

YHCC Main Commission Meeting

Wednesday 16 July 2025

15.00 - 17.30

Ferens Gallery, Hull

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

Minutes and actions from the previous meetings

The minutes were approved.

Action Log update –

Action 31 growth narrative – a focused session is planned for our event on 24 September

Action 32 – The strategic overview group will address this action.

Action 34 - Media training session took place on 17 June

Action 35 - New Commissioners will be announced before the 24 September event

Action 36 – Near completion

2. Programme overview – exceptions and highlights

The flagship project overview summary document was provided with the meeting papers.

Additional comments from Rosa Foster by exception:

- AAAP: Commissioners were invited to get involved in this project. The advisory board for the project met for the first time – the board has a number of Associates but no Commissioners currently.
- Climate Action Pledge: Commissioners were encouraged to get involved. This project is led by Sam Perry and Sam Herbert.
- Skills flagship project – This project has been scoped but is now on pause due to staffing. Simeon Perry, Simon Bowens and Oliver Harmar are Co-leads on this project.

Climate Action Plan Theme

Outcome D – Protecting people and nature in a changing climate

Outcome F – Managing our Land and Water so it benefits us all

3. Core Group update: Communities and Engagement Group

Jon Kedwards presented. Slides were provided.

Key comments:

- How can regional organisations operate at community level – what can we learn from each other?
- We all have other projects with community connections – could we utilise these connections together.
- An alternative approach would be to run a citizens' assembly rather than engaging on a project-by-project basis. There was a plan for this at the beginning of the YHCC but it was not possible to be resourced. This could be reconsidered.
- YHCC is working with the new Just Centre which is focused on just transitions – this will develop a menu of engagement, and would not require the level of resource of a citizens' assembly

4. Humber 2100 + Tidal Flood Risk

Sue Manson presentation – slides provided with the minutes.

Reflections and questions

- To what extent will the mayoral system influence your plan? And to what extent are communities involved in the planning?
- There are 5 mayors in our area, and we are looking at how to bring them in, plus the 17 MPS. It's about place and everyone needs to play their part.
- Are there intergenerational and future voices in the 2100 strategy – are we delaying actions which will pass the responsibility on to future generations?
- We did want to do a youth citizen's panel – funding was not possible – but we do want to do this.
- Relocation is in the current strategy – the changing coasts team are involved. Relocation will take a long time and setting it out needs to start.
- Communicating risk to the public can create unhelpful consequences. It's important to do public engagement now so it's not top-down and creates an adaptive strategy. We don't want to create alarm until we have a way forward, and we don't want to limit growth, so we are looking to create materials. We will start with social media on the back of EA's winter readiness campaign and aim to improve the public's understanding before we start to consult.
- We did an expensive citizens' panel, and we are working out how to incorporate their recommendations.
- How much land restoration is involved in your plans? What is the role of Spurn and its future, and how it will adapt to rising sea levels?
- Spurn reduces the wave impacts. It is on the ebb tide that the impact on communities will be the most significant.

5. Yorkshire Water

Presentation from Adam Ashman, slides provided with the minutes.

Key comments

- There are long term water supply challenges and opportunities for Yorkshire.
- AI is an opportunity to monitor leakage and for water users in the future – we use AI in domestic meters, currently there is a blind spot where our supply meets the domestic.
- It's important to identify optimal land use that maximises nature recovery, growth, decarbonisation, flood management – the right mechanisms could identify and plan this. It will involve major changes to landscapes.
- Do you get positive engagement from the community?
- We have a water resources management plan and share our documents with the community. It's a 200-page document. There is not enough engagement on the industrial side – but by increasing this we will get more idea of what the industrial needs are.
- The decarbonisation of the Humber is a critical piece of work – are Yorkshire Water engaged in these conversations?
- The way in which we manage land has the potential to reduce flood risk – this involves conversations between Yorkshire Water, the Environment Agency and the industrial complex.

Flagship project update – LAWS

Discuss and Collaborate

1. Using this area of work as a focus and what we have heard from the CE Group what role do you think that group can and should (ideally) play supporting the LAWS Project?
2. How can you (in your role) feed into the LAWS work and support positive action regarding the topics we've discussed today? What do you think we should be prioritising and why?
3. How do we genuinely mobilise the collective capacity of the Commission network and beyond to deliver meaningful progress on these workstreams, getting to the solutions effectively and efficiently.
 - The impact on some communities in the Humber need to be solved by moving other communities. Are there examples from other countries? A Citizens' assembly could enable this.
 - Are educational authorities aware of the importance of using terms and language about climate in schools?
 - There are some terms used such as 'climate action' 'reuse waste'. But there are major impacts coming, for example, Yorkshire is going to be a different shape – even people in sustainability are not talking about this – so this is scaring the horses. Schools might be a too restrictive environment. The question is how to empower without the panic. LAWS has a 4th workstream envisioning the future with young people. And alongside the messages about impact, anxiety needs to be managed.
 - Storytelling is a useful tool which could be part of a Citizens' assembly at sub regional level.
 - Mayoral authorities are distinct enough that we could run citizens' assembly at that geographical level.
 - At a localised level there is a great work going on, but it's not scalable – there are useful examples in France and in the Netherlands.

- Education produced curriculum packs is a tangible action with support around anxiety. These will enable a conversation around the work that Sue has done – this has not been shared widely yet. East Riding did some great work around coastal change. We can do some active work and learning and sharing in this space.
- Paul West is here today but our other Vice Chairs are not. YHCC has a role to support Yorkshire Leaders Board, the Mayors, the University Vice Chancellors. So an invitation to a private briefing for them would be useful.
- A jury or assembly is costly. A Forum would allow for more space and flexibility.
- Sue has a report from their citizens assembly.
- Who sets the agenda, who sets the questions. Think carefully about the model we use and how do we get that inclusivity.
- Many citizens' assemblies have happened, but we haven't brought the evidence and the actual truth of what is going to happen. What the implications are in the cumulative – the Commission can bring this together and utilise it with impact and effectiveness.
- Steven's boards – local schools, conversations with the schools and the adults – a local initiative.
- Communities are aware and we need to be straightforward in our communications.
- Is the Climate Commission with 'climate' in its title the right organisation to deliver a citizens' assembly -given that this can put people off. People wanted to talk about energy, waste, the car they drive – breaking it down is better than talking about climate.
- LAWS are not planning to take things out to the public; it is about how we bridge that gap and bring about the conditions for the conversation.

AOB

Councillor Quinn – thank you for hosting in Hull and inviting us along.

Wed 16 October online – outcome C – enabling fair and inclusive action

Attendance

Attended

Chair

Asif Husain-Naviatti

Vice Chairs

East Yorkshire - Cllr Paul West, Cabinet Member, East Riding

Director

Rosa Foster, University of Leeds

Senior Officer Nominees

Martin Budd, Hull City Council (for Chris Jackson)

Shaun Gibbons, York City Council (for Claire Foale)

Commissioners

Dr Jatinder Singh Mehmi, Sikh Alliance Yorkshire

Dr Peter O'Brien, Yorkshire Universities

Jonathan Oxley, CBI

Mike Dugher, Environment Agency

Rachael Bice, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Richard Beardsworth, University of Leeds

Sam Perry, TUC

George Coiley (for Siobhan Barton), Northern Power Grid

Sarah Clark

Steven Forrest, University of Hull

Adam Ashman, Yorkshire Water

Oliver Harmar, Natural England

Delegates from Hull

Councillor Quinn, Hull City Council

Helen Jenkins-Knight, Hull City Council

Lucy Marshall, Environment Agency

Sue Manson, Environment Agency

Commissions Team

Jane Stanbury, Commissions Team Coordinator

Kathryn Lock, Policy and Communications Manager

Amelia Duncan, Policy Fellow

Sam Herbert, Engagement and Impact Officer

Jon Kedward, Engagement and Impact Officer

Matt Gibbons, Communications Officer

Muriel Bonjean Stanton, Engagement and Impact Officer

Andrew Wood, Senior Engagement and Impact Officer