

Environment Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 8 March 2023 at 10.00 am

Cabinet Suite - Shire Hall, Gloucester



AGENDA

8 CLIMATE LEADERSHIP GLOUCESTERSHIRE (Pages 1 - 16)

To note the attached update report from Climate Leadership Gloucestershire.

This report is to be **taken as read**. If members of the Committee have any questions, these should be emailed to Sophie Benfield in Democratic Services who will liaise with officers to provide a written response.

NB: In addition to the regular report, there are two more detailed reports on Waste and Retrofit themes, as these were the focus of the two deep dive discussions which formed the core of the meeting.

Membership – *Cllr Roger Whyborn, Cllr Susan Williams, Cllr Chris McFarling (Vice-Chair), Cllr Gill Moseley, Cllr Alan Preest, Cllr Phil Awford, Cllr Sajid Patel, Cllr Dr David Willingham and Cllr Vernon Smith (Chair)*

- (a) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Members requiring advice or clarification about whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact the Monitoring Officer, (Rob Ayliffe Tel:01452 328506/ e-mail: rob.ayliffe@gloucestershire.gov.uk) prior to the start of the meeting.
- (b) **INSPECTION OF PAPERS AND GENERAL QUERIES** - If you wish to inspect minutes or reports relating to any item on this agenda or have any other general queries about the meeting, please contact: Sophie Benfield, Senior Democratic Services Adviser ☎:01452 324094/ e-mail: sophie.benfield@gloucestershire.gov.uk
- (c) **GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS**
 - 1 Members are required to sign the attendance list.
 - 2 Please note that substitution arrangements are in place for Scrutiny (see page 81 of the Constitution).
- (d) Please note that photography, filming and audio recording of Council meetings is

permitted subject to the Local Government Access to Information provisions. Please contact Democratic Services (Tel 01452 324202) to make the necessary arrangements ahead of the meeting. If you are a member of the public and do not wish to be photographed or filmed please inform the Democratic Services Officer on duty at the meeting.

EVACUATION PROCEDURE - in the event of the fire alarms sounding during the meeting please leave as directed in a calm and orderly manner and go to the assembly point which is **outside the main entrance to Shire Hall in Westgate Street**. Please remain there and await further instructions.



Climate Leadership Gloucestershire – Thematic Update Report:

DATE 31/1/23

THEME 1: ADAPTATION	LEAD ORGANISATION: Gloucester City Council
1. Work undertaken since last report:	
Work has begun on the funding package necessary to enable the CRVA to be commissioned in 2023/24.	
2. Work planned for the next reporting period:	
Establish a small steering group to produce the draft tender brief. Group to include NHS and LNP reps plus a cross-section from LA partners	
3. Work which has been identified as necessary but which cannot be progressed:	
N/A	
4. Issues/Factors which are hampering progress:	
Staff capacity	
5. Actions and/or requests for guidance which Climate Leadership Gloucestershire are asked to consider:	
None at this stage	
6. Key Linkages to /Dependencies with activity in other Themes:	
Strong linkages to Biodiversity/Food and Farming (land management, nature recovery) and Planning (land-use, nature based solutions)	

Climate Leadership Gloucestershire – Thematic Update Report:

DATE 18/1/23

THEME 2: BEHAVIOUR CHANGE	LEAD ORGANISATION: Police and NHS
1. Work undertaken since last report:	
Countywide Engagement paper forms the substantive part of the meeting agenda	
2. Work planned for the next reporting period:	
Dependent on the outcome of the AGM discussion	
3. Work which has been identified as necessary but which cannot be progressed:	
None	
4. Issues/Factors which are hampering progress:	
Staff Capacity	
5. Actions and/or requests for guidance which Climate Leadership Gloucestershire are asked to consider:	
None	
6. Key Linkages to /Dependencies with activity in other Themes:	
Theme has linkages to all of the other 9 themes	

Climate Leadership Gloucestershire – Thematic Update Report:

DATE 24/11/23

THEME: BIODIVERSITY	LEAD ORGANISATION: GLNP
1. Work undertaken since last report: <i>(include details of who has been involved)</i>	
<p>Eelscapes Landscape Recovery Scheme gets go ahead Gloucestershire secured one of only 22 Landscape Recovery Pilots to test the restoration of nature working with farmers on a landscape scape. The project called Eelscapes has secured defra funding and the project is led by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trusts with the Environment Agency and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. The team is currently being recruited.</p> <p>Sevenside Nature Park As part of their bid to the Gloucester Shared Prosperity Fund, Gloucester City Council have included resources to take forward the Sevenside Nature Park to develop a new area to support nature’s recovery in the City. The funding supports staff associated with the project as well as community consultation on the idea.</p> <p>Severn Treescapes The new large scale tree planting initiative aiming to link the Forest of Dean and the Wyre Forest – Severn Treescapes – officially launched in November at Hempsted Landfill Site in Gloucester. Some nice coverage in the Telegraph, Glos Live, CLA news bulletin, and Glos News.</p> <p>Gloucestershire Nature and Climate Fund (GNCF) Gloucestershire Nature and Climate Fund is working with two sites to prepare for Biodiversity Net Gain finance (Forest of Dean and Tewkesbury districts). With Wild Service consultancy they have surveyed the sites and worked out the best way of evidence capture for Biodiversity Net Gain reports.</p> <p>Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership New Local Nature Partnership manager started in January 2023.</p>	
2. Work planned for the next reporting period: <i>(include details of who is involved and anticipated timeframes)</i>	
<p>Local Nature Recovery Strategy There are two different but very linked needs: 1. The need to develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, in a process that will start once government guidance is available, currently expected in April 2023. 2. The need for an interim position to help local authorities to apply Biodiversity Net Gain in the priority areas/actions.</p> <p>The Local Nature Recovery Strategy will be (almost certainly) the statutory responsibility of Gloucestershire County Council but the county ecologist has requested that the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership leads on its development.</p> <p>An interim strategy or biodiversity net gain prioritisation map will build on the work already developed in the Nature Recovery Network map and associated natural capital and ecological services maps. One of the next steps is to analyse what these maps mean for priority</p>	

opportunities for nature recovery, at each district level. Different prioritisation of expansion/ improvement of habitats, connectivity or focusing on gaps.

Priority to arrange a meeting of the GLNP's Nature Recovery working group to look at these priorities.

Priority to help Planning officers at Local Authorities to be aware of Nature Recovery Network map and how to use it.

Access to Nature workshops

The Barnwood Trust have developed a six-session [Access to Nature course](#) in partnership with the Local Nature Partnership, to help increase diversity, inclusion and accessibility in regard to green spaces and engagement with nature. It is designed for managers/ decision-makers at Local Nature Partnership member organisations and other nature-sector organisations working in Gloucestershire - up to two places per organisation, starting in March 2023.

Gloucestershire Nature and Climate Fund (GNCF)

Gloucestershire Nature and Climate Fund needs to secure agreement in principle from the local planning authorities of the two pilot sites (Forest of Dean District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council) that they will accept these sites as off-site Biodiversity Net Gain receptor sites for the districts' planning conditions.

The step after that is securing the Biodiversity Net Gain agreement through a contract.

3. Work which has been identified as necessary but which cannot be progressed:
(include details of what is required to enable progress to be made)

N/A

4. Issues/Factors which are hampering progress:
(identify the strategic issues here which CLG may be able to help resolve)

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

It would be helpful for Climate Leadership Gloucestershire to discuss and endorse the role of the Local Nature Partnership in developing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. There is a need to find ways to facilitate the engagement of Local Planning Authorities in developing and agreeing an interim position to help local authorities to apply Biodiversity Net Gain in the priority areas/actions, whether this is an Interim Local Nature Recovery Strategy or an interim biodiversity net gain prioritisation map.

Gloucestershire Nature and Climate Fund

Biodiversity Net Gain units will be applied through planning authorities from September 2023, but the need to survey potential sites during the spring means that an interim biodiversity net gain prioritisation map would ideally be needed from April 2023.

GNCF would like to secure pilot sites in the other four districts, and any help to facilitate this would be welcomed. All local planning authorities are in the process of signing Memorandum of Understanding with Gloucestershire Nature and Climate Fund.

<p>5. Actions and/or requests for guidance which Climate Leadership Gloucestershire are asked to consider:</p>
<p>N/A</p>
<p>6. Key Linkages to /Dependencies with activity in other Themes: <i>(include details of what work is needed in other themes to support this theme and work in this theme which other themes need to factor into their workstreams)</i></p>
<p>Strong linkages to Adaptation/Food and Farming (land management, nature recovery) and Planning (biodiversity net gain)</p>

THEME 4: ECONOMY – BUSINESS SUPPORT & GREEN SKILLS	LEAD ORGANISATION: GFirstLEP
1. Work undertaken since last report:	
<p>Business Support</p> <p>Update to be presented at the CLG meeting 31st January, 2023</p> <p>Skills</p> <p>The 12 recommendations in the skills paper were reviewed at the November meeting. Working with Climate Lead Co-Ordinator and other key stakeholders the proposed next steps are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) develop an Action Plan 2) focus the recommendations into a set of more concrete costed asks to take bring back CLG, 3) Review existing activity in light of the recommendations to identify if priorities need to shift or be modified. <p>Strategic Development Fund</p> <p>SGS in collaboration with the other Gloucestershire colleges will launch the Strategic Development fund project.</p> <p>A Green Stakeholder Group made up of the colleges and the LEP has been formed. The first meeting of the group took place in December. Updates on all SDF projects were given, all elements are progressing well. The group is looking to ensure there are linkages to other low carbon initiatives in the county and have been in touch with the climate coordinator to discuss this.</p> <p>This is an exciting project covering skills development in Agri-Tech green skills, installing and testing of green energy sources in a ‘model house’ environment, container farming and electric vehicles, low carbon training centre - heat pumps, solar and battery, retrofit installation. Staff CPD and training form a major part of the project.</p>	
2. Work planned for the next reporting period:	
<p>Skills</p> <p>LSIP improvement plan report is due end of March. Focus is on current and forecasted need for provision in Construction, Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering, Agriculture, Agri-tech and Land Management.</p> <p>South West Net Zero Hub report on the retrofit skills landscape, jobs and current suppliers in PV and air sourced heat pumps will be completed by end of March.</p>	

3. Work which has been identified as necessary but which cannot be progressed:
Progression of the recommendations and development of Action Plan due to staffing resources.
4. Issues/Factors which are hampering progress:
There is a requirement for dedicated resource to lead and coordinate the activity with regards to Green Skills in the county. This role would work closely with local education partners, employers and the skills advisory panel, whilst also working with those steering national programmes and qualifications. This role could also lead on the development of an Action Plan for this theme.
5. Actions and/or requests for guidance which Climate Leadership Gloucestershire are asked to consider:
Business Support paper on the meeting agenda
6. Key Linkages to /Dependencies with activity in other Themes:
Business – linkages to Adaptation, Energy, Built Environment, Behaviour Change Skills - linkages to Adaptation, Energy, Built Environment, Biodiversity, Retrofit

Climate Leadership Gloucestershire – Thematic Update Report:**DATE 31/01/23**

THEME 5: ENERGY	LEAD ORGANISATION: Forest of Dean District Council
1. Work undertaken since last report:	
Two new officers appointed to the vacant climate change roles in FoDDC	
2. Work planned for the next reporting period:	
Preparation for the Energy theme to be discussed at the June CLG meeting, in line with the current Forward Look.	
3. Work which has been identified as necessary but which cannot be progressed:	
N/A	
4. Issues/Factors which are hampering progress:	
Staff vacancy has halted thematic progress to date. A decision on a new nominated lead officer is required	
5. Actions and/or requests for guidance which Climate Leadership Gloucestershire are asked to consider:	
Energy Theme needs the support of CLG partners to ensure Gloucestershire as a county is giving proper consideration to net zero energy infrastructure requirements, barriers to progress, and is actively engaged in the development of the proposed Local Area Energy Plans.	
6. Key Linkages to /Dependencies with activity in other Themes:	
Key linkages with Retrofit, Planning, Economy and Transport themes in particular	

THEME 6: FOOD & FARMING	LEAD ORGANISATION: Cotswold District Council
1. Work undertaken since last report:	
No update provided	
2. Work planned for the next reporting period:	
3. Work which has been identified as necessary but which cannot be progressed:	
4. Issues/Factors which are hampering progress:	
Officer capacity is hampering progress due to other priorities taking precedence.	
5. Actions and/or requests for guidance which Climate Leadership Gloucestershire are asked to consider:	
None at this stage	
6. Key Linkages to /Dependencies with activity in other Themes:	
Strong linkages to Adaptation/Biodiversity (land management. Nature recovery) and Behaviour Change (consumer behaviour/buy local)	

Climate Leadership Gloucestershire – Thematic Update Report:

DATE 20/01/23

THEME 7: PLANNING	LEAD ORGANISATION: Cheltenham Borough Council
1. Work undertaken since last report:	
<p>Outcome of Planning discussion at CLG in November has been fed back to the County Planning Officers Group (CPOG). CPOG are now working to articulate how centralised specialist climate change expertise would support the plan making process in the first instance and the resources which are needed to secure it.</p> <p>Renewable energy study commissioned as part of the Joint Strategic Plan for (Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury)</p>	
2. Work planned for the next reporting period:	
Progress to be reported next quarter.	
3. Work which has been identified as necessary but which cannot be progressed:	
None	
4. Issues/Factors which are hampering progress:	
Staff capacity	
5. Actions and/or requests for guidance which Climate Leadership Gloucestershire are asked to consider:	
None	
6. Key Linkages to /Dependencies with activity in other Themes:	

THEME: RETROFIT	LEAD ORGANISATION: Stroud District Council
7. Work undertaken since last report: (include details of who has been involved)	
<p>1) Domestic Sector</p> <p>1.1 Innovate to Renovate Partnership ‘The Retrofit Centre’ and Coordination Resource</p> <p>The partnership continues to collaborate to identify forward plans and has in the last period pursued 2 bids to support further capacity and practical action: (i) UKRI – Pioneering Places – Phase 1 of a total £8m bid led by UK Green Building Council; (ii) MCS Foundation Grants – Proposal led by SDC; (iii) Ask on behalf of CLG to Gloucestershire County Council’s climate fund.</p> <p>Whilst the UKRI bid was unfortunately not successful in this round the partnership remain in talks with UKRI and each other to try and identify new routes for achieving large scale investment into retrofit.</p> <p>The MCS grant has been shortlisted and offered a partial award which the partnership is now reprofiling against to finalise an agreement. This funding would enable a proportion of thematic coordination support and add value to those authorities working together on projects to develop services for the self-financing domestic sector.</p> <p>The current funding picture will see continued collaboration and practical support for householders in Stroud District and Tewkesbury Borough who have made provision in their UK Shared Prosperity Investment Plans.</p> <p>1.2 Affordable Warmth</p> <p>1.2.1 Social Housing Decarbonisation Funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHDF Wave 1 (Consortium, SDC; Chelt Boro. Homes 2 Rivers Housing and Glos. City Homes) Works have commenced and the consortium has been granted by BEIS a project extension of six months, taking the project completion until 30 September 2023. Between Stroud and Cheltenham there is around 230 properties are having building fabric measures and ventilation upgrades. • SHDF Wave 2 – On the 18 November we put in a bid for the third round of funding from BEIS. This is again a Consortium bid, made up of the same members from Wave 1 – CBH, 2RH and GCH. This wave of funding covers two years, so the project will run until March 2025. We are expecting to hear the outcome of the bid in late February/early March, and if successful, the project will get underway in April 2023. It will cover around 400 properties over 2 years and mainly deliver building fabric measures and upgrading ventilation. Cheltenham will mostly focus on hard to treat system build properties. <p>1.2.2 Warm and Well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This service is under high pressure at the moment as cost of living crisis creates a growing demand. • The partnership have bid for further funding from the second round of Home Upgrade Grants and we await results in next period. <p>1.3 Public Estates</p>	

Expecting to be able to update on Public Sector Decarbonisation Funds next time for which there have been a couple of submissions.

In Stroud District work under One Public Estates funds continues focused on shared used sites in Stroud Town with technical surveys under way.

1.4 Business Support

European funds continue to support Target 2030 service for SME's until end of financial year when this funding ends. This will then move to a 'paid for' service, interested SME's will fund themselves.

1.5 Strategic Action

Successful upscaling of retrofit action depends upon a rapid strengthening of the whole retrofit economy so that demand can be serviced. A key issue is skills for retrofit. At the end of November a deep dive session into retrofit and green skills was hosted by SDC. It included regional representation from the key stakeholders to the evolving LSIP as well as countywide representation from the FE skills leaders for Gloucestershire. A presentation of support available via The Retrofit Academy was delivered and the room was in favour of investing in this approach.

8. Work planned for the next reporting period:
(include details of who is involved and anticipated timeframes)

SHDF; Warm and Well and Public estates work will continue business as usual; for thematic leadership the role is to lead in the gap that our traditional delivery routes do not function and that is focusing on the demand and supply issues of retrofit in the self-financing sector. The need is to develop programmes that offer the public services and support while ensuring the retrofit economy is functioning. In view of the current funding pipeline of UKSPF and some way to go to securing adequate thematic coordination/strategic support the focus will be weighted towards UKSPF delivery and sharing the learning and benefits with the Innovate to Renovate Partnership.

9. Work which has been identified as necessary but which cannot be progressed:
(include details of what is required to enable progress to be made)

A reminder of the key thematic recommendations with a 'loose' RAG applied:

1. Countywide thematic leadership needs dedicated resource to deliver the rapid progress required.
2. UKSPF strategy should specifically consider the countywide retrofit challenge and the next steps that are identified for Retrofit Centre roll out.
3. The Innovate to Renovate (I2R) partnership will produce a strategy for continued development of 'The Retrofit Centre' Services at the end of this research and initial set up phase. It is likely to include longer term delivery options and a further financing request from partners to enable it to be sustained and further developed.
4. Forge strong links to The Retrofit Academy training network - they are leading the way in shaping and rolling out PAS 2035 and quality assurance mechanisms and have a range of support available to their members.
5. Ensure that support services are taking account of the need to use bespoke approaches for buildings that are steered by qualified technical experts such as the home and business energy surveyors and advisors working on Warm and Well and Target 2030.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Existing partners (Warm and Well) should continue current investment levels and other bodies (not LA's) should consider the wider socio-economic/environmental benefits that can be achieved by improving quality of life and lowering carbon as a basis for their own buy-in as further capacity is needed and follow NHS CG example. 7. Support SDC as thematic leads to provide the required strategic inputs that will enhance the synergies of the delivery strands in order to add value and facilitate delivery at a greater scale (see Leadership) 8. Seek change in regulation of our energy network services. <i>WPD network and roundtables are attended</i>
<p>4. Issues/Factors which are hampering progress: <i>(identify the strategic issues here which CLG may be able to help resolve)</i></p>
<p>Not updated/ still relevant/in progress:</p> <p>It can be seen that the potential to identify and secure funds and find means to deliver across all strands of the retrofit picture have a good foot hold. In the main the ability to do more is mainly hampered by an operational concern of capacity. That delivery capacity also underpins this innovative approach to strategic collaboration through the officer 'theme leads'.</p> <p>It is early days yet so we need to work together to develop systems etc. to make things more efficient and smoother. However, the thematic lead collaboration burden could have impacts upon the ability to make progress at both local and countywide levels.</p> <p>There is no 'job description' for a theme lead but it could potentially involve funding and pipeline monitoring; action planning and new partnership building and coordination of cross county projects which is a lot to manage on top of anyone's 'day job' so the future structure of collaboration needs to be kept in mind so that momentum can continue to build.</p>
<p>5. Key Linkages to /Dependencies with activity in other Themes: <i>(include details of what work is needed in other themes to support this theme and work in this theme which other themes need to factor into their workstreams)</i></p>
<p>Not updated/ still relevant/in progress:</p> <p>Adaptation: Needs to include consideration to supporting the environment being built right now to be retrofit ready; needs to encourage building design that takes account of water & energy saving and passive heating/cooling</p> <p>Behaviour Change: How do we generate demand for retrofit and encourage 'private' investment in this? How can we support the reduction in energy demand that needs to come first ideally in a retrofit approach?</p> <p>Economy: Retrofit skills and growth so that there is more capacity in in the installer supply chain (links are in place with GFirst LEP). This sector needs to see rapid and at scale expansion and we need to localise its supply chain of materials and talent.</p> <p>Energy: Keeping efficiency high on the agenda and not losing site of this in the pursuit of renewables to reduce the potential for grid top-ups to renewable systems.</p> <p>Planning – supplementary planning docs, increasing the number of neighbourhood plans; building with nature standards, signposting for advice and support, planning policy issues.</p> <p>Waste – how can we skim useable material from the waste stream for insulation projects for example.</p>

Climate Leadership Gloucestershire – Thematic Update Report:

DATE 16/01/23

THEME 9: TRANSPORT	LEAD ORGANISATION: GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
1. Work undertaken since last report:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCC and UK100 hosted a Transport Decarbonisation Roundtable event on Jan 13th. All Local Authorities signed up to a Statement of Intent • CLG now tasked with developing the implementation plan to support the statement through its work progressing the transport theme 	
2. Work planned for the next reporting period:	
Review and develop the draft annex to the Statement of Intent and develop priority actions ahead of the next transport discussion in June	
3. Work which has been identified as necessary but which cannot be progressed:	
None	
4. Issues/Factors which are hampering progress:	
None	
5. Actions and/or requests for guidance which Climate Leadership Gloucestershire are asked to consider:	
N/A	
6. Key Linkages to /Dependencies with activity in other Themes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are close links between transport and planning, with land use planning a major contributing factor in influencing carbon emissions from transport. 	

Climate Leadership Gloucestershire – Thematic Update Report:

DATE 31/01/23

THEME 10: WASTE	LEAD ORGANISATION: Gloucestershire Resources & Waste Partnership
1. Work undertaken since last report:	
No update this quarter, still awaiting central government guidance.	
2. Work planned for the next reporting period:	
3. Work which has been identified as necessary but which cannot be progressed:	
4. Issues/Factors which are hampering progress:	
Still awaiting guidance from DEFRA on the future of waste collections.	
5. Actions and/or requests for guidance which Climate Leadership Gloucestershire are asked to consider:	
None	
6. Key Linkages to /Dependencies with activity in other Themes:	
Strong linkages with the Behaviour Change theme and engagement activity to promote more sustainable lifestyles	