

Environmental Task Group

Tuesday 16th Jan 2019

Estates Boardroom

1. Welcome and apologies

Present:	School/Dept
Prof Colin Reid (CR)	Prof of Environmental Law
Trudy Cunningham (TC)	Environment & Sustainability Officer
Scott Robertson (SR)	Hospitality and Conference Manager
Derek Mitchell (DM)	Energy Manager
Dave Broadfoot (DB)	DUSA, Facility Manager
Moira Dean (MD)	DUSA, Retail Manager
Lois Glithero (LG)	DUSA SRC Environment Rep
Scott Trayner (ST)	Procurement
Stewart Kerr (SK)	Procurement
Nick Helps	Safety
Karen Brough (KB)	Estates

Apologies:

Aidan McColgan, Mark Stephenson, Becky Myles.

2. Minutes of last meeting and Matter Arising.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved with several points noted – for ease of reference many of the matters raised at this point of the meeting are noted along with the substantive discussion later:

From the June 2018 minutes Becky Myles sent the following note to be added:

The legacy Water Cooler contract awarded using the ESPO framework has been reviewed after 5 years. TC's preference to stay with current provider if possible due to possible high cost to change and good maintenance and callout services to date. BM negotiated with Maestro and awarded a new term contract using the new Scotland Excel framework delivering a saving of £7.5K with no change in provision.

3. Progress Report

Water Coolers:

There are now 145 plumbed-in machines on campus, with some additional ones being connected. We switched contractors in December. There are still over 100 places with bottled water coolers, e.g. in the Tower, essentially because plastic pipework from chiller cannot be run for more than 10 metres from a mains supply. It was suggested that we should be using biodegradable paper cones although they cost more, rather than buying plastic cups. SK to

contact TC. TC to conduct a review of plumbed in water coolers that are not being used at all and review the problem areas.

Action : TC and SK to check.

Plastic/Food Waste:

Every office has a food waste bin. There are 6 external food bins, but each has been contaminated with non-food waste. There is an education issues in relation to the design of the signage and getting people to pay attention to this, with particular problems when people are affected by alcohol. DB suggested more bins that can be locked before night events at DUSA.

TC wants to reduce the number of bins. There are new bins designed in America which automatically sense and sort waste— TC to contact Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS) to ask if we could trial such bins here. Dundee City Council have changed their waste streams and cans and plastics are now to be put in the same bin.

Suggestions or ideas wanted on how to stop contaminations. It was considered that the Scottish Government need to take the problem on board and have a joined up approach. All councils have different coloured bins and waste streams—which is very confusing for user. Also there are now more private waste companies coming on board –sometimes with different coloured branding from local authorities.

Waste and health and safety issues are incorporated within Safety Services.

Action: TC

There has been a campus litter pick and collection of discarded bottle caps, with the water bottles distributed by DUSA remaining a significant source of litter.

Action: TC to contact DUSA.

UoDIT:

The shut-down of personal computers should be an automatic shutdown, with computers switching to a saving mode. This should be part of the roll-out of Windows 10 by UoDIT.

Action: TC to look into MACS at DJCAD

Energy Projects:

The Salix funded projects were continuing, with work in the Matthew Building being done as part of the refurbishment there. Other work includes LED lighting in MSI, photo-voltaic cells on the Crawford Building and work on external security lighting. It was noted that even though the savings may not be great, they are a visible sign of activity on good projects.

A problem had been identified with some LED lights where a flicker that is usually not noticed can cause sickness for some people. Care must be taken to ensure that the correct fittings are used. Safety services investigated the problem and new bulbs were fitted.

Action: DM

Electric Vehicles and Chargers:

The University now has a new electric van.

The City Council is to start charging a fee for recharging electric vehicles and the University will be following suit, so that all people using chargers on University Campus will be charged.

It is unclear whether the power supply linked to the demolished Micro-Computing Centre is being kept, affecting the ability to provide charging capacity.

The questions of chargers being “blocked” by vehicles being left after the charging is complete and of unauthorised access to chargers will have to be kept under review.

Cycle projects:

There is a new rack beside the Tower Building and shelter by the old Biological Sciences Institute.

There will be opportunities to hire electric bikes and charging points will be provided.

The cycle path along the docks to Broughty Ferry is now open (avoiding the need to show ID to enter dock property) but the Cycling Forum is challenging the City Council on its level of spending on cycling matters.

A Travel Survey, for staff and students, is planned to go out later this month. Results from this will help inform the new transport strategy for the University.

It was noted that the Ninewells travel group is managed by NHS Tayside –TC is a member as we have many staff working at Ninewells.

Procurement

It was noted that other universities don't measure the procurement carbon footprint, raising the issue of whether the University should do the same. We have some figures on savings but more work would be needed to get the overall picture.

4. Review of Policies and Climate Change

It was noted that climate change does not appear on the University's Risk Register and that the University's Carbon Board has lapsed. The University may be participating in a City Adaptation Group, with Dundee City Council, Abertay University and Dundee and Angus College.

TC is to meet with ST re Fair Trade Policy, noting that we now have to pay NUS 1800 year for Fair Trade recognition.

Action: TC

5. Botanic Garden, campus grounds and BSI Allotment.

There is now no curator for the Botanic Garden, which is being managed by Bob Sutherland but he retires later this year. It is believed that a post will be advertised.

The allotments by the BSI are now in operation, using links with experienced gardeners to assist students.

There is a shortage of outdoor benches around campus. It would be useful to have a policy on this and a standard design, potentially linking with the opportunity for these to be provided through donations.

6. DUSA

DUSA is considering waste issues, including signage and publicity. Investigations have started on the use of different water bottles, with attached "sports caps" to avoid litter problems, and whether the provision of water fountains could eliminate the need for bottles. Various waste streams are now all in place, with many bin changes and new design of posters. Reusable coffee cups, biodegradable cups, disposable cutlery and paper straws are also being considered, along with LED lighting and the use of plastic bags in the shops.

At Dundee and Angus College, the Gardyne Road, Kingsway and Arbroath Campus have banned sales of all plastic water bottles. A similar move here would entail a big loss to DUSA.

Action: TC meet with DUSA.

7. A.O.B.

Thanks to Trudy Cunningham for all her continuing hard work.

8. Date of next meeting

To be arranged for late in the second semester.