

Aston University

Sustainable Aston Working Group

Notes of the meeting held on 28 November 2011

Present:	David Aboulkheir	Rebekka Heitmar
	John Blewitt	Kathy Hopkin
	Andrew Bryers	Victoria Johnsen
	Alan Charters	Carole Parkes
	Stuart Cooper (Chair)	Elena Schad

In attendance: Julie Ottley (Secretary)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Lucy Bastin, Christopher Brewster, Peter Hedges, Helen Pattison and Peter Shearer.

2. Membership

Kathy Hopkin was welcomed to the Group as Lynnette Jones maternity cover for 12 months. The Group also welcomed two student representatives: David Aboulkheir and Elena Schad from the MSc Social Responsibility and Sustainability.

Victoria would be meeting the Guild President to discuss the Environment and Ethics Officer post which remained vacant.

3. Notes of last meeting

The notes of the previous meeting, held on 26 September 2011, were confirmed.

4. Matters arising

(i) Go Green Week

There would not be themed days this year.

There would be less presentations and more general drop-in events, including an Estates event to explain what is happening around campus.

There would be a screening of the film 'Green' and John Blewitt would be giving a presentation on sustainable architecture.

There would be a research display in the library or on the boulevard based around the recently published research brochure.

Members were asked to notify Victoria about events so that they could be added to the timetable.

ALL

(ii) EcoCampus

The system has to be in place for three months before the audit takes place, therefore, aiming for a Spring audit for platinum status.

Sophia was setting up in-house audit training based around current audit activities that take place.

Only a minority of universities have achieved platinum award.

(iii) Carbon Management Plan

This was reported to Council on 26 October with no issues raised.

5. Inspirational Guide

Aston Business School had been asked to contribute to The Inspirational Guide for the Implementation of the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME). This was as a result of being cited as an exemplar case study by HEFCE following research that they had carried out.

The Guide would be launched at the Rio Earth Summit in June 2012 and Carole Parkes would be representing the University and would also be a discussion leader.

The Group congratulated Carole on this wonderful achievement and it was agreed that this should be widely publicised.

6. LIFE

A new system had been launched this year, however, it had been decided not to participate this year and to review after the first year.

John Blewitt would try to get information on the learning, teaching and research aspect for further discussion.

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7. Annual Report and improved communications for the Group

Currently there was an Annual Report, Energy Report and Carbon Management Report and it was suggested that these be combined into an Estates Sustainability Report.

There would still need to be a report on learning, teaching and research, however, a better way of reporting on this needed to be established as the information was not coming through.

It was agreed that the School rep should report on activity at each meeting and this would be collated throughout the year.

There would then be a meeting in June to prepare the annual report.

8. **Other business**

KPI's

Victoria had received a copy of the suggested KPI's for sustainability and there was some concern about some of the targets.

It was agreed these would be discussed at the next meeting in January so that they could be finalised by March for approval by Council.

Birmingham Centre for Business Ethics (BCBE)

The Centre was being endowed to Aston and will become a centre within Aston in January/February 2012.

Sir Adrian Cadbury would continue as Honorary President.

It was suggested that the launch event could take place during Go Green Week.

2020 Strategy

The sustainability section of the 2020 Strategy would be circulated to members.

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9. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting would be in January, date to be advised.

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