

<b>Minutes</b>	
<b>Meeting:</b>	Climate Change Board
<b>Venue</b>	One Friargate/ Microsoft Teams (Hybrid Meeting)
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> May, 2025
<b>Time:</b>	13.30pm – 15:30pm
<b>Attendees:</b>	<p> Margot James (Chair)  Rachel Jones – CEO, Act On Energy  Russ Hall - Lead for Sustainable Manufacturing, WMG - University of Warwick  Helen Wheatley – Director Institute of Engagement, University of Warwick  Ed Green – CEO, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust  Clare Wightman – CEO, Grapevine  Matthew Rhodes – Director, Camirus  Paul Warrington – Relationship Director, Lloyds Banking  Adam Denny – Citizen Housing  John Martin – Solution Strategy &amp; Coordination Lead, E.ON  Tom Grosvenor – National Trust </p> <p> Coventry City Council  Cllr Jim O'Boyle - (Vice Chair and Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change)  Andy Williams– Director of Regeneration &amp; Economy  Colin Knight - Director of Innovation  Rhian Palmer- Strategic Lead - Green Futures  Bret Willers - Head of Climate Change &amp; Sustainability  Julie Fairbrother – Communications Manager  Darren O'Shaughnessy- Communications Manager  Sam Pinfield- Divisional Support Mgr. (Regeneration &amp; Economy) (Support)  Kieran O'Sullivan - Executive Support Officer (Support) </p> <p> Apologies:  Julie Nugent- Chief Executive, Coventry City Council  Samantha Taylor – Ecologist, Canal and Rivers Trust  Prof. Stephanie Panichelli-Batalla – Academic Lead for Sustainability, University of Warwick  Duncan Healey– Highways Environmental Lead, Galliford Try,  Faye Rouse – Severn Trent Water  Vijay Tank – E.ON  Marguerite Nugent – Culture Coventry  Lisa Hofen- Coventry University  Liz Hopkins – West Midlands Fire Service </p>

<b>Apologies:</b>	Louise Woollen- West Midlands Police Kevin Rodgers – CEO, Citizen Housing Suzanne Ward – Area Environment Manager, Environment Agency Corin Crane – Coventry & Warks Chamber of Commerce Sarah Windrum – Future Mobility Cluster Lead, Horiba Mira Selina Fletcher – Coventry University Sophie Mason – Coventry Building Society
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1.	<p><b>Welcome &amp; apologies – Margot James - Chair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MJ welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were noted (as above).</li> <li>• Cllr O'Boyle announced the opening of the very light rail (VLR) track which is located on Victoria Rd; the track laying has been completed in a record time of eight weeks.</li> <li>• JF advised that public bookings for the light rail track have been very popular, with all slots being booked out within a week.</li> <li>• Cllr O' Boyle offered Climate Change Board participants a VIP trip – this can be arranged by contacting Julie Fairbrother directly: <a href="mailto:julie.fairbrother@coventry.gov.uk">julie.fairbrother@coventry.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• MJ congratulated everyone on the project and thanked Cllr O'Boyle for his update and offer to Board members.</li> </ul>
2.	<p><b>Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Action Plan – Rhian Palmer - CCC</b></p> <p>RP presented her slides to the group as an update on progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RP reminded attendees that the strategy plan was approved by Council in December 2024 and significant progress has been made since then.</li> <li>• Out of the 159 projects in the action plan, 57 are already in delivery and 31 are in development. This shows a substantial movement towards achieving the strategy's goals.</li> <li>• The Council has been given the status of a 'conservation, covenant body', which is very important to help projects move forward.</li> <li>• Significant investments have been secured, including funding from the Combined Authority and investment from E.ON through the SEP Partnership, amounting to over £12 million for the next year to support decarbonisation projects and a number of other funding bids.</li> <li>• RP highlighted some of the priority projects, including Adaptation &amp; Resilience, Sustainable Urban Drainage and various Nature-based solutions. Over 42,000 trees have been planted since 2021 and a number of tiny forests have also opened up across the City. These projects are making good progress and are crucial for the overall strategy.</li> <li>• In terms of Strategic Energy Partnership, the annual business plan was approved in March and there are ambitious projects planned for the year ahead. More details will be given at the next Board meeting.</li> <li>• In terms of Retrofit projects, there continues to be some great progress working with Citizen, particularly on social housing. Now working through the Combined Authority funding to look at what the next stage is going to be, but significant amount of residents are already benefiting directly from the work that is taking place.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the key challenges mentioned was the lack of a substantial budget accompanying the strategy approval. The team is working on creative solutions to bring more projects into delivery, including developing a climate investment strategy to leverage public and private funding.</li> <li>• Comms and engagement plans are key and will be linked to projects in Hillfields, involving residents and businesses more.</li> <li>• A training programme is being developed for Council staff.</li> <li>• HW complimented RP on all the progress made. RP advised that progress is possible because of cross Council and partnership working.</li> <li>• MJ thanked RP for her presentation and asked if there are any further questions. None were received.</li> </ul>
3	<p><b>Adaptation and Resilience Pathway update - Brett Willers – CCC (Suzanne Ward – apologies)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BW presented an update on the Adaptation and Resilience strategy and action plan, as per the slides.</li> <li>• BW emphasised the need to prepare for climate change impacts, including warmer winters, hotter summers and lower overall rainfall. These changes have significant implications for the city, including economic impacts and increased risk of extreme weather events.</li> <li>• The plan includes comprehensive risk assessments to identify key issues and vulnerabilities. This involves gathering data and working with various organisations to understand the potential impacts on the city.</li> <li>• BW mentioned that the adaptation strategies are being developed to address the identified risks. These strategies include measures to improve resilience and mitigate the impacts of climate change on the city.</li> <li>• Community engagement is a crucial part of the plan. The team is working with local communities to raise awareness and involve them in the adaptation process. This includes understanding their experiences and developing plans to address their needs.</li> <li>• The plan involves collaboration with various organisations, including the Met Office and the Environment Agency, to gather data and develop effective adaptation strategies. This collaborative approach ensures that the plan is comprehensive and well-informed.</li> <li>• MJ thanked BW for his update and asked if there are any further questions. None were received.</li> </ul>
4	<p><b>Charterhouse and Urban Country Park - Tom Grosvenor, National Trust</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tom Grosvenor presented slides on the National Trust and the Charterhouse project.</li> <li>• The Charterhouse project aims to restore nature, remove barriers to access and inspire people in Coventry. This aligns with the National Trust's strategic objectives of restoring nature, providing unequal access and inspiring millions.</li> <li>• Charterhouse will officially open on May 21st, with more programmed events planned for the bank holiday weekend. This marks a significant milestone in the project's timeline.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project will involve various community engagement activities, including working with local schools and community groups. The aim is to make the Charterhouse a hub for community involvement and education.</li> <li>• The Charterhouse project is part of a larger green corridor initiative, which aims to connect green spaces across Coventry. This includes creating urban Riverside walks and improving access to green spaces for residents. TG will circulate a document on this</li> <li>• The project involves partnerships with various organisations, including the Historic Coventry Trust and the John Muir Trust. These partnerships are crucial for the successful delivery of the project's goals.</li> <li>• RP advised that there is a real opportunity to explore and develop training and educational opportunities related to the Charterhouse project, focusing on environmental conservation and green skills. TG agreed that the building is ripe, however funding is needed.</li> <li>• Cllr O'Boyle thanked TG for his update and added that this will raise profile of Coventry and create opportunities.</li> <li>• HW asked what Just Transition elements are in the project. TG advised that a programme and partnerships manager has been appointed to make sure everything is embedded into the community.</li> <li>• CKn added that a tour for Board members will be organised.</li> <li>• MJ thanked TG for his update and asked if there are any further questions. None were received.</li> </ul>
6.0	<p><b>Funding – Rhian Palmer/ Bret Willers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RP announced that Coventry has secured £8.5 million from the Combined Authority for retrofit projects. This funding will be used for both domestic properties and public sector buildings over the next three years.</li> <li>• The Mayor of Renewables fund has launched a £10 million fund to increase investment in clean power. Coventry has submitted a bid for £700,000 to install solar panels on six buildings in Hillfields, which will also support the extension of the heat line network.</li> <li>• Coventry has submitted a bid for the Nature in Towns and Cities fund, which aims to support green space management and community engagement. The bid has strong support from various partners, including the National Trust and the John Muir Trust; RP thanked all partners involved. This will involve setting up a new partnership across the City for how Green Space is managed.</li> <li>• There are 38 bids going in across the Country. The bid is for just under a million, so not a huge amount of money, but a some of the match funding opportunities are significant.</li> <li>• BW advised that National Lottery Climate Action fund bid is still open, awaiting feedback. BW emphasised the importance of community engagement in this funding initiative. The goal is to involve residents and businesses in the projects to ensure success and sustainability.</li> <li>• RP mentioned that there are ongoing discussions with the Green Finance Institute and other potential funders to explore additional funding opportunities for Coventry's green initiatives.</li> <li>• MJ thanked RP/BW for the update and asked if there are any further questions. None were received.</li> </ul>

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6.0	<p data-bbox="325 324 957 360"><b>Bamboo House Workshop – <i>Colin Knight</i></b></p> <ul data-bbox="351 392 1508 952" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colin announced that a workshop for the bamboo house project will be held on May 12th at 10:00 AM. The workshop aims to scope out the project, not just to consider bamboo, but to also discuss the use of alternative materials and energy efficiency measures.</li> <li>• The bamboo house project aims to create the UK's first bamboo house in Coventry. The focus will be on sustainability, energy efficiency and the use of alternative materials to create an affordable and eco-friendly housing solution.</li> <li>• Colin emphasised the importance of community involvement in the project. The house will be open to the public for a year to showcase the benefits of bamboo construction and sustainable living.</li> <li>• EG asked what the long-term plan is after the initial year. CK advised that the bamboo house could be moved to a permanent location where it could be monitored for performance and used as a model for future sustainable housing projects.</li> <li>• MJ thanked CKn.</li> </ul>
7.1	<p data-bbox="325 969 1169 1050"><b>Pathway Group Updates (all Chairs)</b> <b>Route to Net Zero - Rachel Jones (CEO- Act on Energy)</b></p> <p data-bbox="325 1077 831 1113">RJ presented her slides via Teams:</p> <ul data-bbox="373 1144 1501 1998" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The last two meetings have focussed on Housing Objectives with a focus on improving energy efficiency, net zero neighbourhoods and privately rented stock. Collaboration with Citizen on social housing decarbonisation fund (SHDF) projects targeting 2000 properties.</li> <li>• Net Zero Neighbourhood- Hillfields area is a key focus, integrating social housing work and heat network elements. Emphasis on community engagement and rolling out successful strategies city-wide.</li> <li>• RJ highlighted the high fuel poverty rates in Coventry, with 25,000 households affected. There is an emphasis on addressing this through targeted retrofit and energy efficiency measures.</li> <li>• Engagement work is ongoing with participation at roundtables with the Minister to discuss the 'Energy Company obligation' and also the upcoming 'Warm Homes' plan policy. There is a focus on improving customer experience and consumer advice provision.</li> <li>• Upcoming focus for the next meeting will be on green skills and supply sector, addressing the shortage of trades and skills in the retrofit industry.</li> <li>• Rachel emphasised the importance of community engagement, effective communication and leveraging partnerships to achieve net zero goals.</li> <li>• PW stated that there are discounted funding opportunities for landlords, homeowners and businesses. Cllr O Boyle emphasised that this is an important issue for the Country transitioning from fossil fuels- he questioned why homes are still being built with gas boilers and stressed the need to explore the feasibility of constructing an exemplar property. PW suggested</li> </ul>

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	<p>interim steps are needed to encourage building initiatives. RH stated that Government needs to be lobbied to bring about change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MJ thanked RJ for her update. MJ asked the group if anyone had any further questions, none were received.</li> </ul>
7.2	<p><b>Circular Economy – Dr Russ Hall (Lead, WMG)</b></p> <p><b>Dr Russ Hall presented his slides:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RH updated that conversations have started with a Company in Bristol who have developed a disruptive Heat Pump Technology which could mean that work to retrofit items will be minimised. They are looking for demonstration sites so Coventry could possibly be a great fit for this.</li> <li>• The Terms of Reference have been updated to focus on taking action and making a difference in the city through circular economy projects.</li> <li>• Cov Connects Device Bank Project: 2153 devices reused, repaired, or recycled. RH thanked Laura Waller for her work and efforts. Support from 2 Warwick Business School students has now been secured. Efforts are ongoing to secure more funding to be able to scale up to 20,000 devices.</li> <li>• University of Warwick have finished legislation to be able to donate to the device bank. The goal is to develop this model and to expand it across the U.K.</li> <li>• An impact assessment Framework has been created with support from Professor Stuart Coles team at WMG, adopted by other cities across the U.K.</li> <li>• There are challenges in projects in measuring Circular Economy impacts because it is difficult in measuring indirect environmental benefits. Business cases need to be thought about. RH emphasised the need for focused efforts and investment to make these projects successful and highlighted the potential for Coventry to lead in various circular economy initiatives.</li> </ul> <p>Potential projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recycling boilers removed from homes, leveraging critical materials and creating jobs.</li> <li>○ Community Circular Economy Projects - promoting second-hand markets, charity shops and bike recycling.</li> <li>○ Metal Recycling - collecting manufacturing scrap steel in the West Midlands and selling to UK electric arc furnaces.</li> <li>○ Leading in recycling e-waste to recover rare earth materials.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RH asked the Board what the City would like the next project to be as not all projects can be done.</li> <li>• MJ thanked RH for his presentation and update. She suggested organising a subgroup meeting to discuss at the proposition. Cllr O’Boyle said it’s important to have the right people in the room. He suggested that the feasibility and implementation of a scrap steel recycling project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: RP/MJ will set up a sub-group. HW asked if Just Transition could be considered.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HW added that Hayley Beer (WBS) may be able to assist with measuring Social Value impacts on circular projects.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MJ thanked RH for his presentation and update. MJ asked the group if anyone had any further questions, none were received</li> </ul>
7.3	<p data-bbox="325 342 1350 376"><b>Fairer Green Futures Pathway – Helen Wheatley and Clare Wightman</b></p> <p data-bbox="325 405 1318 439">HW/ CW provided an update on Fairer Green Futures pathway group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the last meeting, some time was spent on prioritisation of Action Plan for Fairer Green Futures to review progress. Many projects involving communities have progressed.</li> <li>• When reviewing the action plan, there has been recognition in the need to involve communities in determining priorities, aligning with just transition principles.</li> <li>• Last year a recommendation was made to Board for dedicated resource to assist with this however there has been no movement to date. The group have therefore reviewed other options and have suggested running a 'Citizen's Assembly' to involve those most affected by the transition to a green economy. This would still require a dedicated resource and involve education, deliberative activities to be able to make the recommendation for priorities for change.</li> <li>• CW stated that we need to identify and secure funding of at least £5000 to support this. There is precedent in the City for a Citizen's Assembly and knowledge can be leveraged on how to make this work, however funding will still be required.</li> <li>• Green Skills Roadmap – Implementation from a Council-led group with public and private sector representatives. Cllr O' Boyle has requested a focus on promoting green skills and new growth industries through the Council's job shop, which Rhian, Kim Mawby and Brett Willers are working on. There needs to be an emphasis on building industry support and championing green skills, so it is not just Council led.</li> <li>• Net Zero neighbourhood – RP advised that £4 million funding has been secured and work is started on community engagement. Hoping to start work in June but there are some further steps needed first. Expectations need to be managed due to limited funding relative to the total number of homes in Hillfields.</li> <li>• RP summarised that targetting retrofit for approximately 200-300 homes, within five distinct areas in Hillfields have been identified. There is a focus on streets with high levels of fuel poverty and a mix of housing types, also looking at integration of green space, active travel and other measures beyond retrofit.</li> <li>• With Just Transition principles in mind, there must be an emphasis on building relationships and trust within the community and a co-design process involving residents to champion the initiative.</li> <li>• Initial focus on door-knocking and small-scale engagement to build presence has started. Importance of relatable naming, avoiding 'Route to Net Zero' and messaging to avoid alienating residents.</li> <li>• The long-term Vision is to expand successful strategies city-wide. Continuous community involvement to ensure sustainable impact, leveraging real-life examples to encourage broader participation.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helen and Claire highlighted the importance of community involvement (over engagement, leveraging expertise within the city, and securing resources to effectively implement the just transition principles.</li> <li>• MJ thanked HW / CW for their presentation and update. MJ asked the group if anyone had any further questions, none were received.</li> </ul>
7.4	<p><b>Nature Based – Rhian Palmer CCC and Ed Green (CEO, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ed Green advised that the Nature Based Pathway group meeting will be held w/c 10/5/2025.</li> <li>• As RP has already updated on Nature in Cities, which EG thanked RP for her efforts, the update focussed on Brandon Wood Golf course.</li> </ul> <p>RP presented her slides as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RP updated on the golf course rewilding project, which aims to transform the site into a rewilding area with biodiversity net gain. The site is a 64-hectare site next to Brandon Marsh, closed to golf in 2020.</li> <li>• The site is vast and near to the City Centre and is therefore likely to be unique; it is an important opportunity that we need to get right</li> <li>• The vision is for rewilding and biodiversity net gain, with potential for outdoor education and skills &amp; training opportunities. Detailed modelling of costs and funding mechanisms for various options is underway.</li> <li>• Plans to demolish the clubhouse due to anti-social behaviour need to be pushed through.</li> <li>• Aiming for a cabinet decision in the summer, followed by a formal partnership agreement with the Wildlife Trust.</li> <li>• The project will involve partnerships with the Wildlife Trust and also Warwickshire County Council to get the alignment right.</li> <li>• Surveys are also underway for habitat management plans.</li> <li>• EG thinks that work will commence in earnest next year.</li> <li>• Cllr. O'Boyle suggested that we should go public now. EG said this is welcome news and asked JF to work with the Wildlife Trust to create a joint communication plan for the rewilding project at the golf course. Coordinate with the communications team to publicly announce the rewilding project.</li> <li>• MJ thanked RP for her presentation and update. MJ asked the group if anyone had any further questions, none were received</li> </ul>
8.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MJ thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting. Date of next meeting, Q1: Thursday 25 September 2025 – 1:00-3:30 Friargate</li> </ul>