



Commission Meeting, 3.00 – 5.30pm, 7th December 2022

Minutes

1. Welcome and introductions

New Commissioners were welcomed:

- Dr Robyn Cooper Inglis, University of York (Leader of Research and Evidence Panel)
- Gill Mulroe (Co-Leader of Community and Engagement Panel)
- Anna Wright, NFU (Member of Land, Water, Nature and Food and Climate Adaptation and Resilience Panels)

Apologies

Rob Purdy, Mark Jones who was replaced by Martin Budd, Amir Hussein, Beckie Hart, Kate Josepchs, Jack Hemingway and representatives of the Regional Youth Climate Assembly.

The attendance is recorded in the Appendix.

2. Meeting action log and minutes from the last meeting

An update on Action 23 was provided by Wallace Sampson: The statement about the Pledge presented to the Yorkshire Leaders Board is being used to request that each individual Local Authority signs the pledge. An update on Action 24 was provided by Helen Slinger. David Hayman is happy to help and a meeting will be arranged in the New Year.

3. Annual Report, providing an overview of Commission work plan

Rosa Foster presented on the Annual Report which includes the following:

- Climate Summit
 - Climate Action Pledge
 - Delivering Impact sessions and stakeholder engagements
 - Q3 YHCC Specific Action Progress – by exception only
- The annual report was shared with Yorkshire and Humber Leaders Board.
- The quarterly update shows the red, amber or green status of actions with a current commentary. These are progressing well with a couple of actions under review, particularly following the Land Use Strategy session. There are a couple of category C actions that will struggle to get off the ground unless we have additional resources, for example the Yorkshire and Humber Nature Service. Category C actions were identified in the Action Plan as requiring additional resource. All the details are in the commentary.

- The DI Programme has been challenging in terms of process and time, but we are hoping that this will now level out. We need to review the number of them and the sequencing. There is a planning day after Christmas to make sure it is workable for panel members and the Secretariat. The attendance has been great with numbers in the mid-20s. The programme has been intense with three DI sessions this week. The Co-Directors want to acknowledge the time given by Commissioners, Panel members and the Secretariat.
- The Climate Action Pledge was launched at the Climate Summit on 15th November and has gone well. A third of the organisations in the Commission have signed up. Please prompt your organisations and networks to promote the pledge. Sign-ups include both micro businesses and large businesses, so we are covering the whole spectrum.

The Chair acknowledged the supportive comments in the chat.

4. Updates from the forums and panels (3 mins each)

- National and regional policy forums

A written update has been provided.

Additional comments from Wallace and Andrew:

- The bold and innovative approach taken by Leeds City Council on the local plan will be used by the Regional Policy Forum as a template to understand the elements of climate that can be built into local plans.
- LAs always need support for the positive proposals because Local Plans invite objections, that's how the system works so we are considering how can we support this.
- There are some timely opportunities, e.g., N Yorkshire will have a new unitary authority replacing the 7 existing councils. A new local plan will be developed so we can engage right at the early stages of that.

- Climate Adaptation Resilience Panel

A written update has been provided.

Additional comments from Rosa:

- The LA Adaptation Programme has been launched with 13 Local Authorities and we hope to get the remaining 2. The programme addresses how LAs can build adaptation into the services they provide.
- The outputs from the Health and Climate event in October are informing our DI session and our collaboration with the Integrated Care Boards and the Directors of Public Health.
- Steve Scott-Bottom has produced a short play as part of his work funded by the UK Climate Resilience programme. This has been so successful that he has set up a community interest company to use for further climate resilience work.

- Net Zero Panel

- The panel have had meetings discussing the framing of the DI sessions. The first DI session on Buildings and Retrofit produced a paper which is now on Commonplace. The next session is framed and is on new build standards for housing and sustainable communities, linking to resilience and nature.
- There has been some rescheduling of the sessions to ensure we get the quality of the speakers and keep the content focussed.

- Future Economy Panel

- The panel are discussing whether we can develop a land use net zero framework which links to the FE Panel.
- Thanks were given to Helen Slinger and Bill Adams as co-chairs of the Panel.
- The forthcoming session is on Green Jobs and Skills and after Christmas there is another DI session on SMEs and Business Support.

- Research & Evidence Panel

A written update has been provided.

- Communities & Engagement Panel

A written update has been provided.

- Land Water Nature and Food Panel

A written update has been provided.

Additional comments from Rachael:

- Thank you to the new members of the team who have not only provided capacity but also capability.
- We feel that Yorkshire and Humber is a good place to pilot a Regional Land Use Strategy and are hoping to engage DEFRA and Natural England
- Biodiversity COP 15 is taking place in Canada and is of equal importance so please follow this.

Break

5. **Focus Session:** The Growth of the Net Zero Business Sector

CBI and Datacity

A presentation from Mohammad Jamei and Alex Craven

The slides from the presentation are attached.

Key points from the Q&A

- The data is telling a positive story for businesses to become part of the Green Economy.
- This demonstrates the importance of the Yorkshire and Humber Region and the scale of challenge in promoting net zero business/developing the green economy.
- If the UK is going to achieve its decarbonisation plan it shows the importance of our region.
- What do we need to do in policy terms to support the transition and to accelerate it?
- The CBI have looked at how to make the transition into policy from a business perspective with the University of Manchester report.
- How can this data be used to join up the levelling up and net zero agendas?
- The data is making the case that the net zero economy is established but not visible? Could we do this for the nature economy, which is just emerging and link the data to encourage people to invest in the sector.
- We can map any sector as long as companies describe what they do on their website. It's a high wage economy – young people would like a career in jobs that don't destroy the planet.
- The University of Exeter has research on how to move biodiversity up the agenda.
- ONS are not going to update classifications until 2025. So, we are trying to provide an alternative.
- This would also be important for the adaptation sector. Net Zero needs advice on resilience and there is a shortage of skills.
- The FE Panel and related DI sessions are focussing on these issues. The Green Jobs and Skills DI session is on Friday so please join those sessions.

6. Annual Report – What next & Plans for Next Phase

A presentation from Andy Gouldson.

There are three options for the next steps of the Commission:

1. The Commission stops
2. The Commission carries on as it is
3. The Commission evolves and develops

If we select option 3, then funding is obviously key:

- The University of Leeds has £170 million committed to delivering net zero, which includes support for the 4 new funded posts assigned to the Commission through to 2030.

- There is a funding bid under development for c£5 million, which is about how the region can deliver adaptation, mitigation, resilience and nature.
- The Commission has been supported by partner contributions and in-kind contributions which we would really like to continue but we can't count on this.

Andy invited Commissioners to share their views on the future of the Commission.

Key points from the discussion

- How does the Commission mature into its next phase? This should involve discussions with stakeholders. Should it move further towards delivery? Traction is coming, for example, through the LAs Adaptation Programme and the Pledge.
- We can't afford to stop. It takes time to build a brand, connections, momentum. The progress report provides the momentum. Regional voice is really important to bring together different sectors, and hopefully different communities through the work of Communities and Engagement Panel. We need to give people hope and people on this call can make a difference.
- To stop is not an option. Now we've got the momentum, how can we scale that up, get more organisations involved? A half day workshop to say what does next look like, what are we missing would be effective.
- A funding bid is under development for £5 to 10 million to support the next phase of the Commission, with a focus on delivery and impact and finance and investment. An outline bid for funding is due in May.
- Philanthropic funding is another opportunity.
- We should be specific in the funds we apply for. There is untapped lottery funding and a gathering of heads might be useful to consider this.
- Fundraising experts could pull together a very good strategy. UKRI funding and other interesting foundations. Match funding is key.
- Use a theory of change model to identify where we want to get to by 2030 and work back from that. Our role is to fill in the gaps. We could articulate more clearly what the Commission's offer is, distinct from what other bodies are doing and build the picture of what the Commission will be doing, not duplicating what others are already doing.

Action 25: Secretariat to set up a workshop re: funding and the future of the Commission for Commissioners.

7. Communications and Engagement update from Kate Lock

A report has been provided.

Comment in response to Kate's presentation

- Work is going on in the region that is of national significance on renewable energy. Is there a way we promote this on the platform? It is on a huge scale, which far exceeds anything else that is happening nationally. This should be topic for future discussion.
- The Secretariat have been discussing a theme on what we are doing on carbon capture
- It is important to consider how we publicise

Action 26: Secretariat to bring the topic of Carbon Capture and Storage in the region to a future event and to think about how we publicise this inside Yorkshire and across the UK

8. AOB

Letter to Rishi Sunak

- We have not yet had a response to our letter raising the policy priorities of the Commission/region.

Letter from the Department of Transport

- They didn't accept the need to adopt a strategy in line with the 6th carbon budget, or the need to balance the regions, or to address demand.
- Should we come back to them? Would that be productive? Can we publish their letter and publish a response? Perhaps a quick response from us?

Drax

- The Panorama programme raised some interesting issues and the Commission had comments from people about this. We met with Drax to discuss the issues raised. Forum for the Future published a report on the conditions in which bio-energy can be produced in the most sustainable way. We need more time to prepare/publish our response on this.
- Drax are happy for the Forum for the Future report to be shared with Commissioners.

WY Mayor green tasks force

- There is potential duplication of effort with the WY Mayor's green task force. How do we make sure we are not all trying to reinvent the wheel?

Action 27: Secretariat to write a response to the Department of Transport about their aviation position

Action 28 : Secretariat to share the report from Forum for the Future with Commissioners

Action29 : Secretariat to analyse the Forum for the Future report and produce a statement

Close

Date of the next meeting: Wednesday 8 March 2023

Appendix 1 Attendance

Chair Liz Barber,

Vice Chairs

North Yorkshire - Cllr Richard Cooper, Leader of Harrogate Borough Council

Co – Directors

Prof Andy Gouldson, University of Leeds

Rosa Foster, University of Leeds and Planning and Engagement Manger, Environment Agency

Senior Officer Nominees

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

Wallace Sampson, Chief Executive, Harrogate Borough Council

Martin Budd, on behalf of Mark Jones, Hull City Council

Tom Finnegan Smith, Sheffield City Council on behalf of Kate Josephs

Commissioners

Alexis Percival, Environmental and Sustainability Manager, Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust

Amandeep Kaur Maan, Eco-Sikh

Anna Wright, NFU

Bruce Heppenstall, Plant Director, Drax

Dr Jatinder Singh Mehmi, Sikh Alliance Yorkshire

Dr Peter O'Brien, Executive Director, Yorkshire Universities

Dr Robyn Cooper Inglis, Research and Innovation Development Manager for Environment, University of York

Dr Siobhan Laird, Director, South Yorkshire Climate Alliance

Emma Richards, Project Leader, The Carbon Literacy Project

Gordon Rogers, former Head of Sustainability at Yorkshire Water

Helen Slinger, Head of Sustainable Business, Yorkshire Water

Martyn Broadest, Executive Director, Connect Housing Association

Melanie Taylor, Head of Stakeholder Relations, Northern Gas Networks

Natasha Nauth, Relationship Director, NatWest

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

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

Simon Pringle

Stuart Strathdee, Chemistry teacher, Greenhead College

Secretariat

Jane Stanbury, Secretariat Administrator

Kathryn Lock, Policy and Communications Manager

Amelia Duncan, Policy Fellow

Simon Moore, Communication Officer

Kat Armstrong, Engagement and Impact Officer

Sam Herbert, Engagement and Impact Officer

Jon Kedward, Engagement and Impact Officer

Links shared in the Chat

https://www.cbi.org.uk/media/yvulac20/final_humber_2030_vision.pdf

This is the Humber 2030 Strategy, launched by the CBI and hosted at the House of Lords reception beginning of November. Speakers included Ed Miliband, Tony Danker and Richard G. William

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https://www.exeter.ac.uk/news/research/title_951520_en.html

Research by CBI and Exeter

<https://yorkshirecap.commonplace.is/>

Commonplace platform

https://www.canva.com/design/DAFQaXZ1udA/6qtnrMixwVgX1VZwl0vwaQ/view?utm_content=DAFQaXZ1udA&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=viewer

Green Youth Deal 2022