LINK Economics Group Meeting

24 July 2019, 10.00 – 12.00

Dolphin House, 4 Hunter Sq, EH1 1QW

**Note of meeting**

**1 Attending:**

Phoebe Cochrane – LINK

Catherine Gemmell – MCS

Matthew Crighton – FoES

Dennis Mollison - HWDT

**2 Minutes and matters arising**

The minutes were approved.

Several **actions** are on-going:

* Phoebe and Pete to articulate vision for circular agriculture for Agriculture Bill
* Phoebe and Pete to agree wording on how we would like circularity to be reflected in the Land Use Strategy.
* Phoebe and Bruce to work on an Economics Group position on our agricultural footprint
* Pete to ask ZWS for a meeting an agriculture and to discuss their framing of CE and the bio-economy and thoughts on a Agricultural bill.

**3 Circular Economy for a Fairer Footprint**

**A CEFF report** had been circulated.

**Workplan:**

Phoebe reported that, in addition to the organisations listed in the CEFF report, UNISON had signed up, Coastal Communities Network are very likely to sign-up and Scottish Renewables are also interested.

Gaps in Call sign-up.

**Matthew** to pursue SCDI, COSLA, SSN

**Phoebe** to pursue SCVO

Engaging with LAs. Check with Jenni re which LAs supported HYGTB and ask them to support our Call (**Phoebe**).

Also to contact Heads of Environment / Sustainability in each Council to ask what they are doing in terms of CE **(Phoebe**). This would be in anticipation of an event for LAs which we could potentially organise with COSLA / SSN.

Publicising support. Ask all who have signed up to tweet that they are supporting and inviting others who might be interested to also support. Send example tweets (**Phoebe).** Gathering supporters for a meeting and a photo opportunity to ‘launch the coalition’ and offering Herald (or other) an exclusive. Discussed different ideas – people standing in a circle in an open space, something at Remakery or Changeworks. **Phoebe** to take forward.

Infographic. To be used with tweets and other comms. Would need to contact a graphic designer. Agreed that key points circulated are good and could form the content for the infographic. **Phoebe**

Meeting agreed to pursue initial enquiry made by Phoebe with Leeds University to provide more detailed information on Scotland’s carbon footprint. **(Phoebe)**

Catherine also noted that MCS have data available from all their beach cleans which could be analysed on a Scottish level, either in terms of type of litter, locations or sources. Bear in mind if we get volunteer or MSC dissertation ideas requests.

It was noted that, at some time, we need to have a brain storm on the raft of policies needed to drive a transition to a CE.  **Phoebe** to arrange.

**Advisory Group.**

Discussed that we would like to have expertise available on metrics and data, regulatory powers, macro-economics, waste and recycling and (maybe) plastics, farming and energy infrastructure. Noted that it would give the project credibility to be seen to be supported by expertise and that it is attractive for academics to demonstrate impact. However, we are struggling to identify individuals whom might be able to help. It may be that the contact at Leeds University would be happy to be associated with the project. It was noted that it would be best to approach people with a specific formulated question rather than a vague request to offer support. It was also noted that we might develop useful expert contacts amongst the organisations who have signed up to support our call.

**4 Bills**

The meeting heard a very brief update on the passage of Climate Change Bill. Whether the amendment regarding the JT Commission is adopted will depend on resolving an issue with associated financial costs. The SNIB bill was discussed. Noted that, although we have been assured that CE will be ‘included’ in the carbon neutral mission, it would be good if it was explicitly written in (very unlikely) and we need to be mindful that it is not forgotten.

**5 Economics Group – other areas of interest**

* Just Transition. Matthew updated the meeting that Ryan Morrison is taking up the position working on JT for FoES. Matthew will be working for the JT Partnership secretariat. Also, in relation to this, Matthew highlighted the campaign to bring jobs related to new offshore wind contracts to the Bifab yard in Fife – LINK has been approached by UNISON to support a campaign. We agreed that this is in principal something that we could ask members of the EG to sign up to, given LINK’s interest in and discussions about Just Transition at previous network meetings. **Phoebe** to just check with Alice and Deborah and **Matthew** to see if there is a paper to which we could request sign-up.
* National Performance Framework. No open reviews. **Phoebe** to check if there is anything we need to be aware of.
* Economic Strategy. **Matthew** to develop a brief paper on why we need a new Economic Strategy. To be followed by getting a PQ along the lines of ‘Given the commitment to review all policy areas in light of the Climate Emergency, is the Economic Strategy going to be refreshed?’
* Matthew

**6 Other updates**

MCS working with ASH and will be asking the Expert Panel to consider cigarette filters.

**7 Next meeting**

Phoebe to schedule for 3rd week in September.