

Minutes of Northern Ireland Climate Change Impacts Partnership meeting held on Wednesday 27th of July 2011, Department of the Environment, Goodwood House, Belfast.

Attendees:		
John McMullan (Chairman)	JMM	Bryson Group
Annika Clements (Coordinator)	AC	SNIFFER
Ivan Gregg	IG	DoE
Michael McCallion	MMC	DoE
Sue Christie	SC	NIEL
Brian Doyle	BD	DARD
Julian Holbrook	JH	SNIFFER
Richard Kirk	RK	ICE
Philip McGowen	PMG	DoE
Gerry Metcalf (via teleconference)	GM	UKCIP
Keith Miller	KM	DHSSPS
Fiona Mulholland	FM	NIEA
Roger Pollen	RP	FSB
Karen Smyth	KS	NILGA

Raymond Smyth	RS	CEHOG
Apologies:		
Stephen Bradshaw	SB	DRD
Jim Kitchen	JK	UU
Paddy Brow	PB	NI Water
Barry McAuley	BMA	DoE
Nigel McMahan	NMM	DHSSPS
Christine Butler	CB	DARD
Nigel Smyth	NS	CBI
Leanne Wilson	LW	UFU
Angus Kerr (Philip McGowen attended in place)	AK	DoE
Lisa McElherron	LME	NICVA

1. Welcome (JMM)

JMM welcomed everyone to the meeting at Goodwood House. JMM particularly welcomed new member Roger Pollen of the Federation of Small Businesses, and also Philip McGowen of DoE who was kindly standing in for Angus Kerr. JMM also welcomed Annika Clements who has taken on the role of NICCIP Coordinator following Irene McGee's departure. NICCIP expressed their gratitude to Ivan Gregg and Michael McCallion for hosting the meeting at Goodwood House.

2. Action Points from the last NICCIP meeting

Minutes for the last meeting were accepted to be a true record. Actions from the 6th May meeting had been completed with only the circulation of one presentation outstanding.

Action point 1: AC to circulate outstanding presentation from Rory McNeary once available

3. Policy Update

- UKCCRA:

IG provided a comprehensive presentation on the status of the UKCCRA, which highlighted aspects such as timescales in relation to the various reports within the risk assessment, such as sector reports, DA reports and the synthesis report. Version 4 of the NI CCRA report by HR Wallingford is due in August, with a view to finalising the report in November. DoE (IG and MMC) keen to seek feedback from NICCIP membership in confidence.

IG noted that the new contractor for the Adaptation Economic Assessment is due to be announced shortly and that the project is likely to concentrate on approximately 20 key risks.
- Cross-departmental Working Group:

IG noted that the first meeting of the Cross-Departmental Working Group on Climate Change had taken place on 15th June with the new DoE Minister, Alex Attwood. It was noted that the minister had expressed a desire to see development of a NI Climate Change Bill.

An Adaptation Sub-Group meeting will take place on 18th August where HR Wallingford will present key findings of the NI CCRA report.

A Cross-Departmental Adaptation Workshop is then planned for late September, facilitated by NICCIP and funded by DoE.
- IG noted a number of key reports have recently been released: The Foresight report on the International Dimensions of Climate Change, the Climate Change Committees Adaptation Sub Committee report "Adapting to climate change in the UK - measuring progress", and the DEFRA report "Climate Resilient Infrastructure: Preparing for a Changing Climate". Links to these reports are available in the NICCIP newsletter (Issue 7- Summer 2011).
- New DoE Adaptation team member:

IG noted that a new member of staff, Valerie Hamilton, will be joining the team in August for two years.

Action Point 2: AC to alert NICCIP membership once Version 4 of the NI CCRA report is available for their potential feedback.

4. UKCIP Update:

- UKCIP/DEFRA Contract:

GM provided a briefing document for Agenda Item 4 prior to the meeting. In September the Environment Agency (EA) in England will become DEFRA's delivery agent on adaptation. UKCIP will continue to exist independently as UKCIP@ECI (Environmental Change Unit, University of Oxford). There will be a six-month transition period (October 2011 – March 2012) for a full handover, leading to the transfer of the UKCIP Team to become part of the EA adaptation team. GM explained that there is unlikely to be any ongoing support by the EA to the Devolved Administrations (DAs).
- All UKCP09 materials and resources will continue to be freely available from the UKCIP website.

- GM is planning to partially retire at the end of September, and will look for modest part-time work only based at UKCIP@ECI.
- The NI Government need to consider what adaptation support it may require past September once UKCIP outreach work transfers to the EA. GM feels it would be better to invest resources within NI.
- GM suggests that NICCIP could avail of knowledge exchange with other DA partnerships, which UKCIP@ECI (through GM) could facilitate
- GM noted that Climate UK has recently consolidated itself as a Social Enterprise. NICCIP needs to consider whether it should become a full member and what the benefits could be.

Action point 3: AC to keep abreast of developments at UKCIP@ECI and to consider future adaptation support from UKCIP@ECI

Action point 4: AC to facilitate ongoing discussions between DoE, NICCIP/SNIFFER and Climate UK regarding NICCIP membership

5 & 7. Further NICCIP activities in 2011/12 and NICCIP Support for next stage of contract & future funding (two agenda items combined at meeting by decision of Chairman)

- IG highlighted the opportunity for an expanded role for NICCIP in adaptation awareness raising and dissemination of information. It is felt that NICCIP could provide an increased level of support for adaptation through for example development of toolkits, adaptation workbook etc. similar to that at SCCIP. Other initiatives under consideration were producing public sector and private sector guidance for adaptation, facilitating an adaptation workshop for the Cross-Departmental Working Group and organising a conference in February 2012 to follow the publication of the UKCCRA reports. This event could also launch the guidance documents. Discussions were being held with SNIFFER to identify what could be achieved under the current NICCIP support contract.
- IG proposed that an ongoing update of NICCIP membership across all tiers in undertaken
- IG notes the importance of communications across the sectors and the need for independent support
- SC suggests that NICCIP should step up as a platform for communications and support across sectors, moving beyond the secretariat role. Important that NICCIP remains an independent organisation. NICCIP could help manage the many climate change adaptation report dissemination and help bridge gaps between the available information and actual action.
- JH suggests that NICCIP can build important links with the Cross-Departmental Adaptation Sub-Group.
- KS suggests that NICCIP could play important role in conveying adaptation information and developing guidance and toolkits for the Councils. NICCIP could act as a bank of information/clearing house/repository, plus facilitate networking.
- RP stated that small businesses are inundated with organisations providing sources of information relevant to small business operations. Will NICCIP be able to provide a service that goes beyond other sources of information and support already available to small businesses from the likes of the Carbon Trust etc.? NICCIP need to work out a way of

practically interacting with small businesses, to convey the economic advantages (and where applicable legislative requirements) of adaptation in not only an NI context but also UK-wide and internationally.

- There was consensus among the Tier 1 members present that NICCIP should “step up” to a full adaptation support service following publication of the UKCCRA

Action Point 5: AC to organise letter of support for NICCIP from membership and develop costed proposals for increased services

6. NICCIP Website

AC noted that Irene McGee had managed to complete production of a stand-alone NICCIP website prior to her departure, providing an excellent starting point. NICCIP require a sub-group of members to further develop the website and also to look into possibility of a public website launch. IG suggested perhaps a launch could coincide with the publication of the UKCCRA reports. Sub-group volunteers noted: John McMullan, Richard Kirk and Karen Smyth.

Action 6: AC to circulate website address to all members and progress development of the website sub-group

8. AOB and Date of Next Meeting

- RS noted that Omagh County Council have completed a local Climate Change Impacts Profile and volunteered that an overview of this could be presented at the next meeting.
- JMM suggested that members provide feedback on the latest edition of NICCIP News (Issue 7 – Summer 2011)
- JH noted that he in party to ongoing Climate UK discussions, in which he will investigate membership options.
- Next NICCIP meeting is **Tuesday 25th October**, venue: **NILGA** Boardroom, Unit 5B Castlereagh Business Park, 478 Castlereagh Road, Belfast, BT5 6BQ.

Annika Clements
24th August 2011
