

Sustainability Board

Monday 14th June at 14:00

Via TEAMS.

Attendees:

John Sinclair (JS)	Becky Bradshaw (BB)	Danielle Bird (DB)
Brendan Fawcett (BF)	Janet Jackson (JJ)	Chris Powis (CP)
Chris Forward (CF)	Wray Irwin (WI)	Victoria Blake (VB)
Paul Bramble (PB)	Owen Morris (OM)	Stephen Wood (SW)
Robert Farmer (RF)	Yeqi Zhou (YZ)	Amy Moore (AM)
Kathryn Kendon (KK)	Richard Hazenberg (RH)	Michelle Chodynieski (MC)
Megan Abbott (MA)	Paul Bramble (PB)	

Apologises:

Emma Stone (ES)	June Charlton-Hughes (JCH)	Hollie Darby (HD)
Mark Hall (MH)	Claire Paterson-Young (CPY)	

1.0 Minutes of Meeting held on 11th March 2021

- 1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

2.0 Matters Arising from Minutes of 11th March 2022

2.1 Single Use Plastic & Disposable Items

2.1.1 EM is working on a zero waste strategy and action plan, she is reviewing areas where we can reduce waste/look at alternatives to using them reusing or recycling.

2.1.2 EM is starting by looking at single use plastics, firstly in Catering and Health, and identified areas where we could use alternatives.

2.1.3 VB explains we have template around what we will go through regarding single use plastics with each team. **Action:** All present please contact VB and EM to move the identifying single use plastics and their alternatives project forward. Meetings will be scheduled with each contact to identify materials etc. which can be changed in each faculty and department.

Action: VB & EM

2.1.4 VB adds her team are working with Procurement and around returning packaging for recycling.

2.2 Travel Plan – Recommendations of the Survey

2.2.1 Many actions arising from the travel survey are already in place.

2.2.2 BB confirms we have had funding to expand the student Bike Loan Scheme.

2.2.3 There have been changes around car park use, being opened at weekend and the tariffs, which has gone to ODG and will be going to UMT.

2.2.4 **Action:** BB asks for a Unify article around the actions and recommendations taken from the travel survey to be pulled together by AM.

Action: AM

3.0 Environment & Sustainability Update

3.1 Water Consumption & Reduction Policy

3.1.1 This policies name has been extended to avoid confusion around our multiple water-based policies. VB explains section 5 is around key principles when complying with regulation and promoting conscious water use amongst staff. We are also operating in mainly new buildings which already contain multiple water safety measures however the team is looking at how we can further this.

3.1.2 We have a map on our website of all the drinking facilities on site and these have all aligned with the Times SDG Rankings with clean water etc.

3.1.3 BF asks about water reuse and brown water, VB explains at Park Campus we did a lot in this area however we are currently investigating this on new builds and refurbishment.

3.1.4 BB explains this policy is for approval and has already been to Trade Union Liaison with comments received and adjustments made. All agreed policy is approved.

3.2 Climate Commission Toolkit – Update

3.2.1 VB previously gave an overview of what this was and how we are going to make use of it. VB summarised the Toolkit making it more user friendly centered around the 5 themes on the critical aspects. VB has used this and reviewed campus management and will next be reviewing the Sustainability Scorecard next.

3.2.2 **Action:** VB to pull the remaining 5 areas of the climate commission tool kit into an action spreadsheet and let BB know who will need to input the leads.

Action: VB & BB

3.2.3 BB asks around timescale and VB confirms there is no submission date and this will likely be completed by Christmas.

3.3 Sustainable Travel Update

3.3.1 AM explains we are procuring a new fleet, quotes have gone out and we have 11 vehicles and 5 of which are electric vehicles, 45% overall. For our new fleet we will have

10 vehicles, 7 of which will be electric so 70%. We cannot completely be electric due to the continuous use of some vehicles and their heavy-duty requirements.

3.3.2 AM adds previously we asked for large electric vans however these are no longer available.

3.3.3 We currently have 2 Cargo bikes which Building Services have not yet used however our Catering team will be using them to deliver to the Development Hub.

3.3.4 A roadshow was completed last week, a Dr Bike mechanic was booked out with 8 services occurring throughout the day. The Police were present completing bike tagging and Richard Sanders came with electric car discounts for staff and students. **Action:** AM to ensure staff discounts on electric vehicles is on UNify.

Action: AM

3.3.5 Last month we participated in National Walking Month, a small photo competition was completed for individuals walking to work or during a lunch time lap, this will hopefully gain more recognition each year.

3.3.6 AM explains we are looking to start weekend parking charges as during the park and ride being closed over weekends we will open car park 1 for students and add a charge of £1 per day from morning to midnight.

3.3.7 We are continuing with our general travel plan, still holding the cycle to work scheme and student loan. BB confirms to AM additional cycle storage has been approved.

3.3.8 BB in sustainable travel area we approved improvements to changing room facilities to the Sports Dome to encourage use of the shower facilities and sustainably travelling for work.

3.3.9 Regarding bike sales we previously worked with a charity who have become unresponsive however we have Cycle Solutions promoting tax free bike sales.

3.3.10 BB asks if we will have a Travel Roadshow at the start of the new academic year, AM explains usually we do during Welcome Weekend however we were told we could not have a stand in the Learning Hub this year. BB explains if this is due to a space issue, we may have an external stand as we need to have a presence.

3.3.11 DB adds it would be worth discussing involving this in conjunction with the COP26 event in September, AM explains we will not repeat ourselves as Welcome Weekend is more centered around parking permits and buses etc.

3.4 Up for the Cup Project & Campaigns

3.4.1 The Up for the Cup partners are slowly relaunching collections for these bins, and we are reviewing alternative funds for when the funding runs out.

3.4.2 Pack For Good is a clothing campaign for the British Heart Foundation, we are working alongside Residential Life to hand out bags to students and there are bins in car park 1 and 4 for staff to use. In 2020 we collected 300 bags (3 tonnes) pre pandemic.

3.4.3 The Food Waste Campaign in our hospitality industry, a video has been created and EM is making progress on reducing this food waste.

3.4.4 Clean Air Day on 17th June will be focused on children and pollution we will have a potter stall on site for staff and students to plant their own plants in old reusable cups which could not be used as for their intended purpose.

3.4.5 We have increased our campaigns focusing on energy water use and trying to reduce demand will be our wider target for campus.

3.4.6 Sustainability Ambassadors will be our aim to engage with students to get involved so them supporting us and vice versa. We have league tables in halls for energy usage etc. to bring demand down. We will also be increasing pledges and surveys and try to increase overall awareness,

3.4.7 BB asks if we will be making use of the previous Halls Scorecard Scheme, students did a mini lighthearted order which tied into a league table and there were small prizes.

3.4.8 VB adds she will be linking in with Wray Irwin to get Changemaker involved. There is a number of routes which we could work with towards Employability Award or Changemaker Award.

3.4.9 DB emphasises to all that they need to look out for updates on our social media handles as we would appreciate support and engagement from the Board on getting the word out. BB adds all present should be champions of sustainability and environment so please do pass on all here to your teams.

4.0 Celebration Event for COP26 in November

- 4.1 JJ has emailed her presentation to the group regarding the organisation of our celebration event for COP26. JJ previously worked with a group of individuals to create Project Awesome 2 years ago, one of the projects was the Hedgehog Awards which we now have silver in and are working towards gold.
- 4.2 One of the biggest barriers to staff becoming engaged in previous projects, being able to attend walks and talks was due to a lack of permission to use their time in this way, so short lunch breaks. BB emphasises we all need to be champions of our areas and at the top level Deans and managers need to be enthusiastic with their feedback and have an encouraging attitude.
- 4.3 Regarding the organisation we have a bottom layer which has UMT, Campus External Services and Student Union are all on board. The second tier is looking at Marketing and Promoting in September along with Sustainability Ambassadors we want COP26 Ambassadors for this week.
- 4.4 We are developing a conference to get our research presented.
- 4.5 By 1st July we need to have a logo to help us raise our profile online and via social media. OM explains our Marketing team outsource this and DB suggests we utilise a national logo. **Action:** Look for generic COP26 logos as our Marketing team cannot create this, its outsourced.

Action: DB

- 4.6 JJ explains for promoting we could have COP26 stand during freshers week, we could look at school engagement.
- 4.7 The event will occur over 5 days in November, with a theme each day we would like to create a festival like week to shine a light on our climate change knowledge and international and local reach. Daily themes:
- Monday – Transport & Mobility
 - Tuesday - Waste & Water
 - Wednesday – Nature based solutions
 - Thursday – Energy
 - Friday – Changing Lifestyles
- 4.8 JJ was recently invited to a carbon zero conference and we could organise something very similar easily and make it free for the general public to attend online. This could be a great opportunity to showcase the University.
- 4.9 JJ we have a proposal to circulate a learning package for a week, we want every subject to incorporate the package into their teaching and see how it links into their area.
- 4.10 We are hoping to get the student groups already on site involved with the events and engaged, so are considering completing guided tours and walks etc. We could also have businesses come in, with the energy sector, food waste sector and transport sector. Speakers and side events such as performances, artwork, photography or debates would be beneficial which maybe the SU could facilitate.
- 4.11 DB reiterates this is a draft plan and we are currently at the very early stages until we understand who is participating and engaging then we can get past the initial brainstorming ideas for themes.
- 4.12 DB adds we have spoken to Chris Rockall's team for a business breakfast as an opportunity to engage and network around best practice etc. We will also hopefully be hosting an evening event to allow a maximum opportunity for networking.
- 4.13 We would like the event to be as student focused as possible to celebrate Waterside, attract our own students, staff and the local community.
- 4.14 BB adds we will have full support from the Estates and Campus Services team, to truly showcase and celebrate our campus and University we will need to pull in from the press and our Marketing team. We have already lined up the VC and John Sinclair to open the event. **Action:** BB to ask at UMT if any colleagues could give their time and engage in the week.

Action: BB

- 4.15 JJ explains COP26 runs across 2 weeks so there is a scope to carry it on into Changemaker week as we could continue the branding across the 2 weeks.

5.0 SDG Rankings

- 5.1 RH explains the above will also be fantastic for promoting our SDG submission later in the year.
- 5.2 Our results for this year's ranking came out in April, the University overall finished top 200 in the world out of 1100 globally.
 - 5.2.1 We also came out top 100 in all 4 SDG areas we entered, in reducing inequality we were 27th globally and 11th in the UK.
 - 5.2.2 Overall we were 78th for gender equality which is an area we could definitely improve going forwards. RH has discussed this with Glasgow who came out top in this area so we can begin to review ways in which we can improve, such as childcare facilities.
- 5.3 We are working under the presumption that the submission date will be 30th November however this could be delayed. We will begin emailing individuals regarding the new submission and how we can improve.
- 5.4 RH thanks everyone for all their hard work over the previous years submission and explains our placing is a testament to this.

6.0 Any Other Business

- 6.1 Our submission for the EAUC Green Gown Awards is for the Up for the Cup project and the other is for work with the British Heart Foundation.
- 6.2 Levelling Up Awards in 2021 we will be providing a submission in relation to the energy center.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: TBC