transport revolution, active travel
- Infrastructure transformation
- Empower people to be clean, active and low impact
- Rewilded our River Don waterways to protect land from flooding
- Move towards sustainable electric vehicle fleet
- That the city council and its partners are at the forefront of offering best advice practices on how people/businesses can transform their footprint
- Becoming a zero carbon council – transport, fleet, buildings, homes and infrastructure
- Trams
- Energy recovery centre (not perfect but...)
- Practical solutions for zero carbon buildings and a pragmatic roadmap
- Engaging all communities to ensure that the energy they use is low cost, net zero and designed around their needs
- A community owned energy project and benefit fund in every ward.
- Where people feel safe and confident to choose walking or cycling as a normal first choice – supported by infrastructure
- Where public transport is clean, efficient and affordable – busses are clean, frequent and full
- Working with businesses to encourage them towards net zero
- Communicating back to the Board any issues or barriers to businesses to achieve goals, act as the conduit between the board and business
- Eradicating fuel poverty

- Energy efficient street lighting

What activities, behaviours or ways of working of the Board and its members have helped make these happen?

Ways of working

- Apolitical – how can we be honest about challenges and limitations if this is to be used for political gain
- Vision/mission that all key actors are committed to
- Public engagement and strong communication
- That our decisions are informed by evidence but not at the expense of pace
- Worked collaboratively and urgently at all times; worked through differences without rancour
- Get on and do some things now
- Strong leadership and true partnership working across all sectors (whole system approach)
- Board looked at pooled resources and facilitated changes
- Accept it's hard – start by starting – not try and solve everything in one go
- Not party political
- Board focused on the common good and worked cooperatively and collaboratively
- Dynamism, Pace, Urgency
- Openness and transparency about challenges faced – could use collective minds to problem solve
- Acting in “oversight” in the accelerating move to zero carbon and halting the harm now (not making worse)
- Collaboration, trust, honesty/transparency, work together, communicate, build bridges
- Honest, pragmatic evidence-based discussion that allows decisions (often difficult decisions) to be made.
- Fearless statements of the truths of what is required
- Collaboration
- Transparency
- Communication
- Built bridges for the greater good.
- Collaborative working with a can do attitude that has continuously looked forward
- Collaborate and collegiate
- Partnership working – learning from one another
- Found ways to refocus, re-energise, re-invigorate as a Board as it's a marathon not a sprint
- Used the power that comes from democracy to affect really positive and bold change

Activities

- Full delivery of net zero plan
- Worked with SCR to achieve free public transport and 90% reduction of ownership and use of private cars
- A support for the DE network and its expansion
- Clean air zones policy = drive for electric vehicles
- Help turn a business initiative into a client/customer requirement

Resources

- Dedicated fund to deliver GCP vision