

CORNWALL COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT KERNOW

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Environment Kernow held at Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership Offices (CSEP), Tolvaddon Energy Park, Tolvaddon, Redruth, Cornwall on Friday 13 March 2009 commencing at 5.00pm.

Present: - Ian Smith (Vice-Chair, in the Chair)

Manda Brookman, Tim German, Lucy Harris, Bill Holiday, Alex Huke, Ian Jones, Dave Lewis (for Steve Crummay), Peter McGregor and Justin Olosunde (for Jon Rolls).

Apologies for absence: - Paul Bright, Steve Crummay, Adam Paynter, Judy Proctor, David Rodda, Jon Rolls, Wesley Smyth and Alison Ward.

MINUTES AND ACTION NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2009

(Agenda No. 2)

EK/134 The minutes and action notes of the meeting held on 13 February 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

Matters arising:

The Chairman and Vice Chairman had attended a meeting at County Hall regarding the restructuring of Cornwall's Thematic Partnerships where they had raised concerns as to the lack of resource available to support the thematic groups.

Matters arising from the Action Sheet:

Point 2. Response to Global Economic Downturn/Crisis be loaded to the EK Website. The final version of the document was awaited and would be loaded once available.

Point 3. RDPE – Dave Lewis would progress this matter.

Point 4. Draft Terms of Reference - A further report would be brought to the next meeting.

Point 5. The last LAA Executive Board had been held and was attended by Ian Smith and Ian Jones. The First CSP Executive Board would be held on 24 April 2009. It was expected that a panel of the CSP would be formed to look at the Sustainable Communities Act.

TO NOTE ENVIRONMENTAL SKILLS NETWORK (ESN) PROJECT UPDATE REPORT (JOHN ROLLS/NICOLA PENGELLY)

(Agenda No. 3)

EK/135 It was heard that the Learning & Skills Council (LSC) had deemed the Cornwall Learning Partnership (CLP) as failing to deliver target outputs. The CLP had requested money back from 7 projects. For the last 7 months the project had been paid on a front loaded profile. It had been confirmed that due to its success in meeting its targets the ESN project did not have to make repayments. The latest reporting deadline was 12 March, with £109,000 aggregate output there was no claw-back required. The project was not in excess to June 2009 and would therefore have no repayment liability at that time. Projects being paid on profile had enabled non public sector bodies to run projects. However, due to the retrospective payment system imposed, Rezolve and CSEP had funded progress and actual costs had exceeded funding from CLP. The potential business risk over the period had been extremely high. Greater resources than originally expected had been required with a full time project officer being employed. It was expected that the project would not however, end at a loss.

It was heard that the Economic Forum intended to write to the Programme Monitoring Committee regarding the CLP. It was agreed that Justin Olosunde would discuss this with Lucy Harris who would also emphasise the concerns raised by Rezolve Kernow.

LEARNING SKILLS SUB GROUP UPDATE (PETER MCGREGOR)

(Agenda No. 4)

EK/136 It was heard that good relationships were in place with key individuals. As noted in the discussion on the previous agenda item, difficulties had been experienced with the CLP.

It was heard that Rezolve was working with Cornwall College to develop a level 2/3 course which had to be based on the existing NVQ structure.

Opportunities existed to develop alliances with other sectors particularly in relation to business specific training.

LOW CARBON UNIT PRESENTATION (TIM GERMAN)

(Agenda No. 5)

EK/137 Tim German, Cornwall Sustainable Energy Partnership (CSEP) advised that the Low Carbon Unit would shortly be in operation and staff transferred to a new site at Wheal South Crofty, Pool, Redruth, during the following week. Four current CSEP officers and two new appointments of a technical officer and a coordinator would make up the unit. A policy officer and administrative post would also be formed, by way of a possible secondment from Cornwall Council. Other agencies would base officers in the Unit including Health, funded by their respective

organisations/authorities. Links were being built within the health agenda and there would be a role to work directly with the Environment and Human Health Centre. There was a need to ensure that the unit was not only academic but also a delivery body. NHS funding was in place for three years in the first instance. Links were also in place with Cornwall Climate Change Action Plan which was an important piece of work. Aspirations for the project were high and ambitious and close engagement had begun with Cornwall County Council. It was expected that Kevin Lavery, Chief Executive of the Council would take the Chair of the Low Carbon Leadership Group as it was felt that public sector link was essential. Five key elements of work included looking at the Council's own buildings, the integration of technology, supply chains, public sector strategic leadership and the delivery of Energy Service Company (ESCO) programmes. It was hoped that the Unit's ambitions could be tied in with SWERDA's environmental aspirations. A recommendation for a SWERDA post to be formed in the unit had been made to ensure a cohesive approach. It was essential for the Unit to have a highly strategic advisory board.

It was heard that the Council's new corporate management board was taking environmental issues and the Low Carbon Agenda seriously and had energy and commitment to drive this forward. A concern was raised regarding the level of resources put into the Cornwall Climate Change Action Plan. The importance of a good evidence base was emphasised. A corporate decision had been taken to form a Climate Change Steering Group in the Council which would be chaired by Mike East, Head of Service for the Environment.

It was heard that the name of the Unit could be reconsidered in future.

NATIONAL INDICATOR 186: PER CAPITA CO2 EMISSION IN THE LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA (IAN SMITH)

(Agenda No. 6)

EK/138 Ian Smith, Community Energy Plus, gave a presentation to the meeting in relation to progress in the delivery of National Indicator 186: Per capita CO2 emission in the Local Authority area. [A copy of the presentation is attached to the file copy of the minutes].

Ian Smith gave an overview of the progress towards the target. A discussion took place in which it was heard that National Indicator 187: Fuel Poverty would continue as a separate entity. £2m had been allocated to continue work insulating houses thereby contributing to broader agenda including Health. There was now a duty for organisations to cooperate to progress the targets. Sector development issues still existed with regard to national directives for energy efficiency. It was possible for a 15% reduction in emissions to be obtained from low emission driving techniques. The Environment Agency are undertaking work with vulnerable families regarding energy efficiency. The Government are developing plans to reduce emissions from transport. The Environment

Service would be involved in the development of the Local Transport Plan where environmental targets should be set.

SUSTAIN 5 PRESENTATION (MANDA BROOKMAN)

(Agenda No. 7)

EK/139 Manda Brookman gave a presentation to the meeting relating to the LAA's Sustain 5 stretch target [a copy of the presentation is attached to the file copy of the minutes]. Objectives had been met with 222 businesses being certified. Members paid a fee for accreditation. 12 businesses were also accredited on the Isles of Scilly, however only businesses in Cornwall counted towards the target. Cornwall had the highest number of green tourism units in the UK and the highest number classed as silver and gold. A website had been delivered outside of the remit of the target. A bespoke BTEC course was developed and funded by the LSC which included a unit on environmental policy. Targets had been delivered by two full time people. Difficulties had been experienced in engagement with some other agencies.

It was agreed that the Chairman of Environment Kernow write to the Cornwall Strategic Partnership Executive Board regarding the funding gap to continue the project throughout the summer of 2009.

ENVIRONMENT KERNOW DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

(Agenda No. 8)

EK/140 This item was deferred to the next meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO CORNWALL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE BOARD (STEVE CRUMMAY/IAN SMITH/IAN JONES)

(Agenda No. 9)

EK/141 It was moved by Ian Jones, seconded by Manda Brookman that Ian Smith be appointed as Environment Kernow's representative on the CSP Executive Board.

It was moved by Ian Smith, seconded by Justin Olosunde that Ian Jones be appointed as Environment Kernow's representative on the CSP Executive Board. Further to a secret ballot:

It was **RESOLVED** that Ian Jones be appointed as Environment Kernow's representative on the CSP Executive Board.

It was **RESOLVED** that Ian Smith be appointed as Environment Kernow's substitute representative on the CSP Executive Board.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

(Agenda No. 10)

EK/142 Friday 3 April 2009, 10.00am, Environment Agency Offices, Sir John Moore House, Bodmin, Cornwall

The meeting ended at 5.00pm.

[The agenda and reports relating to the items referred to above are attached to the signed copy of the Minutes].