



**Main Commission Meeting  
30 April 2025, 3pm – 5.30pm**

**Online**

**Welcome and apologies**

RYCA, Natasha Nauth, Claire Douglas, Chris Jackson, Mike Dugher, Emma Bridge, Helen Slinger, Melanie Taylor, Damian Allen (Pre-Election duties), Cllr Ben Miskell

**Minutes and actions from the previous meeting**

The minutes were approved

Bruce Heppenstall is standing down and leaving the region. He has been involved since Jan 2022 and been a committed Commissioner. Bruce was thanked for his time, effort and support of the Commission, including developing the links between the Commission and the Humber industries.

This opens up two new Commissioner positions in heavy industry and energy generation, plus there is a vacancy in the agriculture and food sector. These are being recruited to currently. Commissioners to promote through their networks as appropriate please.

**Action 35:** Commissioners to promote through their networks the spaces for Commissioners in heavy industry and energy generation

**CAP THEME for the meeting: Activating the power of businesses and organisations**

The session will focus on impact, implementation and influence.

**Promoting climate action across our networks**

There was a short, interactive discussion about promoting the Climate Action Plan across the region chaired by Asif Husain-Naviatti.

**Core Group Update:** Regional Picture and Evidence Group presented by Steven Forrest and Sam Herbert

- Progress on high level impact measures for the region
- Highlights from phase one impact report

CAP Indicators will be developed for the region by utilising existing research. The group will identify which are the priority actions to develop, working across the CAP themes.

The RPEG group asked students at the Yorkshire Student Sustainability Conference which of the actions they thought were important and asked the students how they would measure success. The RPEG group will ask these questions at different events. They are building connections to students who are doing research on sustainability – often their research never gets seen – so the aim is to mobilise some of that data to feed into the Commissions work.

The DEFRA land consultation workshop was well attended and led to a report which has strong connections with the themes in the CAP. This includes prioritising issues within land use and thinking about indicators, and how to measure success.

### **Impact Report Phase 1 –**

Sam Herbert shared the webpage and talked through the sections. This is a draft.

The RPF will be added and there will be links through to Phase 2 projects.

### Key comments

- Include some headline insights from the DI sessions – which would then link to the CAP, and highlight the interesting content to make people to think
- Include more context around our Phase 2 projects with links from the Impact Report
- The narrative should be focussed on what climate change action can deliver for everybody.

**Action 36:** Impact Report Phase 1 to be updated following feedback from Commissioners

### **Flagship project updates**

**Pledge** – activities, plan and call for support from Sam Perry

See the presentation slides.

Commissioners were encouraged to get involved in the steering group and the event in the summer.

**Skills** – approach and next steps from Simeon Perry and Simon Bowens

See the presentation slides.

They are looking people with knowledge of skills to have a conversation with, and to potentially join their taskforce.

The Leaders of both projects were thanked for their time and commitment to these important areas of work.

BREAK

### **Examples of progress from within and beyond our region.**

- Jack from Henry Boot shared some of their climate-focussed progress and challenges as a large business
- Mhairi from Springboard initiative talked about how they're supporting SMEs to progress on net zero and climate action

### Key comments

- The presenters were thanked for their fascinating and insightful presentations, and were invited to stay for the rest of the discussions.
  
- The main challenges for businesses are cost, perception of cost, access to finance.
- SMEs are more likely to be risk averse and less likely to take out loans.
- Useful approach is to take smaller steps first and focus on reducing consumption.
- In property development the barrier is economic viability. Important to secure a market for sustainable development.
  
- What about adaptation? Ask clients about risk and how can we build in greater protection from flood and heat and think about protections for workforce. We deploy our expertise so that our customers don't have to worry.
- The dialogue between LAs and businesses needs to be ongoing.
- All the additional requirements we have to include to make things more resilient adds to cost and is impacting choices because larger is more viable it's driving undesirable outcomes.
  
- Building Safety Act – there is not a clear dialogue with government which is delaying projects. But public demand will drive this. What kind of developments do councils want and how can we set this up?

**Mobilising more organisations and businesses across the region** – plenary discussion and interactive session to explore key questions:

- What do Commissioners need to feel confident representing the YHCC and promoting climate action across all four pillars when they're in their other roles and networks?
  
- How can we, as the Commission, encourage businesses and organisations who aren't keeping up with the pace of change to get on board?

Commissioners contributed thoughts via Padlet pages. This information will be used by the Commissions' Team to support the Pledge project and to better understand how Commissioners need to be supported.

#### **AOB**

#### **UKREiiF**

YHCC are hosting an event with CITU, find out more information and register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/city-and-regional-climate-commissions-tickets-1341835398799?aff=oddtcreator>

**Chief Executives and Yorkshire Leaders Board**

Rosa and Asif are presenting to the Chief Execs and YLB in May /June on behalf of the YHCC and will be focusing on securing support for increased local climate powers in the forthcoming Devolution Bill. Please contact us if you are interested.

**Media Training – 18 June**

There are 2 spaces available for Commissioners so do let us know if you want to take part.

**Thank you**

Sajalu is going on maternity leave so thanks were conveyed for her work for the Commission and best wishes for her maternity leave.

**Date of the next Commission meeting:** Wednesday 16 July in Hull.

Itinerary for the next meeting in Hull was shared with the Commission.

**Attendees:****Chair**

Asif Husain-Naviatti

**Vice Chairs**

East Yorkshire - Cllr Paul West

West Yorkshire - Cllr Scott Patient

**Director**

Rosa Foster, University of Leeds

**Senior Officer Nominees**

North Yorkshire – Claire Foale

West Yorkshire – Polly Cook

**Commissioners**

Alice Sweeting

Alexis Percival

Amandeep Maan

Andy Gouldson

Deb Harkins

Dr Peter O'Brien

Dr Jatinder Mehmi Singh

Jonathan Oxley

Martyn Broadest

Niki Roach

Rachael Bice

Richard Beardsworth

Roz Davies

Sajalu Greenall

Sarah Clark

Sam Perry

Simon Bowens

Simon Pringle

Siobhan Barton  
Steven Forrest  
Stuart Strathdee  
Simeon Perry

### **Commissions Team**

Jane Stanbury, Commissions Team Coordinator  
Amelia Duncan, Leeds Climate Commission Programme Manager  
Kat Armstrong, Engagement and Impact Officer  
Sam Herbert, Engagement and Impact Officer  
Jon Kedwards, Engagement and Impact Officer  
Muriel Bonjean Stanton, Engagement and Impact Officer  
Andrew Wood, Senior Engagement and Impact Officer  
Stuart Muxlow, Senior Project Manager, UoL Transformation Office