

Topics: Continuation of Climate Commission Model

Present:

Cornwall Council (CC):

Cllr Martyn Alvey: Portfolio holder for Environment and Climate Change

Mark Holmes: Manager: Carbon Neutral Cornwall Team; Environmental Adaptation Service; Nature Recovery Team

Cornwall Climate Action Coalition (CCAC):

Karen Jeffereys

John Carley

Andrew Stott

Apologies: Cllr Linda Taylor: Leader Cornwall Council; Helen Angel, Tom Pine.

1. Welcome

- CCAC opened by thanking CC for voting to support the CEE bill. It sent a message to the people of Cornwall that Cornwall Council are right behind the bill becoming law.
- CCAC made the distinction between the Cornwall Climate Action Network (CCAN) and the Cornwall Climate Action Coalition (CCAC). There had been some confusion in the climate commission scoping document written by the Carbon Neutral Team, where there was a reference to CCAN when CCAC was the body that should have been referred to. CC confirmed this had now been corrected in the document. It was also important to reinstate the formal link between the Carbon Neutral Team and CCAN which had stopped as a result of CCAC meeting with CC.
- CCAC pointed out that CCAN was set up about 3 years ago and is now a CIC. It is a non political networking group that focuses on supporting environmental groups / organisations by sharing resources and networking.
- By contrast CCAC is non-political and incorporates environmental groups including Greenpeace, Friends of the earth, Quakers & The Green Party. Its objectives are to engage in constructive dialogue and lobbying.
- The coalition also holds People's Assemblies at County Hall to coincide with full council meetings.
- CCAC clarified that this small group, meeting with CC, come to these meetings as members of the Cornwall Climate Action Coalition. Also that People's Assemblies are constructive dialogues about a single theme, they are not political and are not the same as Citizens' Assemblies or the politically driven Cornwall Assembly. The People's Assembly on 23rd May is to be held after the full council meeting and CCAC hope that councillors will participate. CC confirmed they had arranged that the council chambers will be available at this time and date. CC suggested that if they (CCAC) send an invite text it will be shared with the members. Cllr Alvey stated he would be there but CCAC must accept that CC cannot compel

members to attend. Realistically due to many commitments it is unlikely many councillors will attend as most leave chamber before the member's questions.

2. Continuation and update on Climate Commission Model

Question 1: In connection with the Climate Commission issue, CCAC asked about potential funding sources that could be brought to bear on setting up a Commission?

- CC responded:
 - PECAN had confirmed that they can support the start-up element free with 2 staff members assigned. This is being finalised with them;
 - The time-line is 3-6 months to complete the whole process;
 - PECAN suggested initially forming an advisory group to sit with them to help frame and communicate the process;
 - The Commission itself will be the prominent entity in terms of how it operates, organises progress, and assumes being a single point of reference. Nonetheless, it will want to discuss with CC how to engage with the other organisations in the county and also the work streams being pursued within the Council.
- The sequence of actions to bring about a commission has been identified by PCAN and CC has communicated this with CCAC.
- CC are waiting for PCAN to suggest a start date before they run a press release.
- CC- Devon, Cornwall and IOS adaptation strategy is about to be put out for public consultation. The development of the specifically Cornwall one is now funded but awaits the setting up of a team to resource this piece of work. Although it will be Cornwall centric it will not be generic but will instead accommodate the wide range of circumstances that the County presents.
- CC - four workstreams concurrently underway in the Carbon Neutral Team over the next 12 – 18 months:
 - The Commission;
 - Local Area Energy Plan;
 - Local Nature and Recovery Strategy. DEFRA supported (£1million) to develop access to private finance;
 - The Adaptation Strategy.
- The Council envisage sub-groupings within the Commission to steer these workstreams.
- The Council indicated that Martin Siegert, the vice chancellor at Exeter University, had agreed to chair the Commission with Cllr Alvey being the vice chair. They added that TEVI will not be able to assist in setting up a commission given their funding is ending. However, two university staff – Peter Le Forte and Jessie Hampshire would oversee the early scheduled meetings.
- CCAC expressed its gratitude to CC and delight that a Climate Commission is to be brought into being. With regard to the PECAN timeline, CC indicated that whilst it had not yet been published it was ok to use it in discussions with the wider CCAC audience.

- CC - Developing the Local Area Energy Plan (LEAP), they have instructed 'City Science' to run a series of focus events linked to energy and the need to decarbonise and transition. This has its focus and priority in engagement and co-design particularly with harder to reach communities and the younger generation. CC stated these will have some of the characteristics of citizens' assemblies. Which, on further discussion, are more in line with the people's assembly model than citizens' assembly. Moreover, it is separate but nonetheless aligned to the commission.
- CC - this was not member led (it was entirely officer led) and therefore no political input leading to the City Science contract.

Question 2: Expediting the commission start up. This question was not asked as CC had already set out the timelines which governed speed of progress but stated that they really wanted to see it move quick as quick as it possibly can.

- CC pointed out that works towards a commission set up was progressing with other work such as on renewables, fleet decarbonisation and EV charge points.
- CCAC thanked the Council for the enormous amount of work underway and asked if CCAC could help?
- CC see CCAC as an agent for communicating progress and in navigating the anticipated confusion on what sits where and why.

Question 3: Concerning the TEVI teams assistance. This question was not asked as the topic was covered earlier in the meeting.

Question 4: To get a Climate Commission on the front foot and gaining the necessary traction and visibility quickly, would you see 'Food Security' as a priority adaption to pursue as, it seems to us, there is both the expertise in Sustainable Food Cornwall and the opportunity across the Council Farms estate, National Trust and other Cornish Estates to underpin a Commission sub-group?

- CC - whilst the intelligence and evidence assembled by the council's work programme for sustainable food strategy, can be provided, it will ultimately be up to the Commission to commission themselves. CC added that they are developing a portal to assist their staff with aspects like cycle to work, EVs through salary sacrifice and at the moment, local food purchase and collection from Council offices.
- CCAC asked an unscheduled question on whether CC had considered a tool developed for LAs called 'SCATTER' which quantifies the impact of capital and revenue projects, while embedding the financial cost of carbon into decision making across statutory responsibilities. CCAC wondered if it might be a way to tighten the more subjective assessment behind the CC Decision Making Wheel?
- CC are already looking at this tool, together with other tools as part of their sustainable procurement policy. They added that they viewed it as a key action since the Council is able to influence 40% of Cornwall's emissions through what they procure and their policy context etc.

Notes online meeting of Members of Cornwall Climate Action Coalition and Cornwall Council 28/4/23

- CCAC – planned monthly meetings booked in and whilst the commission would be an ongoing theme there may be other issues emerging from the people's assemblies and of course there was adaption to cover as well.
- CCAC flagged up The Cornwall Food Summit at Lanivet on Tuesday 16th May which was organised by Cornwall Sustainable Food.
- CC indicated that sustainable food is part of the carbon neutral programme who will have engaged CC either through the localism officer or directly with the team.

Useful background reading:

- Link to PCAN: What is a local climate commission? Place Based Climate Action Network (pcancities.org.uk) <https://www.pcancities.org.uk/what-local-climate-commission>
- Cornwall Council have shared a link to the new reports page on the Hive: This brings together key Cornish reports, including links to the action plan, inventories, performance reports and DPD.

<https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/reports-and-reviews>

- Notes from previous meetings between members of CCAC and CC:
 - 2022/23 Oct, Nov, Dec:
<https://www.cornwallclimateactioncoalition.org.uk/meeting-council-notes.html>
 - Prior to Oct 2022:
<https://www.cornwallclimateactioncoalition.org.uk/meetingswith-cornwall-council.html>