



Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee	Agenda Item
11 September 2023	8

Title:	Climate Partnership Update
Report of:	Adrian Cannard, Strategic Planning Manager
Lead Member:	Cllr. Bridget Smith, Lead Member for Climate and Environment
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	No
Voting Arrangements:	No vote required

Recommendations:	
A	To note the updates from the June meeting of the Climate Partnership

Strategic Objective(s):	
The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):	
x	Achieving good growth
x	Enabling resilient communities

1. Purpose	
1.1	This report provides an update on the Climate Partnership and associated actions. The Climate Partnership met on the 19 June 2023 and this report sets out the key issues arising.
1.2	This update is for information and is a standing item on the Committee agenda.

2. Proposal	
2.1	The Partnership monitors progress on the Climate Action Plan 2022-2025 and receives a RAG-rated report at each meeting. The Partnership in June agreed that the methodology for assigning RAG ratings to the actions would be reviewed for the October meeting, as there were examples where the specific action was rated Green (noting progress) but the impact on the underlying issue was considered to be minor.
2.2	The Partnership noted the activity on domestic retrofit funding and discussed the need for appropriate skills capacity in the market. The Combined Authority is procuring Bootcamp Retrofit skills offering Level 2-5 for delivery from July 2023– March 2024. At the regional level the Greater South-East Net Zero Hub are supporting, via The Retrofit Academy, the training and development of the workforce across the region's 16 counties (covering 13.9m households). The Government has also launched its energy retrofit advice service (https://www.gov.uk/improve-energy-efficiency) to help people better

	understand how to make energy efficiency improvements to their homes, and a free energy-efficiency phonenumber service, which can be reached on 0800 098 7950.
2.3	The Combined Authority's Fund for Nature had 11 Expressions of Interest (Eoi), with 8 coming forward as full applications. Recommendations for funding allocations were agreed at the Natural Cambridgeshire Board on 27 June 2023. Further calls for Eoi are planned as a second phase.
2.4	The Partnership welcomed the progress on sustainable transport initiatives, including plans for more EV-charging points and active travel measures. Freight issues were subsequently raised at the Ely Rail Summit, where the beneficial climate impacts of improving capacity at Ely were set out – for example, 100k lorries off the road annually, and almost 3000 extra freight services to and from the UK's busiest container port each year.
2.5	Harriet Harthan, from the Centre for Climate Engagement at Hughes Hall, led a discussion on the role of "Locally Determined Contributions" in helping to deliver national Net Zero 2050 target. The Partnership agreed that more clarity was needed on local targets and awareness of impacts. It supported data experts across partners coming together to explore this issue.
2.6	Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council presented the findings from the two Innovate UK funded research projects they had led. Under the Pathfinder Places programme both the projects have been looking at the non-technical barriers in the Combined Authority area to achieving Net Zero targets (such as financial systems). The authorities are now leading bids on a second phase of Innovate UK funding.
2.7	An update was given on how the Combined Authority was implementing its responsibility for the new Local Nature Recovery Strategy (as presented to this Committee in June). The Partnership discussed the links between nature and the climate crisis, and the opportunities for nature-led solutions to mitigate and adapt to climate issues.
2.8	The Partnership provided input into the preparations for the Climate Summit. The Summit is confirmed for the 9 November. The Sustainable Schools Network have been approached to present at the Summit.
2.9	The Partnership also had an information item covering emerging policy issues, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powering up Britain – Clean Growth Strategy • Green finance strategy UK • Government response to the Chris Skidmore Net Zero review • Environment Act

3. Background

3.1	The Climate Partnership is a stakeholder group that brings together public, private and third sector representatives within the Combined Authority area to examine collaborative action in response to the changing climate and Net Zero targets. It is chaired by the Mayor. It considers progress against the Climate Action Plan 2022-2025.
3.2	The Partnership is supported by an officer programme board and thematic working groups.

4. Appendices

4.1	None.
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5. Implications

Financial Implications

5.1	None.
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Legal Implications

6.1	None.
Public Health Implications	
7.1	None.
Environmental & Climate Change Implications	
8.1	Progress on the Climate Action Plan is part of the Authority's response to mitigating greenhouse gases emissions and adapting to a changing climate.
Other Significant Implications	
9.1	None.
Background Papers	
10.1	None.