

Climate Change Adaptation Scrutiny Panel Scoping Meeting Notes 27 July 2009.

Present:

Cllr Tony Janio (TJ), Cllr Vicky Wakefield-Jarrett (VWJ), Prof Gordon MacKerron (GMK)

Also in attendance: Thurstan Crockett (TC), Tom Hook (TH)

Apologies

Cllr Gill Mitchell (GM)

Election of Chair

GMK was nominated and duly elected as Chair.

GMK briefly introduced himself. He is currently Economic Advisor to the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution which is undertaking a major piece of work on climate change adaptation. He is also Director of the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at the University of Sussex and former director of the Sussex Energy Group.

Focus of the Panel

It was agreed:

- Focus is firmly on adaptation, not mitigation. However the panel should pick up on the relationship between the two because some adaptation measures can have negative mitigation repercussions (e.g. air conditioning).
- Criticism may also be forthcoming that by addressing adaptation the Council is 'giving-up' on mitigation. It needs to be clearly communicated that this isn't the case.
- Whilst the UKCP09 has the most up-to-date projections of climate change available they are still based on assumptions that contain a wide margin of uncertainty and as such it is hard to accurately predict what will actually happen.
- As such recommendations may end up only being implemented if specific events occur.
- The Panel should be aiming for a limited number of key/well targeted recommendations.
- Recommendations should focus on improved working practice/processes rather than major new investment projects.
- Adaptation will be an ongoing process. The panel's job is to ensure the Council and partner bodies have the plans and processes in place to respond to this.
- In relation to this the panel needs to decide how best to monitor implementation of the recommendations and progress to reaching level 4 of NI188.

- The panel needs to look at work relating to adaptation in the round, not just as it is occurring within the Council. This will involve talking to LSP partners.
- The focus should be on B&H but account will need to be taken of the actions and plans of neighbouring authorities.
- Where opportunities/benefits of climate change exist these should be highlighted.
- Meetings will be held in public and it may be necessary to create some press interest in order to encourage attendance.

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference were agreed as:

- 1) To gain an understanding of the climate change threats and opportunities facing Brighton and Hove and the impact these will have
- 2) To review the current preparedness of Brighton and Hove City Council and its partners to adapt to the consequences of a changing local climate
- 3) To identify through a gap analysis risks that need to be addressed through improved adaptation planning
- 4) To develop a timetable for this work to be undertaken
- 5) To consider the best means through which to monitor progress made in reaching level 4 of NI 188

Timeline of meetings and witnesses

- Meetings should be themed, with witnesses grouped together.
- Written evidence should be sought from a wider range of witnesses than are invited to give evidence to the panel.
- Should aim for relatively few but senior witnesses.

Meeting 1 – Developing an understanding of the issues

Witnesses to be invited from:

- UKCIP – Chris West, Director
- Climate South East – Graham Tubb
- Association of UK Insurers
- Environment Agency – Chris Wick
- Utilities – Southern Water/EDF

Meeting 2 and 3 – Where are we now?

Meeting 2

- Housing/Adult Social Care – Joy Hollister (Director)
- Environment/Community Safety – Jenny Rowlands (Director)

- Health – Tom Scanlon
- Fire Authority – ACFO Gary Ferrand
- Police

Meeting 3

- Council buildings – Angela Dymott
- Planning – Martin Randall/Rob Fraser
- Community and Voluntary Sector – CVSF
- Economy/Tourism – Tony Mernagh/Scott Marshall/Paula Murray/Adam Bates

Meeting 4 – Where does the Council need to be?

- Kent County Council – Caroline Mackenzie
- East Sussex County Council
- Oxfordshire County Council – Susie Ohlenschlager
- Tony Whitbread, Sussex Wildlife Trust
- Climate change motivated migration – University of Sussex

Meeting Dates

It was agreed to leave gaps on a month between meetings 1 and 2, and then again between meetings 3 and 4.

- Meeting 1 – September: 8th from 3:00, 9th, 11th
- Meeting 2 – October: 9th from 3:00, 7th
- Meeting 3 – October: 20/21
- Meeting 4 – November: TBC

Evidence Gathering

An extended list of witnesses will be written to with the attached questionnaire.

Actions:

- Confirm provisional dates with GM – TH
- Brief GMK on Scrutiny – TH
- Compile list of witnesses – TC/TH
- Invite witnesses and confirm final dates – TH
- Compile questionnaire/letter – TH/TC
- Book venues/catering – TH
- Draft press release – TH

