

Carbon Innovation Lab

Update for Climate Change & Ecological Emergency Working
Group

23 June 2022

Background

- Following climate declaration for the council
“to develop a strategy for Folkestone & Hythe District Council to play a leadership role in community, public and business partnerships for our Carbon Neutral 2030 commitment throughout the district”
- Project proposal for a District-wide Carbon Plan taken to Working Group (25 November 2021)
- Project proposal approved by Cabinet (23 March 2022)

District-wide Carbon Plan – 5 Priority Areas of Focus



Carbon Innovation Lab

- Proposed to set up a 'Carbon Innovation Lab' – a small, informal and inclusive group from key local groups, businesses, academics and members of public
- Objective for the Lab – to promote dialogue, work in partnership, be an influencer of change, exchange ideas and best practice

Carbon Innovation Lab

- Officers have built up a database of groups and individuals who may be interested in the Lab
- Rang around contacts to gauge interest in inception meeting
- Invitations sent to 29 people
- Inception meeting held virtually on 13 June

Inception Meeting

- Chaired by the Cabinet Member for the Environment
- 9 people attended the meeting from local businesses, environmental and community groups
- Outlined:
 - The intended role of the CI Lab
 - Some of the decarbonisation projects that the council is working on
- Followed by open discussion and sharing of expertise

Contributors' comments

- Impressed by the work the council is doing, but limited awareness of these achievements
- Difficulty of travelling sustainably in the district
- Key importance of gathering and evidence, analysis and understanding what drives people's behaviours
- Need to have exciting projects to promote – or else seen as 'taking away people's cars'
- Need to look at green economy and growing sectors

Next steps

- Setting up future meetings – July/September
- Would an evening meeting attract more participants?
- Successful bid for Local Government Association's Behavioural Insights project
- Inviting participants to share their own insights, projects and suggestions
- Inviting relevant transport leads to present to the CI-Lab