

Commission meeting, 3.00 - 5.30pm, 15 June 2022

Draft Minutes

1	<p><u>Welcome and introductions.</u> Apologies from Melanie Taylor, Simon Pringle, Amir Hussein, Councillor Matthews, Eugene Walker (covering for Kate Josephs), Sarah Pemberton, Sajalu Dahal and Becki Hart.</p>
2	<p><u>Action Log and Minutes from the last meeting</u> The Actions had either been dealt with or are covered during this meeting, except for the need for a co-chair for the Land, Water, Nature and Food panel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commissioners were asked to contact the Co-Directors or Rachael Bice for recommendations for a Co-Chair for the LWNF Panel. <p>There were no comments on the Minutes and they were approved.</p>
3	<p><u>Commission work plan update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andy Gouldson presented Paper 1 ‘Delivering Impact Sessions Brief’. - The process around the Delivering Impact Sessions includes; a briefing from the Research and Evidence Panel, preparation, planning and delivery of the Delivering Impact session, the production of outputs which are scrutinised by the public on the online digital platform and finally approved by the panel chairs. - The process will result in an 18-month stream of consultation activities from a diverse range of people - The key ask for Commissioners is that they take note of the Delivering Impact sessions and get involved in sessions that are appropriate to them. • The Co-Directors presented Paper 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tables showed the YHCC structure, including renaming the Climate Resilience and Net Zero Workings Groups as ‘Panels’ and the three main Pathways to Impact of the Commission - An updated version of the timetable of the Delivering Impact sessions was shared and a flow chart of the Policy discussion development & links to action delivery & State of Region Report Development - A RAG rating Progress update table demonstrated progress so far on the 23 Actions - The 23 specific actions for the Commission have been linked to the 50 actions for the region. Some gaps have been identified.

Key Comments

- What will be the impact of the 50 actions and how will we show what we've done?
 - The Delivering Impact sessions will take us through the process and identify what should be done next, for example this could be to identify areas where we influence National Policy through the action of the Regional Policy Forum.
 - Impact is the aim
 - Academics in contact with Yorkshire Universities are keen to deliver research that leads to impact and contributes to policy.
 - Yorkshire Universities are happy to support with the pledge work.
 - Commissioners have requested the spreadsheet version of the slide showing progress on the 23 actions.
 - The aviation statement is an output, but not an impact. What else needs to happen to use it for impact?
 - To have impact on aviation we could mobilise around National Government referencing the 6th carbon budget and there could also be supplementary actions
 - With the National and Regional Policy Forums, we need to be very clear about what we want, and we will need a clear understanding of new policies post-election in 2024.
 - Videos should be used in addition to commentaries, to communicate to a wider audience
- Rosa Foster presented Paper 3 'Climate Pledge update'
- The climate pledge will require a similar amount of structure and thinking as the Delivering Impact sessions
 - The key ask for Commissioners is to join the Climate Pledge Task and Finish group.
 - In response to feedback on the draft Climate Pledge presented at the March Commission meeting, the most recent draft incorporates all sizes of business, has a tiered approach and a mechanism for Climate Leaders to increase their impact.

Paper 3 slide 6 has a diagram showing the tiered approach the Climate Pledge.

Key Comments

- It is important to get the support package for the Climate Pledge right first.
- The tiering of the pledge will assist with getting the right kind of support, for example, allowing a company with nothing in place to go from 'none' to 'some'.
- We are looking to partner with as many organisations as we can
- There is a plan to develop an online cpd programme, which will incorporate the 4 aims of the Commission plus Leadership

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support will include a network for businesses that have signed the pledge, sponsored by key organisations plus partnership with organisations like Carbon Literacy - Recent versions of the pledge have more focus on the private sector but Local Authorities and the public sector should be incorporated. - Trade Unions can be used to develop the climate agenda amongst the workforce. Using language like “unions” “rights” “just transitions” would strengthen the pledge. Working with Unions will allow a ‘bottom up’ approach, to complement the ‘top down’ approach of working with companies. <p>Action 20: Commissioners invited to join the Climate Pledge Task and Finish Group by emailing yhclimate@leeds.ac.uk</p> <p>Action 15: The spreadsheet showing progress against the 23 actions to be shared with Commissioners</p> <p>Action 21: Commissioners to use the timetable of Delivering Impact Sessions (Paper 2) to identify sessions appropriate for them to get involved in. And to get involved in the process of nominating speakers for the Delivering Impact Sessions.</p> <p>Action 22: YHCC Secretariat Team to develop a clear and simple mechanism for this.</p>
4	<p>Updates were given from the fora, panels and working groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National and regional policy fora • Climate resilience working group • Net zero working group • Research & evidence panel • Communities & engagement panel • Land, water, nature and food • Future economy panel <p>The reports from each group are in Paper 4 ‘Updates from the Working Groups and Panels’.</p>
5	<p><u>‘3 in 60’ Session on Fuel Poverty</u></p> <p>National Energy Action – Lorraine Donaldson Action for Warm Homes – see attached presentation</p> <p>Energy Savings Trust – Sean Lemon Overcoming barriers to fuel poverty mitigation – see attached presentation</p> <p>Community Energy England – Duncan Law Community Energy and Fuel Poverty – see attached presentation</p> <p><u>Comments from the Q&A</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NEA recommends the Commission find out what’s happening in the region and make a plan to fill in the gaps.

- Regarding the challenge this winter, there is good support available but it needs to be promoted to everyone.
- Could the hotspots campaign be re-instated; partners included the NHS, Energy Savings Trust etc?
- Direct action is being taken by Local Authorities but funding is an issue. Local Authorities regularly make funding bids for large scale retrofit.
- Action can be enforced on Private Landlords by using epc ratings f and g, but they also face funding problems.
- Short-term action is needed because the situation is urgent. Longer-term action needs to address the systemic issues.
- Retrofit in the long term should produce homes that hardly need any energy.
- Longer term policy certainty is required rather than stop start policies.
- There are 400,000 homes in fuel poverty and 100,000 of those are households with multiple deprivation. Do we have the skills in the Future Economy Panel to address that level of retrofit?
- Cheap emergency measures for energy efficiency will save lives and enable people to come onsite which potentially will lead them to become energy champions and be open to bigger steps for example, installing a heat pump.
- The problem foremost in peoples' minds is to be safe and comfortable and social media campaigns should begin there.

Comments from the Chat

- *Friends of the Earth has mapped fuel poverty at LSOA level across England. <https://mapst.ac/foe/fuel-poverty#6.17/53/-2.75>*
- *The fuel poverty split between public and private housing in the region - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1056777/annual-fuel-poverty-statistics-lilee-report-2022-2020-data.pdf section 3.2.*
- *Friends of the Earth have mapped fuel poverty levels against housing tenure at LSOA level. To access our data on fuel poverty and housing tenure, go to <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/near-me> - type in your post code, scroll down to "Find out more about your neighbourhood", click on the Homes tab and scroll down to the map.*
- *There has to be a link between rising fuel poverty and ill health, which is forcing people out of the labour market. The number of people leaving the labour market is at its highest level in 15 years. It illustrates how we need a systems approach to tackle poverty and inequalities.*
- *We need really careful consideration on the basic allowance idea. Many of the fuel poor are in the least efficient houses, needing a lot more energy just to achieve basic warmth. What could be achieved in shorter term (I think) is*

	<p><i>shifting the burden of social/environmental levies from electricity to gas. This should incentivise lower carbon heating and give better fuel/cost benefits for installing energy efficient measures which we know have the longer-term benefit. Difficult area though, the energy market is notoriously slow at changing market infrastructure.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Electricity is cheaper now than ever. The energy price crisis isn't energy price - it's a fossil fuel price crisis and should be talked about as such.</i> - <i>In retrofitting for energy, that we also retrofit for the climate conditions that we will be facing.</i> - <i>Also, let's not retrofit houses which are unsustainable because of flooding. Tough messages in here but important we face difficult truths so we can use the limited resources effectively.</i> - <i>Scaling Up Better Homes:</i> https://westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s17777/Item%206%20-Appendix%202%20SUBHY Full Report.pdf - <i>Peter O'Brien to find out if any research has been done on mapping fuel poverty to future climate risk. Or could be done.</i> - <i>The national grid has created an app called 'when to plug in' which uses live carbon intensity to determine the best times to use energy, based on your location - letting you know when energy in your home is cleanest.</i> - <i>The skills for insulation are critical and less similar to existing skill bases than for PV. The number of skilled people needed is also huge. There is a need for advisors who select impartially the correct approach for each home, rather than selling an inappropriate technology. Doing the wrong work is the worst thing to do in a climate emergency.</i>
6	<p><u>Aviation</u></p> <p>Andy Gouldson presented Paper 3 as a revised version of the Commission's position statement on aviation. He briefly explained the edits made in response to comments at the last Commission meeting and in subsequent emails. The main changes were to divide the statement into two, with part 1 hopefully proposing actions that the Commissioners all agree on, and part 2 proposing further actions that many but not all Commissioners agree on.</p> <p><u>Key Comments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some disappointment was expressed that the paper is silent on the expansion of airports within the region, with the view that some constituencies would be looking to Y&HCC to make a clear statement on this issue. In response, AG

	<p>stated that the Commission had deliberately not commented on specific planning issues in the position paper.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There was discussion on whether a national aviation strategy consistent with the 6th Carbon Budget could still be compatible with limited airport expansion or increases in flying. It was highlighted that any increases in emissions from one sector would demand further, faster reductions in emissions from other sectors and more reliance on the net part of net zero and that the Commission should make any constraints and trade-offs very clear in our communications.
	<p><u>Communications and Engagement update</u> There was not time for this item. The information is included in Paper 6 'Commonplace Platform' which is attached.</p>
7	<p>Priorities for next meeting and AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face to face Commission meetings - We are hoping to run the next Commission as a hybrid event (with face to face and virtual options, hopefully in Sheffield), with a reception afterwards so we can finally meet face to face. • Thinking beyond March 2024 - We are just starting to open discussions on what happens when the Commission meeting completes its first 3-year period. • Ideas for the next 3 in 60 meeting - There is a proposal to focus on land use, building on the nature-based solutions event on 15 June but other ideas were invited.

Annex 1 Attendees

Chair Liz Barber,

Vice Chairs

Cllr Jack Hemingway, Deputy Leader of Wakefield Council

Cllr Richard Cooper, Leader of Harrogate Borough Council

Co-Directors

Prof Andy Gouldson, University of Leeds

Rosa Foster, University of Leeds and Environment Agency

Senior Officer Nominees

Polly Cook, Senior Officer for Sustainable Energy and Air Quality, Leeds City Council

Martin Budd, on behalf of Mark Jones, Hull City Council
Wallace Sampson, Chief Executive, Harrogate Borough Council

Commissioners

Alexis Percival, Environmental and Sustainability Manager, Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Amandeep Kaur Mann, Eco-Sikh
Claire Wiley, RYCA
Dr Jatinder Singh Mehmi, Sikh Alliance Yorkshire
Dr Peter O'Brien, Executive Director, Yorkshire Universities
Dr Siobhan Laird, Director, South Yorkshire Climate Alliance
Emma Bridge, Chief Executive, Community Energy England
Emma Richards, Project Leader, The Carbon Literacy Project
Gordon Rogers, Head of Sustainability, United Utilities
Helen Slinger, Head of Sustainable Business, Yorkshire Water
Jenny Patient (representing Bill Adams), Just Transition Officer, TUC in Yorkshire
Kate Adams, Environmental and Land Use Advisor, NFU Northeast Region
Martyn Broadest, Executive Director, Connect Housing Association
Natasha Nauth, Relationship Director, NatWest
Nigel Foster, Director, Fore Consulting
Oliver Harmar, Area Director for Yorkshire, Environment Agency
Peter Cole, Principal Environmental and Sustainability Officer, Transport for the North
Philip Holdgate, Head of Production Sustainability, ITV Studios
Rachael Bice, Chief Executive, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Rob Purdy, Director of Balance Sheet Management, YBS
Roz Davies, NHS
Representative from RYCA
Sarah Clark, Operations Manager, Aura Innovation Centre, University of Hull
Simon Bowens, Regional Campaign Organiser for Yorkshire and the North East, Friends of the Earth
Stuart Strathdee, Teacher, Greenhead College.

Secretariat

Jane Stanbury, Secretariat Coordinator
Kathryn Lock, Policy and Communications Manager
Amelia Duncan, Policy Fellow
Simon Moore, Communication Officer