

## **Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission meeting 8 March 2023**

### **Commission Panel updates:**

This paper is for information. It provides a brief update of the work of each of the Commissions' Panels, in order to provide transparency and visibility across the Commission.

#### **1. Climate Adaptation & Resilience:**

##### 1.1. Focus during last 3 months

Two DI Sessions hosted: People & Communities; and Infrastructure.

The Infrastructure paper is being finalised at the moment with input from the Panel on the priority actions identified.

The panel has decided to keep the People & Communities Paper on hold. The session and paper will be put onto Common Place for consultation, but it is the view of the Panel that this is best done when we have had the DI sessions on Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response; and on Health and Wellbeing. This will enable the Panel to cross-reference the proposed actions and sense check them.

As well as getting the Local Authority Climate Adaptation Programme underway, we are also working with colleagues in NHS England (North East) and the three ICBs to support a Climate Change Risk Assessment Pilot. The learning from this will inform NHS England's approach to adaptation and resilience.

##### 1.2 Progress on any key actions that the panel is enabling

In almost every conversation around adaptation & resilience, someone asks "what will it be like?" or "what does it mean for me?" or "The models are too abstract, and it's all too uncertain - I don't know where to begin".

The technical language that comes from the climate models loses even those who work in climate risk mitigation. We know we must take care when describing possible futures as there is a lot of uncertainty. But we can and need to do more to communicate what it could be like in maybe 2 or 3 types of future.

We have been developing our thinking around creating a product called Possible Future (Climate) Narratives, and are building connections through the UK Climate Resilience programme network, with Exeter University ([LACT](#)) and the UEA, to ensure we are not duplicating effort & making best use of the outstanding work being done mapping climate models to impacts (especially on health).

We believe this product will in effect provide a key that will unlock considerable resilience planning and adaptive actions across multiple sectors in the region. This work links to a series of actions in the Framework for Change section, as well as Action 14.

##### 1.3 Key reflections for the commission's awareness

There is growing momentum and an increasing network forming around the critical issue of health inequalities and climate impact. We are delighted the YHCC and the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Panel is able to provide a focal point for this absolutely essential work to develop. We are very optimistic about the traction, and so impact, that our DI session on Health, Wellbeing & Climate will have. Hold the date so you can join us on the 9th June!

#### 1.4 Forward look

Our next Delivering Impact session is on Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response (EPPR). We have developed this session in close collaboration with the secretariats of the three Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) in the Y&H region.

In the same way you wouldn't try and run the health system through A&E, we shouldn't try and manage climate change impacts through the LRFs or EPPR.

What is, could and should the role of an LRF be in the future? How can we support them to develop a longer term strategic vision?

We would love you to join us: Tuesday 18 April: [Registration link](#).

## **2. Net Zero**

### 2.1. Focus during last 3 months

- Have now completed two Delivering Impact sessions: retrofit and new build and planning. Sessions were both well attended and had lively discussions. Next DI session is on 22nd March and is covering Energy Supply & Distribution.
- New Paper is now underway, panel are feeding into it post-DI session. Looking at the wider system of enabling new builds, building on the work of the regional policy forum.

### 2.2. Progress on any key actions that the panel is enabling

On homes and buildings, retrofit session focused on developing a regional framework for retrofit delivery. This has now had 8 weeks on Commonplace and received 77 comments. We will now review and produce a final position statement.

### 2.3. Key reflections for the commission's awareness

- Ensuring that health and equality is central to the work: Transport session will focus on modal shift given the local powers on the highway network and the clear link to health and equality. In the writing of both draft and final DI session reports, we will ensure that equity is prominent.

### 2.4. Forward look

- We are working with NHS colleagues on the goal of signing up all ICBs across the region to the Climate Pledge
- Funding secured for regional carbon accounts project: Andy is working with PCAN colleagues to think about where funding is best directed, either at land use carbon or consumption based accounting. Panel have been feeding into this process.

### **3. Land Water Nature Food:**

#### **3.1 Focus during last 3 months**

- Explorations continue around a regional land use framework and the opportunities this could provide.
- Key topic areas have been nature's recovery including 30 by 30 which will be explored further in this quarter's 3 in 60; land use for climate mitigation including and exploration of Nature-based Solutions.
- We heard from speakers including Professor Sir John Lawton; David Renwick; Cllr Paula Widdowson; Dr Nicky Rivers and Alison Smith.

#### **3.2 Progress on any key actions that the panel is enabling**

- The LWNF panel have now held three Delivering Impact sessions (food systems, nature's recovery and land use for climate mitigation).
- Two draft papers have been published for public feedback (food systems and nature's recovery) and have received 88 responses to date on Commonplace.
- Our network is developing, with many speakers from our sessions to date offering further expertise, support and tools that are useful for the region.

#### **3.3 Key reflections for the commission's awareness**

- The work on land use is strongly connected to the workstreams of other panels & the regional policy forum and we are working to ensure these conversations are shared beyond the scope of LWNF panel members.
- There is growing momentum on the conversation around nature and land use, particularly in light of ELMs, the Environmental Improvement Plan and the pending release of LNRS guidance and the land use framework pilots running in Devon and Cambridgeshire.

#### **3.4 Forward look**

- Next DI session on Cultural Adaptation is coming up on April 4th
- A full-day, in-person, panel workshop is taking place in March to further explore the possibilities of a regional land use framework that compliments national plans but recognises the unique context of the diversity of Yorkshire and the Humber and what the region can deliver.
- Meeting is set with Defra to explore options for region as a pilot in land use

## **4. Future Economy**

### 4.1. Focus during last 3 months

- Key focus on bringing in new members to the panel and have welcomed new members from further education, Greater Lincolnshire LEP and private sector transport.
- The DI session on SMEs and Business Support in February went well and we are now looking forward to a session on finance and investment in April.
- Green Jobs and Skills is now on Commonplace – we have taken a look at what is holding back the key actors in the skills system from making the next step forward, and have outlined some draft recommendations. Please share with your networks, take a look and comment. Your feedback at this stage is extremely valuable. Only 8 comments so far, so please share!

### 4.2. Progress on any key actions that the panel is enabling

- On jobs and skills, A key recommendation from the Green Jobs and Skills session was how we could support the development of Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) and ensure that we take the opportunity for enabling green skills in the region. We are now progressing this idea, alongside a session with the regional policy forum.
- On economic development, DI sessions are progressing our exploration of the future economy principles for how climate and nature can be fully integrated into economic development in the region.
- On finance and investment, the DI session in April will look at how we attract investment to the region, building on the work from other topic-specific DI sessions, e.g. the role of investment has been a key part of the Energy and Retrofit conversations.

### 4.3. Key reflections for the commission's awareness

- Attendance for DI sessions has varied depending on the subject matter - Green Jobs & Skills is very topical, therefore was very well attended. SMEs and Business support went well but had lower attendance.
- We've noted that it can be easy to fall into the trap of focusing on net zero in future economy DI sessions and recommendations. We are making efforts to ensure that adaptation and nature are further embedded into the work.

### 4.4. Forward look

- We are beginning to think about whether there is value in a just transition target for the region, or if we should encourage wider adoption of just transition plans. Many organisations across the region are already developing

and committing to transition plans; the just transition is a key pillar of our work that could be strengthened and legitimised by a target.

## **5. Research & Evidence**

### 5.1. Focus during last 3 months

- The main activity has been smoothing the pathways to engagement for academics with the Delivering Impact Sessions, and regular dissemination of opportunities, which has resulted in an increase in academics engaging with the sessions.
- The Yorkshire Policy Engagement Research Network (Y-PERN) held its launch event at the University of Leeds on January 19-20th - more about the network and [the recordings of the presentations can be found here](#). The REP will look to work with Y-PERN over the coming months to identify areas for collaboration to support the YHCC.
- Yorkshire Universities and Yorkshire and Humber Councils, with the research input of Y-PERN academics, have commissioned work to scope the development of a Yorkshire-wide Vitality Index. Phase 1 of the exercise, consultations with stakeholders, has been completed, and the YHCC team will be invited to join a Development Group that will take this work forward.

### 5.2. Forward look

With the launch of the Y-PERN, we are keen to keep alignment between the goals of the network and YHCC including in the development of a Yorkshire Vitality Index.

## **6. Communities & Engagement**

### 6.1 Focus during last 3 months

- A research group of faith representatives was arranged and contacts have been reached to find out what content would be preferable in a series of Faith in the Environment events (working title)
- Jon K Edwards support has been very helpful especially collating the ideas from his panel survey through the creation of a Comms and Engagement plan
- Climate Action Leeds representative attended a meeting to share community led projects and approaches

### 6.2. Progress on any key actions that the panel is enabling

- A virtual event will be planned for spring regarding the faith topic. It seems too soon in the engagement process to try and hold an in person event but this will be considered in future

- Following this initial online faith event there needs to be more events and opportunities for communities to participate in a live situation in addition to Commonplace.

### 6.3. Key reflections for the Commission's awareness

- There is a feeling amongst some members that this panel needs more steer from other panel priorities so we can be more joined up and complement each others work. The synergies and requirements could be drawn out better.
- In addition to Commonplace the panel feels we do need to offer spaces online and in person for people to have live personal interactions with inspiring community leaders involved in climate change work.

### 6.4. Forward look

- Community Energy England representative will be delivering a presentation at the next meeting for the panel to find out more about possibilities in the region
- Commonplace is a big priority this quarter to promote it and encourage more participation from communities as well as to research and map existing work to help increase the platform content and networking opportunities for people
- Organising the online faith event series and gauging interest for other topics using popular Y&H social media groups.

## **7. Regional Policy Forum:**

### 7.1 Focus during last 3 months

The Regional Policy Forum met on 20<sup>th</sup> February and the main item for discussion was our shared planning policy principles and our response to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) consultation. This work was produced through an extensive collaboration with RPF participants and planning specialists from around the region, through two task & finish workshops. The response was submitted to government on 1<sup>st</sup> March and we will be communicating about it widely very soon. Andrew Wood will be giving a presentation about this work later on the Commission's agenda, with an opportunity for discussion as part of the focus session on nature's recovery.

### 7.2 Progress on any key actions that the Forum is enabling

The YHCC response to the NPPF consultation was submitted

### 7.3 Key reflections for the Commission's awareness

The aim of the planning policy principles is to recognise that local authorities in the region have a shared ambition to see the planning system work better in delivering

climate action. Whilst they all have different circumstances and may be pursuing a different mix of solutions, there's clearly a broad agreement that national planning policy needs to be more enabling. The principles can have a role in collectively seeking to influence government, through our National Policy Forum, going into greater detail than the Climate Action Plan about the planning system can make better, more climate-responsible places. And they can also be a point of reference for local authorities and other organisations when reviewing their plans and programmes to use as they see fit.

#### 7.4 Forward look

We will be seeking the support of the Yorkshire Leaders' Board on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, as this will lend additional weight to the principles as evidence of our collective appetite for a better planning system.

The next Regional Policy Forum on 15<sup>th</sup> May will be focusing on jobs and skills, and in particular the potential of Local Skills Improvement Partnerships to help engender local economies to improve their climate outcomes and a just transition.