

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 10:30 via Teams**

**ESC/LTC Climate Action Meeting**

**Meeting of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee representatives and East Suffolk Council to discuss opportunities for collaboration.**

In Attendance:

Lowestoft Town Council: Cllrs Paul Page and Deborah Ray and Committee Clerk Taylor Williams

East Suffolk Council: Cllr Rachel Smith-Lyte (Cabinet Member for the Environment), Paul Mackie, Jamie Bretton, Daniel Wareing and Amy Duran

This would be an introductory discussion on initiatives and to identify where support is needed and collaboration is possible.

Paul Mackie presented the current Climate Action Framework of East Suffolk Council (ESC), noting that this was a year old and from the previous administration and it was undergoing changes by the current administration, a new version should be available by July 2024.

Cllr Ray noted that Lowestoft Town Council (LTC) were still working on their Climate Action Plan and requested advice from ESC on how officers can measure the emissions of LTC assets (Scopes 1 and 2), suggesting the LTC officers may need training on managing the data regarding emissions. Cllr Ray expressed concern that with the renovation projects on the Town Hall and Marina Theatre, it is likely that LTC's emissions will increase, which was not reflected in the 2019 Greenhouse Gas report.

Paul Mackie noted that whilst it was worthwhile to focus on measuring the emissions of the council, the most change can happen via the Town Council's wider influence through supporting businesses and residents. LTC needed to focus on areas within their scope of services that they can make a difference in. Regarding emissions, it is crucial to identify what emissions are within the council's scope of influence, thereby understanding what needs to be measured and developing a methodology. The Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool developed by Local Partnerships with the Local Government Association was suggested to assist in calculating emissions.

Daniel Wareing agreed and informed the attendees that ESC follow the government advice on calculating emissions for businesses as the methods were applicable to the public sector and offered to provide a link to the document. LTC would need to set the parameters around what will be measured, noting that Scopes 1 and 2 would be easier to capture the data for compared to Scope 3. He advised LTC to consider what could be easily managed within the resources available to them.

The SALC Climate Forum would be ideal to attend and it was noted that the LTC Committee Clerk was due to attend the next forum in April.

Cllr Ray asked Daniel Wareing if ESC officers had been trained to collect the emissions data and Daniel Wareing clarified the data was collected through billing information, such as the kilowatt electricity used by their built assets and expenses for vehicle mileage. ESC do not offer training to their officers on emission data management and were not equipped to train other organisations, they could only offer advice based on their own process.

As LTC have joined the Earth Protector Town and Plastic Free Communities, Cllr Ray queried if Greenprint Forum would be able to assist LTC with setting up a steering group for the Plastic Free Communities, either by joining the group or suggesting organisations to be approached.

Daniel Wareing noted that Greenprint Forum already had guidance on this matter, including a plastic action handbook with ideas on working with others in the community, which he could provide an updated copy of. As far as local groups to approach, he suggested Suffolk Beach Cleans, Use It All, Re-Utilize and Precious Plastic East (though they are based in Yarmouth, they do host activities and workshops on the Lowestoft beach). Daniel also suggested smaller local businesses that are already taking action to reduce single-use plastic would be valuable members, such as Uncle Sid's.

Cllr Page raised an issue on Planning, as he was concerned that the effects and consequences on the climate were not often contemplated in planning considerations not in the regulations and processes. Cllr Page queried how this could be addressed as Lowestoft had already taken on more junk food outlets due to recent planning decisions. The attendees agreed that this was a complex issue and Cllr Smith-Lyte suggested one offset to this be investment in allotment spaces, which would also aid in healthy food resilience.

Cllr Ray suggested a collaboration between the two councils on water bottle refill stations.

Paul Mackie noted that the 2019 Greenhouse Gas report provided good information and data and set a stable foundation for LTC to work from.

Cllr Page noted that LTC was due to host the Big Green Weekend in June and invited ESC to assist with the planning.

Paul Mackie informed the meeting that ESC were due to have a clerks workshop session regarding climate issues and asked if the Committee Clerk would be attending. This would be checked with the office.

It was agreed for the ESC officers to review Cllr Ray's documents on climate action and table the actions being taken by both councils with a view to identify collaboration opportunities. The ESC officers would contact LTC officers within a week after receiving Cllr Ray's reports to arrange a follow-up meeting.

*The meeting was closed at 11:48*