

Minutes	
Meeting:	Climate Change Board
Venue:	NAIC, University of Warwick / Microsoft Teams (Hybrid Meeting)
Date:	Thursday 9 th January, 2025
Time:	14.30pm – 16:30pm
Venue:	IMC, University of Warwick / Microsoft Teams (Hybrid Meeting)
Attendees:	<p>Margot James (Chair)</p> <p>Samantha Taylor – Ecologist, Canal and Rivers Trust</p> <p>Rachel Jones – CEO, Act On Energy</p> <p>Russ Hall, WMG - University of Warwick</p> <p>Helen Wheatley – Director Institute of Engagement, University of Warwick</p> <p>Prof. Stephanie Panichelli-Batalla – Academic Lead for Sustainability, University of Warwick</p> <p>Matthew Rhodes – Director, Camirus</p> <p>Paul Warrington – Relationship Director, Lloyds Banking (via Teams)</p> <p>Adam Denny – Citizen Housing</p> <p>John Martin – Solution Strategy & Coordination Lead, E.ON</p> <p>Faye Rouse – Severn Trent Water</p> <p>Ed Green – CEO, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust</p> <p>Corin Crane – Coventry & Warks Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Sarah Windrum – Future Mobility Cluster Lead, Horiba Mira,</p> <p>Selina Fletcher – Coventry University</p> <p>Sophie Mason – Coventry Building Society</p> <p>Chris Matthews – Atelier One</p> <p>Coventry City Council</p> <p>Cllr Jim O'Boyle - (Vice Chair and Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change, CCC)</p> <p>Andy Williams– Director of Regeneration & Economy, CCC</p> <p>Colin Knight - Director of Innovation, CCC</p>

Apologies:	Rhian Palmer- Strategic Lead - Green Futures, CCC
	Bret Willers - Head of Climate Change & Sustainability, CCC
	Darren O'Shaughnessy- Communications Manager, CCC
	Sam Pinfield- Divisional Support Mgr. (Regeneration & Economy) (Support), CCC
	Kieran O'Sullivan - Executive Support Officer (Support) – CCC
	Glen Smailes – Coventry City Council
	Julie Nugent- Chief Executive, Coventry City Council,
	Duncan Healey– Highways Environmental Lead, Galliford Try,
	Clare Wightman – CEO, Grapevine
	Audrey O'Connor – Canals & Rivers Trust,
	Charlotte Heeney – Severn Trent,
	Lisa Hofen- Coventry University
	Liz Hopkins – West Midlands Fire Service
	Louise Woollen- West Midlands Police
	Kevin Rodgers – CEO, Citizen Housing
	Bret Willers - Head of Climate Change & Sustainability, CCC
	Suzanne Ward – Area Environment Manager, Environment Agency

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1.	Welcome & apologies – Margot James - Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MJ welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were noted (as above). MJ thanked Russ Hall for providing the facilities and catering. MJ advised the meeting that 2025 is University of Warwick's 60th anniversary year, having been founded in 1965.
2.	Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Action Plan – Rhian Palmer - CCC

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	<p>RP presented her slides to the group as an update on progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following a rigorous process last year, unanimous Council approval has been received on the Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan. • The Key objectives are set within the 5 pathways: Adaptations & Resilience, Route to Net Zero, Circular Economy, Nature Pathway and Fairer Green Futures • RP passed on her thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Strategy, particularly as the 'journey' to approval was not always easy nor straight-forward. Very positive feedback has been received on the final approved version. • The action plan ensures that there is now a mandate to deliver. Within the action plan, there are 150 current projects; RJ would like the Board to hold the Council accountable for ensuring delivery and to make sure that priority actions and areas of focus are prioritised. • Priority actions referenced within the strategy include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Roll out of citywide Adaptation and Resilience Plan (nearly finalised), alongside practical measures to increase climate resilience. ○ Development and delivery of city's Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Green and Blue plan. ○ A vast range of decarbonisation measures, many involving the SEP and E.On, ranging from decarbonisation of heat, renewable energy generation and retrofit, the Council is upgrading its street lighting to LED, electrification of transport, VLR (demo planned later this year) and increasing active travel. ○ Increasing the city's household recycling rates, expand the variety of materials that can be recycled, increase capacity of digital recycling and WEEE, develop a construction re-use hub and bring forward Greenpower Park. ○ Development of a Just Transition Plan for the city, linked to a Green Skills Roadmap, alongside improving local air quality, and launching a community growing Programme. • RP advised that reporting and internal governance will be set up to ensure that progress can be measured and that success/ priorities are bought back to Board. A Green Futures Delivery Board will be established to help

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	<p>oversee this. Key indicators will be reported publicly via the One Coventry Performance Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RP added that the Pathway Groups and Board will be pivotal to make sure any obstacles get unblocked and opportunities are created. • RP stated that publicity and feedback received from the Strategy approval has been very good; lots of videos have been created and promoted via social networks, with further promotion opportunities currently being looked at. • The Strategy and Action Plan has been presented to the 'Green New Deal' group who were delighted and provided positive feedback - they now want to work with the Council, which is a positive turnaround. • RP presented the key priorities for 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Focus on driving forward priority projects. ○ Developing funding opportunities – this includes WMCA Devo Deal alongside exploring how we can lever in other public and private investment. ○ Raising the city's profile – e.g. Electric City event ○ Review Terms of Reference for Climate Change Board and Pathway Groups with a focus on delivery, this will be done collaboratively. ○ Development of Communications and Engagement Plan, it is important to embed the Just Transition principles. ○ There will be a review of the resources required to support delivery within CCC ○ Training and development for CCC staff • RP advised that the Webpages are currently being refreshed and updated links will be sent out. • MJ restated her thanks to the Board for their help and contribution to the Strategy & Action plan. • In turn, EG on behalf of the Board thanked RP for her individual efforts. MJ reiterated this. • MJ thanked RP for her presentation and asked if there are any further questions. None were received.
3.0	Funding – Rhian Palmer - CCC (Bret Willers apologies)

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	<p>RJ presented an update on funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Lottery Climate Change Action Fund – Bret Willers leading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expression of Interest for up to £1.5m over 3-5 years ○ Links Climate Change action to everyday lives and interests of communities; looks at how we can build support and networks in the City – looking at 3 key areas of focus: Community gardening and green spaces horticultural projects, Community renewable energy projects and home energy efficiency, Community sharing, re-use and repair social enterprise ○ Funding would deliver 4 people on the ground working in the community to provide specialist advice and support, focus on priority neighbourhoods ○ BW has received very good buy-in across the Board and other partners to address expressed needs ○ Expression of Interest needs to be submitted this month • WMCA Devolution deal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Currently awaiting confirmation for WMCA Integrated Settlement funding amount for retrofit in Coventry, which will include a single year settlement for 25/26 and a two-year settlement for 26/27-27/28. ○ The devolved funding covers Warm Homes, Social Housing and the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. ○ It is part of a Pilot to devolve retrofit funding to CA's and it will change how we deliver Retrofit on the ground so we can be more impactful. It will remove current barriers so that we will be able to do more. ○ There is a lot of work ongoing with Combined Authority to seize any new opportunities and to ensure Coventry is geared up for delivery. ○ There are some unique opportunities in Coventry to maximise funding and take underspend forward with the SEP, alongside the established partnership between CCC and Citizen for retrofit of our social housing stock. ○ RJ expects that the remit of this will expand in future to support nature recovery, adaptation & resilience and circular economy. • UK Nature in Towns and Cities Bid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This looks at how we can increase greenspace in the City. An Expression of Interest was submitted in November and we will learn if this was successful at the end of January. (Fund was hugely oversubscribed, £170m bids went in), a full application will be required March/April 25. ○ Our bid is for £1m and focussed on how we deliver skills in nature conservation and a focus on most deprived areas.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is dedicated support from Pathway groups, many partners from the Board, alongside the National Trust, John Muir Trust, Historic Coventry Trust and Culture Coventry. ○ If successful, this will be a huge boost for Nature Pathway • Coventry ColloborACTION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RP advised that an email has been sent to Board members with further detail on this ○ UoW is working with CCC's HDRC to develop a knowledge exchange, aiming to break down barriers and bring together networks of researchers, policy makers and practitioners, third sector and creatives in a new way to develop ideas and opportunities. ○ They have secured funding for a 6- month project to develop this – launch event 16th January and an invite to attend has been extended to Board. ○ Potential opportunity to build networks to support delivery of Action Plan, particularly around themes of just transition and community involvement. • MJ thanked RP for her update and asked if there are any further questions. None were received.
4.0	<p>Green Skills Roadmap – Glen Smailes, CCC/ (Apologies Bret Willers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GS provided an update on Green Skills roadmap. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GS advised that he has been working with Bret Willers, WMG, UoW on a partnership piece of work to develop this. ○ The aim is to encourage Green skills in children and also adults living in the City ○ There is a focus on action coming out of the roadmap. 65% British adults do not have access to learning green skills – there is a lot of work to do. ○ Green Skills in Education recommendations were reviewed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expand work in schools to support Green skills and coordinate what's already happening. - Establish a Green Growth assembly - Training school careers advisors – informed by EON - Work with FE providers to widen Green skills pipeline and increase Diversity within Green Skills - Work with Adult Ed providers and WMCA around sustainability awareness and leadership offering ○ GS updated on 2 case studies: E.ON Schools Partnership- a pilot of 6 Primary schools, with sessions held to just under 400 children & St

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	<p>Augustine's School Retrofit Design Project – a programme designed to engage both children and parents to address energy conservation in the home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GS discussed existing 19+ Provision in schools and shared an infographic to demonstrate what's already happening; there are a lot of courses already set up, particularly in engineering. ○ Green skills for Business recommendations includes ensuring C & W Business Support advisors have the right knowledge and skills, collaboration with local employer base and work with WMCA to ensure the right mix of adult skills courses. ○ Green Apprenticeships shows untraditional occupations, also included. ○ GS updated on 2 case studies for Business: Coventry College – Retrofit Bootcamps for Adult Learners in Partnership with Dyson Energy Services and Westdale Midlands and Coventry University – Hyperbat Ltd Battery Pack Production Coventry. The Coventry College case study has seen 11 previously unemployed residents secure full time employment to date with starting salaries of over £35k per week. Coventry University - Hyperbat Ltd Battery Pack Production has enabled industry-ready graduates, moving them to core engineering roles within battery pack production, with a seamless transition from university into industry. This is very much a sector that will grow with plans for a Gigafactory in Coventry afoot. ○ Just Transition recommendations seek to identify current trades dependant on fossil fuel/s where future prospects maybe at risk. In addition, it seeks to establish training programmes to reskill workforce with green skills to adapt to low carbon/ net zero alternatives. There is also a need to avoid mistakes from the past and support social enterprises. ○ Futures skills for City recommendations will ensure the sure the Investment Zone are best shaped to support Greenpower Energy Park (est. 7000 new jobs) – there will be a need to make sure that the skills system is set up for this so that residents are able to apply for these jobs. In addition, Coventry City Council needs to use its own purchasing power when procuring and encouraging providers to use apprenticeships and to ensure the skills system can flexibly respond. ○ The Plan will be published on 20th Jan 2025 and will be live on the website. Partners involved have fully approved. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MJ thanked GS for his presentation and asked if there were any questions. • HW asked about Just Transition and having read the document wondered if there was scope to be more strident in commitment to do things <i>with</i> people and not to people. This may be a language aspect in the document. • HW commented that in the Education plans, 'degree level' is missing with existing modules and programmes omitted. RH advised that engineering & technical degrees still have Sustainability bolted on where it should be

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	<p>embedded in 1st year. Prof. PSB added that degree courses could be further ahead, with 5 year integrated courses with distinct sustainability options/extra-curricular modules as well. She agreed that the University of Warwick need to have more and she would be happy to help. SF agreed that it makes sense to fill gaps. GS added that he will take this point away and the document will be refreshed annually – degree recommendations will be fed in.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CC added that there is a need to inform employers for opportunities in the marketplace, particularly SMEs need help. RH added that his recommendation would be to talk SMEs/ business owners through labelling this as ‘how to save money’. RH is happy to work with GS and business advisors to help. MR added that he has recruited over 100 people – educating employers. • SH added that Mira won the Kings award on simulation. Could virtual engineering bases help provide higher level technical skills? • PW commented (online) that Manufacturing Technology Centre offer free Sustainability Walkthrough for SMEs. Something at Lloyds have used for clients several times. • RH added that emissions reporting for businesses will be useful. • MJ thanked GS for his update and asked if there are any further questions. None were received.
5.0	<p>Engineered Bamboo Housing – Colin Knight – CCC/ Christopher Matthews – Atelier One</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CK introduced the presentation and advised that Engineered Bamboo represents a great opportunity. The proposal is for a new project to build a prototype bamboo house, potentially at Coventry University which will allow exhibition of this sustainable option; the question perhaps should be ‘<i>why don’t we do this?</i>’ • Chris Matthews – Atelier One, circulated a sample of the engineered Bamboo around to Board Members and presented his slides. • CM advised on the background, properties of the bamboo, the comparison between timber and aluminium, sequestration and where there are current installations/ use of the bamboo. The material is approved by UK Building control. He compared the supply chain and sustainability to Timber, advising that Bamboo is a faster process and more sustainable. • MJ asked if costs are similar. MR asked about the energy performance. Chris advised that there is some further testing needed on this. The difference is in the wrapping, it is very similar model to a timber frame house. • AD suggested that this is a great opportunity and a conversation with the Citizen development team should take place.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CC liked the idea and was very supportive of the concept. • Cllr O'Boyle asked the Board if it is the right thing to do? Where/how would procurement occur? EG asked if there is enough bamboo available in the UK and if not, can sustainable sourcing be guaranteed - do any figures/ calculations encapsulate carbon offset? CM confirmed that the bamboo needs to be sourced overseas. • MR asked if CM had explored 'innovation funding' options for the project? CM advised that he will explore this. • CKn summarised benefits and advantages. The presentation was to launch the idea, get interest, review a potential site and gather funding all of which is very exciting for Coventry. Developers and Stakeholders are key. • MJ asked the group if anyone had any further questions, none were received.
6.0	Pathway Group Updates (all Chairs)
6.1	<p>Route to Net Zero - Rachel Jones (CEO- Act on Energy)</p> <p>RJ presented her slides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RJ advised that the next Pathway group meeting will be held w/c 13/01/2025 • A lot of recent time has been spent looking on the focus area of Housing, reviewing funding via Devo deal, trying to determine how this is going to work through Retrofit, Social housing and what the new Government scheme is going to mean. • Further work is ongoing embedding Just Transition principles, attending Fairer Greener Pathway Groups and linking in on opportunities. • Recent work has taken place linking up to colleagues on Health Determinants in the City. • For the next few meetings the key areas of focus will be SEP work, a lot of projects and funding opportunities, particularly around innovation and property funding. • MJ thanked RJ for her update. MJ asked the group if anyone had any further questions, none were received.
6.2	<p>Circular Economy – Dr Russ Hall (Senior Research Fellow, WMG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RH advised that he has taken back control of planning for the Pathway group. • RH provided an update on 'Cov Connect': <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Distributed 3500 devices across 150 partners ○ Employed 2 new technicians, refurbishing cc. 200 devices/mo. ○ Built up stock from CCC and NHS refurbished devices. Prof. Steph/ Russ overcoming barriers to also work with UoW. ○ Further collection of NHS devices through 2025

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ WMG will demonstrate a carbon calculator for the Device Bank ○ Comms & marketing in development ○ Next steps – business case on funding • RH provided an update on Street lighting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coventry is upgrading its streetlights to LED good for energy ○ 29,000 streetlights will be replaced ○ 170 tons of aluminium, value of £85k to £100k. The question is: can Coventry do something better than just scrapping them? ○ WMG performing chemical analysis of the alloy. This should be simple, but it isn't. Work ongoing to figure out how to do it and an update will be provided at the next meeting. • RH provided an update on Construction Waste Hub: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ WMCA initiative to prevent waste from new construction build ○ Collects materials that would be wasted from construction sites for resale ○ Prevents unnecessary waste, successful business model in Wolverhampton (Reuse Hub) ○ Discussions with CCC Director for City Services Andrew Walster have taken place. RH will provide an update at the next meeting. • RH advised on CCC CE opportunities which include solar panel recycling, e-waste, critical mineral recovery and UK metal recycling. There are lots of ideas but real traction can be difficult. Dedicated business plans and resources will be needed and priorities identified. • RH advised that Heat Pumps are being evaluated at WMG, with thought on Heat pump manufacturing and if we can get this into Coventry. Cllr O'Boyle wants to know how we can use Heat pumps for maximum efficiency and how they can be best utilised with utility companies. RH added optimisation is needed for market to use. Action: Meeting to be set up on Heat pumps reviewing decarbonising heat with a view to retrofit and optimising for housing stock. RH stated that there is a chance to influence legislation. JM advised that there is a [local] demand. • MJ thanked RH for his presentation and update. MJ asked the group if anyone had any further questions, none were received
6.2	<p>Adaptation & Resilience - Suzanne Ward (Environment Agency)</p> <p>RP presented an update to the group (SW apologies):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The key priority for the Pathway Group is to support the launch and delivery of the city's Adaptation and Resilience Action Plan. A lot has been happening in this area and more time will be dedicated to it at next Board. • The Pathway Group will maintain an assurance role overseeing the delivery of the A&R plan, noting that some of the actions within this sit with individual organisations as well as across partners. The Group will work to

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	<p>improve A&R data, including improving GIS layers and coordination of data to support decision making.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early 2025 focus for the Group is providing input to finalise the A&R Risk Assessment, identify action owners. Risks will need to be brought back to Board. • Activity will focus on the High and Medium risk priority categories, and there are plans to establish links with other local authorities to learn from their experience in an effort to establish best practice and to help benchmark performance. • A review of case studies with examples of good practice is to be finalised for the benefit of Pathway Group members to assist the Team in establishing the latest developments and for identifying approaches to adopt and practical actions to address in the future. • Comms are working on report and pack will be shared. • A report will go to Cabinet to raise profile, particularly important around heating and flooding aspects • WMCA stepping up and attracting funding; more on this at next meeting. • MJ thanked RP for her presentation and update. MJ asked the group if anyone had any further questions, none were received
6.3	<p>Fairer Green Futures – Helen Wheatley</p> <p>HW provided an update on Fairer Green Futures pathway group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HW advised that the thought is ongoing about how Pathway group can maximise the recommendations from the Glasgow report. • Carla Washborne is joining the Pathway Group • The priorities are the action plan, the Pathway group supporting Net Zero Neighbourhood and also reviewing how other Pathway groups can be supported so the Just Transition principles are embedded. Just Transition needs resource and coordination and help with delivery. • MJ thanked HW for her presentation and update. MJ asked the group if anyone had any further questions, none were received.
6.4 & 7.0	<p>Nature Based – Rhian Palmer on behalf of Ed Green (CEO, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust)</p> <p>RP presented her slides as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brandon Wood Golf Course was closed to Public in 2020. • Optioneering has taken place to explore future use of site, including rewilding, golf and gravel extraction. • WWT has worked closely with CCC to produce potential options for rewilding, including exploring alternative commercial models for delivery. • In Nov 2024 a rewilding option was favoured at CCC Labour Group. Members very keen to ensure the scheme optimises public health benefits,

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	<p>accessibility, training and skills opportunities, particularly to increase diversity of volunteers and workforce and support outdoor education. Sustainable travel to the site is also very important.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The end vision involves rewilding the 64ha golf course which will complete a 356ha area of land managed for nature on the doorstep of Coventry. This would create up an uplift in biodiversity of around 300 units or 292%, delivering up to 550 tonnes of carbon sequestration annually. It would be the largest single unit of land for people and wildlife in the West Midlands that lies 6km from the city centre with significant opportunities for tourism and outdoor education, alongside creation of new skills and local jobs. • Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Formal CCC approval for future use of site will be sought Q4 24/25 to complete Political approval process. ○ Assembling governance and project team, number of work streams including demolition of existing club house, development of BNG options, commercial/finance, planning, public health, outdoor education & tourism ○ Partnership agreement to be developed with WWT. ○ Programme to be developed, targeting delivery of initial habitat creation within 18-24 months. • A comms Plan will also developed – huge and exciting opportunity to put Coventry's ambitions to support nature recovery on the map and on a national stage. • RP thanked EG for his input and work championing the project. • EG thanked CCC for coming to the decision made. • MJ thanked Cllr O'Boyle for his Political leadership and the Board on this work. • MJ asked about size of area. RP/EG advised that detail on site document can be shared. EG advised it is a large site, near to Coventry but currently hard to get to – this will need thought. • MJ thanked RP for her presentation and update. MJ asked the group if anyone had any further questions, none were received
8.0	<p>AOB</p> <p>Inter Climate Network – Sophie Mason – Coventry Building Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SM advised that she is a volunteer Trustee for <u>InterClimate Network</u> who are a charity that work to inspire the next generation of climate leaders. They work in schools nationally to educate students on climate change & what they can do to help. Also, every year during COP, they go into schools & facilitate students to take on the role of negotiating teams during the United Nations climate change conference as a youth climate summit. • SM asked if members of the board would be interested in a conversation about potentially working together in 2025? HW advised that 'Martin Price',

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	Youth Assembly, UoW would be a good connection and she will make an introduction.
	<p>New Member requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MJ provided an update on New Member requests received as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ellen Powis – West Brom Building Society ○ Marguerite Nugent – Culture Coventry • No objections were received <p>MJ thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting. Date of next meeting, Q1: Thursday 08 May 2025 – 1:00-3:30 Friargate</p>