



**Main Commission Meeting  
29 January 2025, 2.30pm - 5pm**

**York CVS, 15 Priory Street, York YO1 6ET**

## **Minutes**

### **1. Welcome and Introduce new Chair**

Rosa Foster welcomed Commissioners and introduced Asif Husain-Naviatti as the new Chair.

### **2. Welcome, introductions and thankyou**

Asif Husain Naviatti welcomed new Commissioners

**Apologies:** Bruce Heppenstall, Robert Hall, Helen Slinger, Jatinder Singh Mehmi, Chris Jackson, Councillor Claire Douglas, Sajalu Greenall, Councillor Paul West, Nigel Foster, Alexis Percival.

#### **Changes in Commission membership:**

- Councillor Scott Patient, new Vice-Chair representing West Yorkshire was welcomed to the Commission.
- Chris Jackson is the new East Yorkshire Senior Officer.
- Claire Foale is replacing Ian Floyd as Senior Officer representing York & North Yorkshire. Welcome to Claire.
- Daimian Allen is the new LA Chief Executive Lead and South Yorkshire Senior Officer and was represented by Richard Smith at Doncaster Council for this meeting.

Edie, representing the Regional Youth Climate Assembly & supported by Charlee Bewsher, was welcomed.

### **3. Vision and ambition – perspectives from our new Chair**

Asif gave a presentation on his vision and ambitions for the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission.

### **4. Minutes and terms of reference**

The Minutes of the meeting were approved with a request for an amendment to make about Track 3 funding. This has been checked and amended. The amended version of the October 2024 minutes will be circulated.

The updated Terms of Reference document was shared with Commissioners as paper one. Commissioners approved the Terms of Reference.

## 5. Communications Update

Kate Lock presented the Communications Update, the slides from the presentation are paper two.

## 6. Ways of Working Update

Stuart Muxlow from the Transformation Office at the University of Leeds gave a presentation on ways of working – describing how the Commissions team will be working to increase the rigour and evaluation of the work and keep Commissioners updated with the appropriate levels of information.

- Project leads will start to see some planning/project management information coming to you. These will be shared with the Leadership group and managed there collectively.
- The Commission will receive updates on the projects and the core groups for your consideration ahead of the Main Commission meetings.

## 7. Core Group Update: Public Affairs Group

Richard Beardsworth and Niki Roach, Co-Chairs of the Public Affairs Group presented the new Public Affairs Strategy. This item relates to paper three, the Draft Public Affairs Strategy.

Key comments & questions raised through discussion for the Public Affairs Steering Group to consider:

- It was noted that Kate Lock’s contribution to developing the strategy was considerable and valuable.
- Could we test the strategy on what we have already done in the first 3 years of the Commission? With this plan in place would we have done anything different?
- Will it be populated so that we can see what other people have been doing? Will names of organisations be represented? Is this the right place to put names. E.g. the heavy hitters.
- It would be useful to have a regular update with measures of success.
- There will be a reporting mechanism to show the progress and work of the other groups – this will happen in the Leadership group and will be available to the Main Commission meeting.
- Commissioners to share their actions re the CAP and OCS as part of our collective reporting - that's where we will see powerful action, and this will demonstrate the joined-up actions of the Commission.
- Commissioners have a network of contacts - how can we target the heavy hitters in the region and use their influence?
- Is there a benefit when thinking about the Commission as one voice to focus on 3 core aims for all of us?
- Can we map our sphere of influence and identify who the heavy hitters are in the region? What are the core messages for them and what are we wanting them to do?
- Speaking the language of the customer is important but how do we flex without losing our core purpose? Something for us as Commissioners to reflect on when advocating for climate action.
- What’s missing – there is a need to shed a light on the wider benefits – health, wellbeing, social cohesion. [Note – Climate & Health Partnership is geared up to support the Commission with exactly this information and evidence].

- Need to be thinking about the community level and enabling climate citizenship.

*Climate Action Plan in-focus*

Making good decisions easier

**8. The changing context for decision-making at a regional scale**

Neil Barnett, Senior Policy Fellow at Leeds Beckett University shared a short presentation outlining the current context for high-level decision making in our region and where things are going. This session relates to paper four, the YHCC briefing on the Devolution White Paper

**9. Exploration of how we as a Commission and a region can respond and sustain momentum**

Commissioners went into small groups to explore some key questions about the opportunities for regional-scale, place-based action.

1. We need to find ways to transcend the uncertainty created by the changes Neil has talked about and keep the momentum going in our region
2. We also need to identify how we can make the most of the opportunities to accelerate our response to climate change and nature loss in Yorkshire and Humber, and beyond.

**10. Commission's role: plenary discussion**

A member of each group was invited to share two main insights/points that came from their discussion.

The notes from the breakout groups and the insights shared in the plenary have been summarised in a separate document.

**11. A.O.B & Meeting Close**

The updated Terms of Reference now reflects the structure of the Commission that we have developed over the last year. A key thing to note is that this includes a new Strategic Overview group. We will be contacting those who expressed an interest in a strategic overview role as part of recruiting to and establishing that group, and as you would expect, there is a clear description of the strategic overview group in the terms of reference.

**Date of the next Commission meeting:**

Wednesday April 2025, 15.00 - 17.30 Online

**Attendance**

**Chair**

Asif Husain-Naviatti

**Vice Chairs**

South Yorkshire – Cllr Ben Miskell

West Yorkshire - Cllr Scott Patient

**Director**

Rosa Foster, University of Leeds

**Senior Officer Nominees**

South Yorkshire – Represented by Richard Smith

North Yorkshire – Claire Foale

West Yorkshire – Polly Cook

East Yorkshire – represented by Martin Budd

**Commissioners**

Alice Sweeting

Amandeep Maan

Adam Ashman

Deb Harkins

Dr Peter O'Brien

Emma Bridge

Jonathan Oxley

Martyn Broadest

Mike Dugher

Natasha Nauth

Niki Roach

Oliver Harmar

Peter Cole

Rachael Bice

Richard Beardsworth

Roz Davies

RYCA – Charlee Bewsher and Edie

Sarah Clark

Sam Perry

Simon Bowens

Simon Pringle

Siobhan Barton,

Steven Forrest

Stuart Strathdee

Commissioner profiles are on our website <https://yorksandhumberclimate.org.uk/about-us/commissioners/>

**Commissions Team**

Jane Stanbury, Commissions Team Coordinator

Kathryn Lock, Policy and Communications Manager

Amelia Duncan, Policy Fellow

Kat Armstrong, Engagement and Impact Officer

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  
Stuart Muxlow, Transformation Office