

CORNWALL COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT KERNOW

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Environment Kernow held at the Community Energy Plus Offices, Tolvaddon, on Friday 5 March 2010 commencing at 10.05 am.

Present: - Steve Crummay (Chairman)
Ian Smith (Vice-Chairman)

Paul Bright, Manda Brookman, Stephen Cirell, Lucy Harris, Alex Huke, Mark Marriott, Peter McGregor, Dave Owens, Judy Proctor, Carolyn Rule (Cabinet Member for Economy and Regeneration) and Wesley Smyth.

Also in attendance: - Paul Pivcevic – CQ Consulting (on behalf of University of Bath – Low Carbon Works Team)
Michelle Williams – Synoptic (on behalf of University of Bath – Low Carbon Works Team)
Lindsey Knuckey (Cornwall Development Company)

Apologies for absence: - Mike East, Julian German, Tim German, Bill Holiday, Ian Jones, Dave Lewis, Jon Rolls and Alison Ward.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2010

(Agenda No. 2)

EK/46 The minutes of the meeting of Environment Kernow held on 12 February 2010 were agreed as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:-

- i.) Under 'Any Other Business' item (vii) should read:- 'Peter McGregor reported on 'Strengthening the Environment Sector (SES), a draft skills plan which had been co-written with Ben Simpson / Low Carbon Cornwall, and advised that it had been well received at the first project operational group meeting.'

GREEN CORNWALL PROGRAMME - UPDATE

(Agenda No. 3)

EK/47 Stephen Cirell (Programme Director for Green Cornwall) announced that he had presented the Green Cornwall Programme (GCP) to Council. Updates were given in respect of the following items:-

Solar Park Project

It was noted that this was a renewable energy project. The proposal was for a 5 mega-watt solar park in Newquay which would be located on the industrial estate on land near the airport. An open day had been held on

Environment Kernow

5 March 2010

1st March to communicate the Council's ambitions for the project to businesses. 70 people had applied to come along with 50/60 actually attending on the day. A PIN (Prior Information Notice) had been submitted through the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) and this had received an overwhelmingly positive response. It had been advised that there was potential for developing a manufacturing/assembly company for Cornwall in this respect. Options included straight procurement of the relevant facilities or joint procurement with other businesses. The preferred option was to undertake a joint venture to build a new factory to manufacture the equipment in Cornwall. A Nevarra visit would take place in early April followed by the submission of a business case to be hopefully presented to Cabinet in May 2010.

Wind Farms

It was noted that Adrian Lee was trying to complete a mapping exercise so that the results could be published. The aim was that the planning team could then take applications for relevant sites as they were submitted, rather than be continuously deadline with turning down irrelevant applications and appeals.

Electric Cars

It was reported that although the electric cars proposal had not been successful in terms of the funding award, the application process itself had gone very well, despite negative media reports. A bid had originally been submitted for £6 million, the Council's bid had been the only one submitted from a rural economy and the submission had been requested within an extremely short timescale. Other applicants had been requested to prepare bids with significantly more time. Cornwall was now being encouraged to apply for potentially an increased amount in the second round of funding. Feedback suggested that the Council's bid had been the best one in terms of creative ideas, the area's partnership working ethos and arrangements were commended, however it had lacked evidence in support. It was hoped that the bid would be pushed forward in the next 4-6 months, once it had been reconfigured and would be submitted in August 2010. It was also noted that the Department for Transport (DFT) was encouraging this and had given contacts for manufacturers in this field and were lining up opportunities to assist, who would likely be interested in a large fleet order.

Photo-voltaic Housing and Schools

It was noted that Cabinet had set targets at 20% CO₂ savings by 2015 and 40% by 2020. The project had been influenced by Friends of the Earth's 'Get Serious CO₂' Programme. The Council had pledged to meet a range of commitments and a lot of work would need to be undertaken in order to deliver this. The plan was for carbon neutrality by 2025.

There would be 200-300 electric cars, whole house retrofit, an Energy Service Company (ESCO) and the Council intended to lead by example on the Green agenda. The Programme was receiving attention nationally as

Environment Kernow

5 March 2010

well as locally, which was flagging up significant interests and opportunities – many other areas wanted to partner with Cornwall.

It was noted that the series of 3CAP issue papers were becoming out of date, and that the Green Cornwall Programme would provide an opportunity to combine work from Environment Kernow and other wide ranging groups in order to ensure good coverage.

It was also noted that if the total amount of LAA funding was not forthcoming, this could have an impact as the GCP as that included details about the LAA outcomes.

The 2.5% reduction in CO2 year on year is calculated against the previous two years average. Cornwall Council is working to fix the current criticisms and is working towards a Carbon Trust Low Carbon standard application process. CC will need to ensure that there are appropriate reporting and structures are in place if it is to apply for this, preferably by March 2011. If it looks as though the Council may not be able to comply with all the criteria immediately, so may delay submitting the application while more preparatory work is undertaken.

This was a good example of using legislative process to force areas to become more disciplined.

The Chairman added that the Transition Cornwall Network had held a useful event the evening before. The event had good attendance and was very interactive. There was a much improved, positive and proactive 'vibe' than at previous similar events. A number of people mentioned the solar park press release in a positive way.

Councillor Rule added that she had not been able to attend Environment Kernow meetings previously due to other commitments and felt that there needed to be a much closer working relationship with the Economic Development Service. She wished to make it very clear that Cornwall Council should be developing the policy and strategy surrounding this activity and that it was Cornwall Development Company that should be driving forward the delivery of the projects contained within the Green Cornwall Programme. She was also concerned that the Economic Development Service had not been properly engaged in the development of the GCP and that this was now essential if economic development funding was to be unlocked to aid delivery. Councillor Rule and Manda Brookman commented that although the links made by Lucy Harris to provide liaison between EK and the Economic Forum had been crucial, there needed to be a direct working relationship with senior officers within the Economic Development Service.

Peter McGregor commented on the importance of the GCP as it set the context for other organisations behaviours. EK and CC could start to better promote the work that was being done now, through the CC intranet which had a feedback and update section.

Environment Kernow

5 March 2010

Steve Cirell added that he would like to speak to other partners about the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) in the future, but first wanted to ensure that CC had its own house in order. Judy Proctor had asked to receive a copy of the CRC work, but had been told it was confidential. Steve Cirell responded to say that the workload and tight resources were limiting the amount of discussion and communication that they were able to undertake, but would ideally like to do more.

Alex Huke added that the Convergence Programmes and the CUC are looking at mapping 'Green' work, initially starting with CUC, but there is the potential to roll this out across other organisations. This will interact with mainstream work and could be web-based. There is also a Convergence-funded Project called 'Supporting the domestic energy and micro-generation sector'. The draft expression of interest has been agreed. This is a non OJEU, Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) style process). CC is working to identify 25% matchfunding. There will be a Convergence Stakeholders event at the end of March to communicate about this emerging project.

The project covered both the demand and supply side, but Convergence was investing in the demand side. It linked to the support (vouchers) to business, because EU funding cannot support individuals. This was included in the GCP (£18.5M convergence ERDF). A value for money evaluation was critical as was managing expectations (e.g. with Housing Associations).

Manda Brookman questioned whether there was a document that showed how all the effort that was going towards meeting Convergence targets could be reflected in overall reduction of CO₂ emissions? AH replied that the Programme was looking at improving the economy, there were no individual CO₂ targets, but the Programme was trying to impact on that too. There was an opportunity to influence this through the mid-term evaluation type process that was commencing shortly. The Environmental Advisory Group had discussed this and saw it as an opportunity to be more explicit. Councillor Rule commented that she sat on the PMC, which had a different mindset than previously. Low Carbon economy was one of the key priorities now.

Mark Marriott added that from a private sector viewpoint, there was a massive job to educate businesses. A great proportion of the current focus was on survival. There was a need to make the economic benefits obvious to businesses.

During discussion, various actions were identified, including the following:-

- i.) It was requested that an up to date version of the Green Cornwall Programme be circulated to everyone on the Group. It was advised that a version of the Green Cornwall Programme was available on

Environment Kernow

5 March 2010

Environment Kernow's website (Steve Cirell to send a copy to Lucy Harris). It was noted that it would be useful to show the 8 key themes and how they would inter-relate, preferably through a diagram;

- ii.) It was suggested that Mike Birkin of Friends of the Earth be invited to attend the next meeting of Environment Kernow in order to discuss what a 40% CO₂ reduction by 2020 would look like, and what everyone should be doing. Work was being undertaken to sign up to the standard (there were approximately 6 LA's signed up so far). This would be about Cornwall as a whole however, not just Cornwall Council;
- iii.) Hilary Gooch had produced a communication note which could be circulated. Steve Cirell to provide.
- iv.) The importance of having better engagement with the Economic Development Service was expressed, and it was suggested that it would be good practice to invite Sandra Rothwell (Head of Economic Development) to attend future meetings of Environment Kernow;
- v.) In respect of electric cars, it was hoped that a meeting would be arranged for key partners in order to see who else could contribute;
- vi.) The view was expressed that 'Green Cornwall' activity was important in setting the context for other organisational behaviours, and that it would be vital to make the Project known to organisations;
- vii.) It was hoped that the Green Cornwall Programme would be able to work with other bodies in Cornwall in respect of the Carbon Reduction commitment;
- viii.) The view was expressed that there was a huge job to be undertaken in terms of education. Many businesses were currently more concerned about their survival, and it was noted that something needed to be done in order to make green issues feature higher on their agendas;
- ix.) There was a need to combine the draft 3CAP issue papers into the emerging draft EK strategic framework and priorities;
- x.) Lucy Harris to circulate agreed Business and Low Carbon Economy 3CAP options paper.

LAA - IMPACT OF DECISIONS FROM FINANCE TASK FORCE

(Agenda No. 4)

EK/48 The Chairman advised that there were 3 LAA outcomes and that PID's had been put forward to apply for the Performance Reward Grant (PRG) in order to deliver the following: -

1. NI 191: Reduction in waste
2. Resilience to climate change – management of wildlife sites
3. NI 186: Reduce Cornwall's contribution to climate change

Both collective and individual presentations had been provided to the LAA Finance Task Group in a bid to apply for PRG. Recently, each outcome/lead had received a letter from the Finance Task Group stating confirmation for part of the PRG requested and that the remainder of the money would be considered in the new Financial Year.

During discussion, various points were raised, including the following: -

- i.) It was considered that the process was not clear and that outcome leads were not clear on the information being requested in the letters;
- ii.) That non receipt of the full amount of PRG requested, due to the complications of the revenue/capital split, could have significant impacts on delivery;
- iii.) The years referred to within the letter were confusing – was 2009/10 the first year of a two year programme, or the second year of a three year programme?
- iv.) It was noted that PID's would need to be refreshed and an exit strategy was required for each outcome;
- v.) Steve Crummay had been asked how many people were going to change their behaviour as a result of the outcome. Unfortunately, this was going to be impossible to answer accurately. Part of the outcome was about the knock-on effect that champions imparted. This could be around 100 people directly, but with a wider impact. He had been trying to demonstrate the scale of the impact. Manda Brookman added that she was also looking at programmes elsewhere and mapping across. Lucy Harris agreed to speak with Rachel Bromley about ideas for potentially measuring this activity.

It was **RESOLVED** that Lucy Harris would be taken up on her offer of assistance by taking the outcome leads' queries concerning the questions raised by the Board to Janet Popham, and would then pull together a cohesive response.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK (PAPER TO FOLLOW)

(Agenda No. 5)

EK/49 The Chairman urged members to respond, and advised that another meeting would be held in order to discuss. There would be an open invitation for all to attend.

It was agreed that Lucy Harris would send an e-mail reminder to members, asking for ideas of how groups could contribute and organise a follow up meeting as soon as possible.

Once a draft had been put together a workshop would be organised. Lucy Harris had allocated some of Michelle Pearce's time to assist in organising this event.

LTP3 UPDATE (PAPER TO FOLLOW)

(Agenda No. 6)

EK/50 The Chairman advised that he needed to follow up on this item and that the Group would receive an update at a later date.

LOW CARBON WORKS - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST : PRESENTATION

(Agenda No. 7)

EK/51 The Group received a presentation by Paul Pivcevic and Michelle Williams of the Low Carbon Works Team. A document entitled 'Insider Voices – Human dimensions of low carbon technology' was circulated and would be made available electronically via the secretariat.

It was advised that match funding was available from the University of Bath to extend Low Carbon Works research and that up to £10,000 was available. This required 50% match funding. Expressions of interest would be assessed in May 2010, with an initial deadline of early April. This could be about building networks and awareness raising, reflecting on current behaviours.

Following the presentation, various points were raised, including the following: -

- i.) It was queried how best Environment Kernow, a group of partners, the sector or industrial organisations could best interact with Low Carbon Works, and what could be achieved. In response it was noted that Low Carbon Works had held workshops, and written an LAA PID. One of the overwhelming messages was that people wanted to be empowered, be led, see community leadership and have a greater awareness. Low Carbon Works wanted to change the behaviour of Cornwall by helping people to learn from themselves. It was believed that by allowing people to come together to share what they already knew, share stories and reflect on these together would create a communication space;

Environment Kernow

5 March 2010

- ii.) It was noted that COAST had already been using the document and would be interested in working with Low Carbon Works;
- iii.) It was considered that Environment Kernow needed to work with Low Carbon Works on potential projects that would benefit as many partners as possible;
- iv.) Alex Huke commented that millions of pounds were being spent on business support in the region and that it maybe useful for Low Carbon Works to work with the business support providers, for example Ginsters could be used to share best practice and use Business Link to gather the case studies;
- v.) Dave Owens commented that the BREN Partnership had been disbanded and this had now become WRAP;
- vi.) It was queried if EU money could be used for match funding. Michelle Williams advised that this was possible, but that she would check. It was noted that although it had been advised that £10,000 could be available, that more could be pitched for if a strong case was put together;
- vii.) Steve Crummay would speak with Tom Flanagan and Alex Huke with regards to matchfunding and Convergence. AH to look at the process of applying for Convergence ERDF Technical Assistance;
- viii.) Mark Marriott felt that this project could impact on business, rather than them being involved in its development. Lindsay Knuckey referred to the 'Clear About Carbon' Project, which had close links through developing Learning Action Sets;

RESOLVED that Lucy Harris organise a meeting as a matter of urgency in order to discuss producing an expression of interest (to include Alex Huke, Steve Crummay, Lindsay Knuckey, Peter McGregor, Paul Bright, Manda Brookman, Steve Cirell and Paul Pivcevic (copying in Dave Lewis);

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

(Agenda No. 8)

EK/52 It was agreed that there would be no meeting during April 2010, and that the next meeting would take place on Friday 7 May 2010, at the CEP Offices, Tolvaddon.

The first item would be to elect a Chairman, and nominations would be sought before the meeting.

In addition Steve Crummay would invite Jo Trail-Thomson to the next meeting to discuss the SWEN (South West Environmental Network) priorities.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS OF URGENCY

(Agenda No. 9)

EK/53 The following issues were raised: -

- i.) Manda Brookman invited members to attend a CoaST event which was due to be held on 28/29 April 2010;
- ii.) Ian Smith advised that he was working on the Environmental Skills Academy, this was starting to pick up pace and had the support and involvement of Blair Thomson and Mark Williams;
- iii.) Mark Marriott advised that he would work with the Cornwall Business Partnership to develop a good practice case study;
- iv.) Peter McGregor referred to the outstanding 3CAP issues papers and requested that Environment Kernow advise as to how this would be rolled forward and delivered. It should be part of the strategic priority framework;
- v.) Promotional banner stand – Lucy Harris asked members for suitable pictures and wording that could be used, and asked for a selection to be sent to her. It was suggested that in respect of wording that extracts would be pulled from posters used for promotion at events such as workshops and CSP stakeholder meetings;
- vi.) Alex Huke agreed to forward his thoughts on the Low Carbon Works project to pass to Paul Pivcevic.

The meeting ended at 1.56 pm.

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