

**LBEG Spring Meeting & AGM  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May January 2020**

**Virtual Meeting 1  
Minutes**

*As this meeting was held online, it was decided to have a shorter agenda than usual.*

**1. Welcome**

Saeed Atlas, LBEG Chair, Saeed welcomed everyone to the meeting and hoped that everyone was well and coping with the new circumstances of working in the Covid-19 world. He also passed on the group's condolences to John Mitchinson on his recent bereavement.

**2. AGM**

**• Treasurer's Report**

Beata King, LBEG Treasurer, gave a financial update.

Summary for 2019-20		
Income		
Membership	£5,220.00	<i>no VAT charged</i>
Sponsorship	£1,080.00	<i>no VAT charged</i>
	£6,300.00	
Receipts		
Secretariat	£3,600.00	<i>incl VAT</i>
Catering	£748.32	<i>incl VAT</i>
Website	£127.63	<i>incl VAT</i>
Survey Monkey (members' survey)	£35.00	<i>incl VAT</i>
Photographer	£144.00	<i>incl VAT</i>
Bank charges	£61.20	<i>incl VAT</i>
	£4,716.16	
Surplus	£1,583.84	

- As of 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020, there was £7110 in the bank.
- 19 members (£5800) have already been invoiced for membership for the 2020-21 financial year, of which 11 (£3190) have already paid: another is being processed. The secretariat will follow up with those members who have not yet confirmed if they are able to pay.

**• Election of the Committee and Chair**

11 nominations were received for the Committee (10 seats available) and 3 nominations were received for the Chair. Votes were collected both electronically in advance of the meeting and by secret poll at the meeting itself: each member organisation was only allowed to vote once.

The election to Chair was won by Chris Little of Westminster City Council. He thanked Saeed for all the work he'd done for LBEG over the last two years, bringing the organisation back from the financial brink and raising awareness of the group amongst regional and national politicians and

policy makers. Saeed thanked everyone and said what a privilege it had been to work with the Committee over the last 2 years.

It was also agreed that the Committee candidate with the fewest votes would be invited to join the Committee as an observer: this was Yulia Treskova of LB Lewisham.

The Executive Committee for 2020-21 is therefore:

- Chair: Chris Little, LB Westminster
- Vice-Chair: Gonzalo Jimenez, RB Kensington & Chelsea
- Treasurer: Beata King, TfL
- Members: Ritu Kumar, LB Ealing  
Shaun Spencer, LB Hackney  
Saeed Atlas, LB Harrow  
Graeme Low, LB Islington  
Andy Morgan, Kent County Council (LASER)  
Martin Keane, Royal Hospital for Neuro-Disability  
John Mitchinson, Southern Housing Group
- Observer: Yulia Treskova, LB Lewisham

### 3. Coping with the Corona Crisis

To help set the scene, Andy Morgan shared some reflections on how Kent County Council's net zero plans have been impacted by the pandemic:

- For our own estate, we'd developed a model that forecast business as usual (BAU) up to 2050, taking into account Government forecasts, greening of the grid, etc. We then extended the model further to get to net zero sooner (we have a 2030 target), including solar, reducing office space, heat pumps, thermal improvements, the Maidstone heat network, LEDs, EV fleet, reducing business mileage and offsetting anything left. We had already agreed a £1m/year energy efficiency investment pot, partly Salix funded and partly KCC money. We also had a paper already drafted based on the modelling requesting a £50m funding pot, which was due to be considered early May.
- Since Covid there has been both negative and positive impacts. In the short term:
  - o The meeting at which the paper was to be considered was cancelled and has not yet been rearranged, leaving us in limbo. It's likely that net zero will for some time be lower on the agenda than Covid, as you'd expect.
  - o We've also seen a delay in the central Government funding decision for some ERDF funding for our LO-CASE project and we don't know when that will come through.
  - o Access to buildings a lot more difficult, for example slowing down our LED roll out: we can't even get onsite to do surveys.
  - o DNO connections have also been delayed, eg for solar installations (although we did get one done this week)
- There are also longer term negative impacts:
  - o The likely financial impact is going to be significant for KCC (like other councils). The £50m may get diverted elsewhere, and some Elected Members are also thinking the £1m already allocated may be reassigned.
- On the more positive side:
  - o Lower economic activity is likely to lead to natural drop in carbon emissions, so we may meet our targets without taking action. However, there's a risk we'll be back where we started when the economy picks up so we must have actions in place.

- In our net zero carbon plans, we had expected to reduce office floor space area by 20%. However, based on what we've seen about capability to work from home, we've now increased this to 35% by 2030 and could even go further.
- We've also got a bolder ambition to reduce business miles. This was 25%: it's now a third 1/3 and we may be able to push further. Covid-19 has given us a baseline in terms of business miles, so we know what the minimum is required to cover the bear essentials (eg social care).
- We were bidding for HNIP funding for the for Maidstone network. It's been rumbling on for a couple of years and we thought the earliest we'd be ready to submit an application would be October. However, BEIS are keen we hurry up so are pushing us to bid in July. This has encouraged decision makers to take internal actions so it may happen more quickly than planned.
- KCC is leading the newly formed Kent Resilience Forum to plan infrastructure recovery after Covid. Members of the Sustainability Team have been invited to join to help plan for a green recovery

LBEG members were then put into breakout groups to discuss with colleagues how Covid-19 was impacting their zero carbon plans. Feedback from the groups was as follows:

- Harrow is starting to see a consumption reduction from their main sites and would be happy to share at a future meeting.
- We talked about ways in which you can attract Salix funding for new buildings (as opposed to retrofits) if you can prove potential savings in the changes to the design/build.
- Housing portfolio works have had to pause as contractors couldn't attend site, especially with vulnerable customers.
- Staff are tending to be redeployed rather than furloughed (with the exception of TfL). This might be because LA jobs aren't determined by profits!

#### **4. GreenSCIES Case Study Graeme Low, London Borough of Islington**

A copy of the presentation slides is available at <https://www.lbeg.org.uk/meetings/our-last-meeting-21st-may-2020/>

- GreenScCIES is an Innovate UK funded project developed in partnership with London South Bank University, TfL, E.On and several other partners, with the objective of creating a new energy system to reduce carbon emissions, reduce the cost of energy (heat and power) and facilitate the electrification of the urban transport in the local area. Other local authorities are also involved with the view to replicating the concept elsewhere.
- The scheme is based on a 5<sup>th</sup> generation ambient loop network, along side local renewable energy generation and vehicle-to-grid charging. We want to create a new type of energy system: local, low carbon and low cost. There will be no traditional fossil fuels.
- Phase 1 (2019) was a feasibility study: total funding £200k, Islington contribution £12k
- Phase 2 (2020-2022) is the detailed design, getting the project shovel ready: total funding £3m, Islington contribution £250k
- Phase 3 (2022-2024) will be the construction phase: funding TBC
- Islington's role is to ensure GreenSCIES delivers on fuel poverty alleviation, reduced impact on the environment and savings on the cost of living, in line with our Corporate Plan pledges (net zero carbon by 2030). We oversee the development of each stage of the process and lead on the commercial and legal development.
- Phase 2 only began a month or so ago. The next steps are stakeholder mapping and engagement, information gathering, learnings from Bunhill, and communication/dissemination.

Q1: How was the project initiated? And how is it being co-ordinated? It feels very complex. What's the anticipated payback on your investment?

A1: The wide partnership is due largely to the industry players involved – South Bank University, Carbon Descent: we used their networks to find partners and develop our approach. It made sense to us to support the project. We may need further funding in Phase 2 to do a very small pilot, but a demonstrator will hopefully get approval following the completion of the project. Our risk approach going forwards will be based on a balance between risk and financial reward: we're looking at financing options now.

Q2: Did you consider a water source heat pump?

A2: Yes, we had HNDU funding for a feasibility study for a WSHP in the City Road Basin. It might still be an option but it can be difficult (eg extraction issues). We're looking to see if the commercials stack up.

## **5. AOB**

Louise Coster (LB Camden) raised the issue of the closure – and possible extension – of the London Energy Project (LEP). LEP members had been emailed to by LB Haringey, asking for support for an extension to the MoA while new plans are put in place. There was a lengthy discussion about the details of this and it was decided that LBEG would a) encourage all members to respond to the LB Haringey email and b) request a deadline extension as many LBEG members had not been aware of the communications. An update on LEP will also be discussed at the next LBEG meeting (17<sup>th</sup> July 2020)