

**Minutes of Northern Ireland Climate Change Impacts Partnership meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2011, NILGA, Castlereagh Business Park, Belfast.**

<b>Attendees:</b>			
John McMullan (Chairman)	JMM	Bryson	Group
Annika Clements (Coordinator)	AC	SNIFFER	
Stephen Bradshaw	SB	DRD	
Sue Christie	SC	NIEL	
Stewart Finn	SF	NICVA	
Ivan Gregg	IG	DoE	
Angus Kerr	AK	DoE	
Richard Kirk	RK	ICE	
Jim Kitchen	JK	UU	
Ian Leitch District Council	IL	Omagh	
Michael McCallion	MMC	DoE	
Keith Miller	KM	DHSSPSNI	
Fiona Mulholland	FM	NIEA	
Karen Smyth	KS	NILGA	

Raymond Smyth	RS	CEHOG
Chris West (via phone)	CW	UKCIP
<b>Apologies:</b>		
Lorraine Boyd	LB	NICVA
Christine Butler	CB	DARD
Brian Doyle	BD	DARD
Julian Holbrook	JH	SNIFFER
Barry McAuley	BMA	DoE
Lisa McElherron	LME	NICVA
Nigel McMahon	NMM	DHSSPS
Roger Pollen	RP	FSB
Nigel Smyth	NS	CBI
Leanne Wilson	LW	UFU

**1. Welcome (JMM)**

JMM welcomed everyone to the meeting at NILGA. JMM particularly welcomed new attendees Stewart Finn, representing NICVA, and Dr. Ian Leitch, environmental health officer with Omagh District Council, involved in the LCLIP Project presented in Item 8. NICCIP expressed their gratitude to Karen Smyth for hosting the meeting at NILGA.

**2. Action Points from the last NICCIP meeting**

Minutes for the last meeting were accepted to be a true record with one amendment of attendee list. Actions from the 27<sup>th</sup> July meeting had been completed.

### 3. Policy Update

- The NI Greenhouse gas inventory was published on 6<sup>th</sup> September, which showed a reduction in NI emissions between 1990 and 2009 of 20%, which is a good step towards the 25% reduction target by 2025.
- The UK Committee on Climate Change (CCC) have met to advise on a potential NI Climate Change Act, particularly on the setting of mitigation targets but also on incorporation of adaptation reporting. The CCC report is due at the end of October or early November.
- It is intended to include questions on public perceptions of climate change in the 2012 NISRA Omnibus survey. This was previously undertaken in 2009, the results of which can be accessed via the DOE web site. For 2012 it is intended that the survey will include very similar questions, with some minor updates, to allow comparison of results. The publication of the results from the planned survey will be in mid 2012.
- Cross-departmental Working Group:

IG noted that the first Adaptation Sub-Group meeting took place on 18<sup>th</sup> August where HR Wallingford presented key findings of the NI CCRA report. The second meeting is due in two weeks' time. A Cross-Departmental Adaptation Workshop took place on 29<sup>th</sup> September in Hillsborough, attended by representatives of all departments and facilitated by NICCIP. Workshop participants provided very positive feedback and this was deemed a successful exercise in engaging the departments in adaptation.
- UKCCRA:

IG reminded members of the timeline for the CCRA's, with Version 4 of the NI CCRA report by HR Wallingford due in late November/early December, which will be the last opportunity for comments prior to publication at the end of January 2012.

#### Action Point 1: AC to circulate links to reports

### 4. UKCIP Update:

- Gerry Metcalf has now retired and NICCIP's new contact for UKCIP is Chris West. Chris kindly provided a brief update via phone.
- UKCIP/DEFRA Contract:

UKCIP is currently in the handover period for the new Defra contract with the Environment Agency, and is building the new EA programme.
- There are currently discussions between Defra/EA and the devolved administrations regarding the ongoing use of UKCIP materials and support including the helpdesk. It is hoped that Northern Ireland will still be able to have free access to all UKCP09 and UKCIP materials and resources via the UKCIP website, and also have access to support tools/helpdesk.
- UKCIP@ECI will continue as a separate business based in Oxford University's Environmental Change Unit, and hope to use their expertise in adaptation support through business contracts.
- Chris West may be contacted with regard to business ideas for adaptation support in NI which UKCIP@ECI could deliver.

**Action point 2: AC to keep abreast of developments at UKCIP@ECI and to consider future adaptation support from UKCIP@ECI. AC to circulate Chris West's contact details.**

## 5. Update on recent NICCIP activities and future funding

- AC summarised recent NICCIP activities, including facilitation of the Cross-Departmental workshop, increased interest in the Partnership (as seen via email enquiries), case study collation and ideas to further case study accessibility and sharing via the Partnership
- JK commented on the importance of NI local case studies, that these are critical to informing policy both in terms of what adaptation actions have already occurred and research into the delivery of adaptation action.
- PB raised issue of finalising NI Headline Messages, a project that UKCIP initiated and has been developed for water (Rivers Agency, NIEA & NI Water) and health that are nearly completed and may be very useful to engage stakeholders.
- IG explained that DOE's role was primarily one of facilitation and that the text in the Headline Messages was a matter for the relevant departments/organisations involved in the drafting and UKCIP to agree.
- JMM explained that a letter of support has been drafted for NICCIP Tier 1 membership organisations, to seek their support for the partnership. This letter was circulated prior to the meeting for approval.
- PB felt that the term "contribution" in the letter needs greater definition
- KS agreed with PB, also suggesting that "support" may require more definition.
- SC suggests use of the term "commitment"
- KS suggests term "endorsement"
- Discussion continued about whether to include details of types of support, e.g. financial, help-in-kind, staff attendance at meetings etc.
- Discussion regarding future financial support ensued, with MMC and IG outlining DoE commitment to a three-year core secretariat, support and outreach contract for the partnership. There was general consensus that once partnership has evolved into a greater support role with production of materials, tools, website etc. it may be easier to seek funding from other departments and organisations.
- JK and JMM concluded that letter of support should provide basis for a commitment to participating in and supporting the partnership rather than a detailed questionnaire regarding types of support sought. Unanimously agreed by members and letter to be amended to reflect this.

**Action point 3: AC and JMM to make amendments to letter to reflect discussion and send out to senior management of each Tier 1 member organisation.**

## 6. Update on ClimateUK

AC explained that Climate UK have been very involved in business set-up since forming a Social Enterprise. They are looking into significant funding from the Big Lottery Fund however projects from this will be restricted to England. There are plans to initiate adaptation projects in the Health sector, and it has been suggested that the Belfast Healthy Cities project may be useful in formulating projects. The Partnership is kept on the core business email correspondence at ClimateUK; there has

been no request for membership funding from the partnership as it is still unclear how ClimateUK may serve the partnership.

JK suggested that ClimateUK may wish to contact the Irish Institute for Public Health who have made considerable inroads in adaptation

**Action point 4: AC to keep abreast of developments at ClimateUK and liaise on health project ideas**

## **7. NICCIP Website development**

- RK showed members the current NICCIP website and outlined the discussions held by the website subgroup regarding its development. It was agreed that ultimately the partnership would like to develop a website similar to Adaptation Scotland's , but realistically this is some way off. However the information content could be quite easily increased, with summaries of key reports, case studies etc.
- SF noted that as so much of the website is based on hyperlinks this may be why search engines have difficulty locating the site via key word searches
- JK suggested all Tier 1 members could contribute text
- SC feels website needs weekly updating, which is beyond scope of current contract. Website should not be launched until it has more content and more frequent updating.
- IG noted that they expect the next partnership contract bidders to give ideas for website development in their tenders
- RK raised point of need for vetting of content especially if many contributors; KS felt this could be done within Tier 1 members
- JMM, JK and SC agreed first step is a site map: unanimously agreed by members
- JK and MMC volunteered to join website development subgroup

**Action point 5: Website subgroup to meet as soon as possible to initiate work on a site map**

## **8. Omagh District Council LCLIP**

RS presented the Omagh District Council LCLIP. Omagh are the only district council in NI to undertake such a project to date. Report will be published and available to the partnership by Christmas. Key findings will be particularly useful for adaptation planning.

PB raised an example of adaptation undertaken by NI Water for Omagh district which may provide very useful case study.

**Action point 6: AC to circulate LCLIP presentation**

## **9. NI National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA) update**

SC presented the key findings from the NI NEA, which provides a means of incorporating ecosystem services in decision making by providing an economic valuation of these services. This is critical for promoting environmental resilience to climate change. SC has offered to present these findings to

any interested groups/organisations. Hard copies of the NEA summary report were circulated to members present.

**Action point 7: AC to circulate NI NEA presentation.**

**10 & 12 (combined). Adaptation Northern Ireland Conference and Guidance document production**

- IG circulated the planned conference programme for the Adaptation Northern Ireland conference to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> February at Greenmount College, Antrim. IG stressed that this conference is intended for the public sector and main focus will be on presenting results of the CCRA, and it will be jointly organised/facilitated by NICCIP and DoE. The maximum number of delegates is likely to be 150.
- JK suggested some re-ordering of presentations and assurance that international, UK-wide and local NI projections and impacts will be outlined.
- PB volunteered adaptation case studies from the water sector.
- IL volunteered a district council's case study.
- A partnership subgroup is required to prepare a delegate list, agree programme and issue invitations. SC, RK and KS volunteered. MMC will be the lead contact for DOE.
- IG explained that it is intended to issue a contract extension, subject to procurement approval, to NICCIP/SNIFFER to produce an NI Public Sector Introduction to Adaptation guidance document, and SME Fact Sheets (plus overview). These publications would be intended to be launched at the February conference. A review subgroup for the documents is required to represent the partnership, for which RS and KS have volunteered to cover the public sector document, and private sector members not present at the meeting will be contacted regarding the Fact Sheets. Valerie Hamilton will be the lead contact for DOE.

**Action point 8: AC to instigate formation of subgroups and coordinate meetings.**

**11. Potential of re-branding NICCIP**

- JMM opened discussion for members with the rationale for re-branding, and referred to recent rebranding of SCCIP to "Adaptation Scotland" (press release was available for members to peruse).
- Members unanimously agreed that re-branding is needed and would be valuable to enhance public perception of the partnership. All felt that the word "climate" was needed and in order to keep the partnership's remit open it was decided not to use the word "adaptation".
- The new partnership name was unanimously agreed as "**Climate Northern Ireland**", which also ties in with some partnerships in England.

**Action point 9: AC to investigate development of new logos and associated colour schemes etc. for use on website, guidance documents and conferences.**

**13. AOB and date of next meeting**

- JK suggested that the partnership open a Twitter account and tweet a couple of times each week with relevant updates, links to reports etc. Agreed by all members.



- RK drew attention to forthcoming ICE Coastal Management Conference on 15/16 November in Belfast.
- Next NICCIP meeting is ***Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012 (am)***, venue: Institute of Chartered Engineers, Belfast- to be confirmed by RK

**Action point 10: AC to look into opening “Climate Northern Ireland” a Twitter account and evaluate the staff resourcing for this in the current contract**

**Action point 11: AC to circulate details of Coastal Management conference**

**Action point 12: RK to confirm meeting venue**

Annika Clements  
26<sup>th</sup> October 2011

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