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**Communities & Engagement Panel - Terms of Reference**

**June 2023**

**Overall focus**

To progress the Yorkshire & Humber Climate Action Plan by encouraging action on climate and nature within communities; to listen to community voices on climate; and to promote principles of inclusive public engagement within organisations across the region.

**Primary objectives**

1. Scoping, collating and engaging the networks, community groups and public engagement initiatives operating in the climate and nature space in the Yorkshire and Humber region
2. Engage networks and organisations working with communities, encouraging climate conversations and action, especially working with under-represented groups; identify opportunities for direct public engagement.
3. Encourage community voices to input into the Commission’s work, via the Commonplace platform and other opportunities.
4. Identify and share principles, methods and examples of public engagement, outreach initiatives and community climate action projects in Yorkshire and Humber and elsewhere in the United Kingdom; recommend how this can be scaled up or replicated; utilise within the panel’s ongoing work.
5. Promote principles of inclusion and engagement around a just transition to a net zero region.
6. Make recommendations to the wider Commission on issues relating to communities and engagement and feed into future reports and proposals developed by the Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission.
7. Help develop a positive vision for the region, and make the links between the global context and local communities

**Key responsibilities of members**

1. To help scope networks, communities and ongoing or successful public engagement initiatives on climate change and climate action.
2. To disseminate good practice and successful initiatives on public engagement with communities through their own networks and/or reaching out to new networks across the region or through direct engagement with communities.
3. Take responsibility for streams of work emerging from the panel working with the Engagement & Impact Officer and reporting back to the panel.
4. To communicate the Regional Action Plan and Commission consultations and events to their networks in the Yorkshire and Humber region

**Governance**

The Panel is led by two Co-Chairs who are chosen by the Commission Team via an open process. At least one of the Co-Chairs should be a Commissioner and take part in Leadership Group meetings and feedback the work of the panel to the wider Commission at the Commission meeting.

Other members of the panel are invited by the Co-Chairs. Members of the public can apply to be members of the panel.

**Meeting arrangements**

The Panel meets monthly online (alternating morning and afternoons). This is usually a closed session but from time to time the panel may decide to open up the meeting to the wider public.

The meeting is quorate if there is the presence of one of the Co-Chairs or the Engagement & Impact Officer or Co-Director, plus four other panel members.

**Actions in the Climate Action Plan most relevant to the panel**

***Framework for Change:***

* Develop a positive vision that shows how ambitious action on climate and nature can make Yorkshire & Humber a happier, healthier and more prosperous place.
* Commit to a just transition that ensures climate actions actively reduce existing inequalities and empower and enable all people from across the region to have a say
* Advance education and engagement by integrating climate and nature into the curriculum in schools, colleges and universities, and by promoting climate outreach and carbon literacy.

***Climate Resilience:***

* Develop better climate risk communications
* Promote inclusive climate decision making and the co-creation of solutions
* Promote resilience actions that offer health, wellbeing and community benefits
* Develop a whole of society approach to emergency response

***Net Zero:***

* Put the primary emphasis on reducing energy demand
* Promote significant expansions in community energy and distributed renewables
* Deliver ambitious retrofit for housing
* Promote public transport
* Enable active travel
* Minimise the need for private car ownership
* Promote sustainable production, consumption and lifestyles