

SUSTAINABILITY BOARD
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 23 NOVEMBER 2020
AT 1500 VIA TEAMS

Present:

Becky Bradshaw (BB Chair)

Emmanuelle Adida (AE - UNISON Rep)

Danielle Bird (DB)

Victoria Blake (BV)

Paul Bramble (PB)

June Charlton-Hughes (JCH – note taker)

Michelle Chodynieceki (MCh)

Mark Cusiter (MC)

Hollie Darby (HD)

Robert Farmer (RF)

Brendan Fawcett (BF)

Mark Hall (MH)

Richard Hazenberg (RH)

Wray Irwin (WI)

Kathryn Kendon (KK)

Amy Moore (AM)

Owen Morris (OM)

Chris Powis (CP)

John Sinclair (JS)

Emma Stone (ES)

Stephen Wood (SW)

Apologies; Chris Forward (CF)

1 Welcome and Introductions

BB welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Sustainability Board and thanked the Environment and Sustainability team for getting the University to where we are with this project. Representatives have been chosen from across both Faculties and Professional Services seeking knowledge and input.

It was noted WI had also been appointed as Deputy Chair of the Sustainability Board.

BB explained she had restructured the Estates and Campus Professional Service and to focus the resources available into two main streams; Safety & Business Continuity and Environmental & Sustainability.

BB asked the Environment & Sustainability team to introduce themselves and give an update on several projects they are currently working. It was noted the team were currently focussing on a communication for UNO buses, staff travel survey and parking in the pipeline an electric car salary sacrifice scheme.

They would also be monitoring and measuring the energy consumption with a drive to reduce these down along with reduced costs, a survey was planned for the new year.

Another initiative was the 'Up for the Cup Project' which would look to recycle 150k paper cups; the scheme was in partnership with the hospital, train station, Delapre Abbey and the Grosvenor Centre. This project was currently being relaunched due to the pandemic.

2 Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference had been circulated to the Board for their information and BB explained the reporting line for policies would TU Liaison, UMT prior to formal sign off from the Sustainability Board. BB asked member for any additional comments on the Terms of Reference. All agreed these.

3 Policies for Consultation and Approval

Energy Policy

VB said all the policies submitted to the meeting had already had TUL approval and asked the Board if there were any further comments.

VB said the Energy Policy highlights the commitment and goals of the University to ensure we are reducing our energy consumption and promoting a pledge for renewable energy.

MCh asked if there would be a link to guidance for practical operations and VB confirmed she was currently looking to update the guide and to ensure it is relevant to the users.

JJ asked about investors in the environment manual and the targets related in this document and would our targets be aspirations or compliance. VB agreed to include some aspirational target and to report on within the plan and the policy would need to focus on how we do things, compliance and energy efficiency

BB said the estate isn't just related to Waterside but takes into account of all sites such as the Development Hub etc.

Mark Cusiter said it is important to be clear about how we move from 'policy' (high level statements of intent) to practical actions, and how we monitor progress toward a stated goal.

JS said there is a need to use technology in a smart way and the principles in section 5 would be a good place to start. He asked if VB could also add technical innovative usages and she agreed to include. DB highlighted the University does already have software and sub metering in place and this is across the whole estates and is part of her role and she would be looking to enhance this going forward.

Waste Policy

VB said the Waste Policy was an update of the existing policy and outlines managing waste relating to avoidance, prevention and recycling issues.

In response to a query raised relating to the university being confident that the policy will support us to become an HE exemplar in this area, BB replied the Team still had lots of things to do and we need now to communicate these and how we are doing which also sets out our current commitment

RH suggested this can tie into the work relating to impact report and SDG the THE and would be building upon this section of the report and he thought the report could highlight the work we will be taking forward.

Single Use Plastic and Disposable Items

VB said she had developed a new Policy for Single Use Plastic and Disposable Items and it was noted the phasing out of these would be undertaken by 2030 as part of the plan. However, it was also recognised plastics are required for certain criteria such as disability but would look to replace with reusable items rather than disposable.

MC asked if a stronger emphasis could be put on procurement and VB agreed the wider policy would focus on avoidance and where we can use reusable items.

SW asked in terms of phasing out these materials by 2030, where are we currently. VB replied the University has done well within catering but didn't have a definitive answer but agreed to look into this.

Action: VB

Ecology Policy

VB said the Ecology Policy had been produced from the work currently being undertaken on site but noted there was a need to be firmer with what we are doing in terms of developing a biodiversity action plan and to roll for all sites.

JJ said she hadn't seen the policy before and thought essentially the need to monitor and increase biodiversity and how this can be maintained. There is a lot of scope for estates management that both staff and students could be involved but will need data to be able to progress.

Sustainable Construction Policy

VB said the Sustainable Construction Policy is a new policy and look at what we do across the institution especially in terms of refurbishment, ensure the improvement of the buildings, the occupancy and how the buildings are performing are continuing. JJ suggested there was an opportunity to build on both the environment and landscaping which could also be included within the policy. VB agreed.

BB suggested following the inclusion of the suggestions made the 5 Policies could be approved.

4 **Environment and Sustainability Update**

The Time UN Sustainability Development Goals

BB invited BF to talk to this item. BF informed the Board of the impact ranking which is a league table and highlights how an organisation is performing against the UN sustainability goals.

In terms of how it works it was noted the University has a deadline of 30 November to have its submission ready and would be ranked on 4 goals. The work has highlighted what we think we will do well in and will also have data to back up the submission.

Currently the work will also establish a web site focusing on the SDGs. RH also said this work also feeds into the Working Group who have been targeting activities and asked members to view the site and highlight anything that has been missed. BB as the group has now expanded we are looking at the whole university model and as many examples are needed as possible. RH agreed there would be a report for next summer which will be based from the information on the website and as a result it was important to know what other members are doing which could assist with the submission.

People and Planet

VB informed the Board of the league table which ranks against 13 criteria from the web site and also information from HESA. Currently there are 152 organisations ranked and we are at 102. There is no review for this year which will allow us to focus on the web site and showcase what we do.

Sustainability Leadership Scorecard (SLS)

VB said in terms of the SLS, this is something we can use internally to get an understanding of how the score for the sustainability goals are given and how we manage these going forward. She agreed to circulate the feedback needed for learning and teaching and the questions on what we are being benchmarked against.

BB suggested for the next meeting it would be useful to have something visual with an explanation of the scorecard works, where we are against the rest of the sector and any areas we need to focus on future efforts.

Action: VB

MC asked if it would be helpful to have the questions available for the Deans Group and BB agreed to this.

5 **SDG Accord**

BB informed the Board the University had now officially signed up to the SDG Accord and one planet pledge and provided a link to the site - <https://www.sdgaccord.org/>

It was noted this was a commitment that learning institutions are delivering and reporting on the goals

6 **One Planet Pledge**

BB also said the University had made a pledge to sign up to the one planet pledge and provided a link to the site - <https://www.oneplanetpledge.org/about>

It was noted both the items will report back at future meetings giving an update of work progressed. MC also highlighted the signatory to the UN principles for Responsibility for Management Education and the institution would prepare a report in March next year.

7 **Any Other Business**

The UKSCN/SOS – UK Tech the Future Campaign

RF asked if the University was planning on a commitment for fossil fuels and referred to the 'Teach the future campaign' - <https://www.teachthefuture.uk/> and it was noted there was a lot the University could do in terms of its building and to actively encourage academic colleagues to bring climate change into the curriculum.

JJ said she would like all UON students to have up to date sustainability education and had thought about this for a number of years.

MH said the University invested about £25m via a broker and thought this was a possibility and agreed to look into this

MC said he thought this was interesting and very pertinent and he would encourage FBL to take discussions forward for each individual programme in terms of the practicalities and the best way of doing this.

JS said he agreed with JJ in that this has been included within some elements of teaching such as fashion and agreed to do this via the changemaker certificate. BB asked how this would be taken forward and JS agreed to progress this.

Action: JS

8 **Date of Next Meeting**

To be advised in due course.