



Yorkshire and Humber Commission meeting, 3-5.30pm, 15th September 2021, via Zoom

*Advancing the region's climate leadership
Accelerating climate resilient, net-zero development through an inclusive and just transition.*

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Minutes

1. Welcome and introductions

A full list of attendees is appended. Apologies were received from Emma Bridge, Simon Pringle, Chris Mathews, Bill Adams, Mike Maudsley and Dan Jarvis.

2. Minutes and actions from the last meeting not covered elsewhere

Some people were not on the attendee list although they had attended the June meeting. Once these changes have been made it was agreed that the minutes could be signed off.

Actions not yet completed from previous meetings were discussed:

- SP to feed contacts on health and resilience into the Climate Resilience Working Group – SP was not at the meeting so this action is still to be confirmed.
- PO'B to contact OH about EA's long-term flood risk planning. Completed.

These actions are all ongoing and will remain on the Action Log (appended):

- Commissioners to make suggestions of contacts to approach for fundraising to AG
- Commissioners to approach Secretariat for copy of Powerpoint slide deck to promote the Commission
- Feedback on structure of Commission meetings to be fed back to LB and AG. Briefings are to be included in each meeting so that they are not all procedural.

3. Membership changes

- New Commissioner Sajalu Dahal, Humber Industrial Cluster Plan
- New Commissioner Amir Hussain, Asian Small Business Federation
- New Commissioner Natasha Nauth, NatWest
- Martin Stead is the new Commissioner from Sewell Group
- Oliver Harmar remains as Commissioner but is now working for Natural England
- New Officer Mark Jones is the Officer for East Riding

- New Secretariat member, Jane Stanbury, Administrator

4. Revised terms of reference (paper 1)

It was agreed that the revised terms of reference paper could be signed off.

5. National and Regional Policy Forum

Presented by Andy Gouldson

Key points noted were:

- The introductory Joint APPG/Commission event was very constructive with 75 participants, although not too many MPs attended.
- This will grow into the National Policy Forum for MPs and civil servants, for example in BEIS, DEFRA etc where the Commission can articulate our support for policy changes.
- The first meeting is planned for after COP when the Action Plan is launched.
- The Regional Policy Forum will be co-chaired by Wallace Sampson and Cllr Jack Hemingway, with Jack connecting to elected members and Wallace connecting to Senior Officers.
- The Regional Policy Forum will meet every 6 months with a key role in facilitating collaboration and supporting the climate action needs of policy makers.

Comments:

- It was noted that the APPG group wanted to discuss climate action on a regular basis and that YHCC will be called back for further meetings.
- There was a discussion about how the Commission could influence Government fiscal priorities. Currently the Commission is not making recommendations into spending reviews, apart from involvement with a UKRI project that fed into BEIS policy on Net Zero. Further thoughts from members of the Commission are welcome on this.
- Andy Gouldson is meeting with the National Infrastructure Bank and will feedback to the Commission on this.
- The Regional Policy Forum is engaging with the Combined Authorities and TFN can be invited to join this group. If there is anyone else who should be included, please feed in.
- There is an established Local Authority network of officers working on the climate agenda who should be connected into the Regional Policy Forum.

ACTION 1: Date to be set for the first Regional Policy Forum meeting

ACTION 2: Andy Gouldson to feedback to the Commission following meeting with the National Infrastructure Bank

ACTION 3: Andy Gouldson: TFN to be invited to join the Regional Policy Forum

6. Climate Resilience Working Group

Presented by Rosa Foster

Key points noted were:

- The group has 35 members across a broad spectrum and sectors, although not many community reps yet.
- Thank you to Commissioners and working group who supported the 5 Action Plan consultation sessions.

- The Action Plan is relevant to new legislation e.g. Environment, Agriculture and Planning Bills, Civil Contingency Bill and the National Infrastructure Assessment.
- Climate change is not included in the National Resilience strategy and so is not regarded as a national risk. This is a challenge for local planning, which would benefit from a national framework to support.

Comments:

- The Commission will invite someone to speak on those key policy changes at a future meeting. This could also be a topic for the national and regional forums.

ACTION 4: Andy Gouldson to invite speakers on key policy changes to a future Commission meeting

7. Net Zero Working Group

Key points noted were:

- The group has 30 members and has had 4 meetings to date.
- The group developed the Net Zero sections of the Action Plan with 6 consultation meetings taking place with around 30 people in each session.
- There is good engagement with some gaps identified and some contentions areas.

Comments:

- There are about 50 people signed up for each of the evening public events.
- The online consultation had around 70 responses in the first week.

8. Research & Evidence Panel

Presented by Dan Parsons

Key points noted were:

- A research audit has been launched across the Yorkshire Universities to gather information on resources and capabilities and to identify where people can help with action plan.
- The survey is looking at a strategic level in terms of investment in capacity and capability, and also aims to capture information on individuals.
- The survey will be released in next week or so.
- The panel are working on specific points on the action plan where Andy wanted additional guidance.
- The panel has continued to reach out to PhD students and Early Career Researchers who are interested in the work, for example the White Rose Doctoral Training Centre.

9. Communities & Engagement Panel

Presented by Siobhan Leese

Key points noted were:

- The group has been recently constituted and has 18 members.
- The group has been collating the different networks that are out there and identifying public engagement initiatives and best practise.
- They are keen to include underrepresented voices and communities regarding climate information, participation in decision making, and in taking action in reducing emissions etc.

Comments:

- Commissioners would value regular updates on what other groups are doing and a shared space for the commission was proposed.
- Important to use a platform that all colleagues can use, thinking of those with limited tech facilities.
- Commissioners were invited to send suggestions in for a shared space eg TEAMS and their views on using Slack for quick communication.
- Commissioners would value a means of communicating about YHCC activities with external colleagues eg in Local Authorities with regular updates, in between newsletters and minutes.
- The Communities and Engagement Panel have been looking at engaging youth
- Including underrepresented groups is important but including seldom heard and unheard voices in the broadest sense is also important.
- The RYCA were involved in the kick-off meeting, and they have been invited to contribute to the consultation. The Ripple Effect film will be shown at COP 26 which is part of a youth project including young people from Leeds.
- The public engagement lead at Yorkshire Water, Aimee Linfoot, has volunteered to participate in a future meeting of the panel.

10. Land, Water, Nature and Food Panel

Presented by Rachael Bice

Key points noted were:

- They are meeting next week for the first time. There are some early career people. There are a couple of sectors that still need including.
- Consideration needs to be given to the format of the information provided from the panel to be feed into the broader commission.
- The LWNF panel needs a co-chair.

Comments:

ACTION 5: Nominations or volunteers to co-chair the Land, Water, Nature and Food panel

11. Future Economy Panel

Key points noted were:

- The first meeting is being planned and the membership is being finalised.
- They are aiming for a membership representative of company size, sector and geography.
- A key issue is how jobs and skills, and another will be finance and investment.

Comments:

- There is the Green Jobs and Skills event on 28 Sept.

12. Discussion on role of Working Groups after completion of the Climate Action Plan

The Working Groups were set up to feed into the action plan and this is now close to being ready to be launched. The Panels are addressing each YHCC priority. The Leadership group makes sure we stay joined up. Is there a role for the Working Groups to carry on after the launch of the action plan?

- Could there be a role for the working groups in joining up on the core themes, assisting with the cross-cutting themes and checking that actions are being followed up by the panels
- They could play a role in tracking progress and delivery of the action plan
- Time and resources are an issue so post launch of the plan they may not need to meet as often as previously – perhaps on a quarterly basis.
- A key question is what can we do that only the Commission can do i.e. raise issues/points that other institutions can't.
- We should continue this conversation once the action plan is written and then decide on the remit of the Working Groups and Panels and if necessary revise the terms of reference.
- The working groups have brought together a fantastic group of people. At their next meetings, those groups consider their on-going role.
- The action plan is the first milestone – but this is just the start, the main work is going to be on delivery. Commission needs to be agile, change terms of reference, change structure.

ACTION 6: Working Groups to discuss what their role could be going forward and to feedback at the next meeting, including their time commitment. Include this item at the next Commission meeting

13. Briefing 1 – Future Net Zero and SMEs

Presented by Andy Parkinson, Lampada and Kelly Charles, University of Hull

The recording and presentation slides are on the YHCC website here:

Key points noted were:

- Lampada are investigating what role SMEs can play in the transition.
- 99% of businesses are SMEs so they have a critical role.

- We are researching what evidence and research is out there
- We are seeking to understand what challenges SMEs are facing, what barriers, their attitudes and what is the propensity of a particular SME to engage.
- Using mixed methods research.

Comments:

- Skills is more prominent as a barrier in larger businesses but it's not the top barrier.
- Big organisations have a role in supporting small SMEs. How should they do that?
- Incorporate a point into the action plan about large companies showing leadership, a role for big organisations to support small SMEs.
- There are similar barriers for farmers and agriculture businesses.
- Consumer and societal changes mean that many consumers will choose good businesses

This is the Humber Net Zero Future survey summary report referred to in the presentation:
<https://aura-innovation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/21384.005-FNZ-Report-template-Small-file10.pdf>

Action 7: Andy Gouldson to discuss with Andy Parkinson and Kelly Charles how their work can be incorporated into the Working Groups and Panels

Action 8: Andy Gouldson incorporate a point into the action plan about large companies showing leadership regarding transitions, a role for big organisations to support small SMEs.

14. Briefing 2 – Nature-based Solutions for Climate Resilience

Presented by Councillor Paula Widdowson, City of York Council

The recording and presentation slides are on the YHCC website

Key points noted were:

- The presentation looked at 5 nature-based solution projects by City of York Council
- Showing people that they can make change is central to the projects and comms is very important
- We use plain English and ask some key questions: what does success look like, what expertise do we need, what funding is available. And we do lots of comms focusing on what's in it for them
- Then we turn it into a business case
- One project has involved lots of wildflowers being planted, this project is about awareness, with children involved in the planting and lots of comms. It's providing corridors for wildlife and showing people they can make a difference.
- Projects have been part funded by City of York Council with additional funding from Central Government. In one project, Central Government provided 80% of the funding.

Comments:

- Giving a community a feeling of control when something is really frightening contributes to their own resilience

- Farmers are delivering a service, and having land flooded means they have to put their business aside, with a loss of income that could put them out of business.
- Land is used that normally floods, this is the type of land being used by the City of York Council and they don't want to lose any services that farmers are providing.
- It's important to make sure that farmers get compensation if land is flooded. There are areas of land that flood some years and not others.
- There is a bank of information on nature-based solution projects which Colin Mellors can provide, Yorkshire Regional Coast and Flood Committee.
- Nature-based solutions can save money, for example, the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme phases 1 and 2 was going to be £200 million and became £50 million.
- It's also about water quality, more yield from farms etc.

15. Regional green jobs and skills summit, September 28th

Presented by Sarah Clark

- The event is aiming to present understanding from different sectors about what green jobs and skills are.
- It's both online and face to face with 120 people registered to date. 60 face to face and 60 online.
- It's hosted at the AURA innovation centre and will be opened by Tracy Brabin and Dan Jarvis, with pre-recorded and live presentations, representing national organisations.
- There will be breakout rooms online and face to face focussing on different sectors which will feed back into Q & A panel.
- The feedback will be incorporated into the Action Plan. Get in touch with Andy for involvement.
- Thanks on behalf of the Commission to Aura and Marketing Humber for helping to organise and host this important event.

16. Regional Climate Summit with the Yorkshire Post, November 9th

Presented by Kate Lock

- This is a full day event on 10th November which will be both in person and virtual.
- The Venue still to be confirmed with a number of options are being considered.
- The plenary session will launch the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Action Plan.
- Possibly there will be a very high-profile keynote speaker, with negotiations ongoing.
- The Compere is still to be confirmed – suggestions and contacts are welcomed.
- This could be an inaugural' summit as the Yorkshire Post wants to do it annually

Dedicated website: <https://www.yorkshireclimatechange.co.uk/>

- Speakers will include headline sponsors but the speaker list still being developed – we particularly want help to find more diverse speakers. Suggestions and contacts to the secretariat please.

These are the sessions:

- Future economy – jobs and skills for a changing climate
- Transport
- Putting people first – ensuring climate action is fair to all
- Ecological emergency – working with nature to tackle the climate crisis
- Climate conscious business and industry
- Clean energy

17. Communications update

Presented by Kate Lock

- Information was presented on website analytics for the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission website and analytics for the Twitter Account
- First newsletter for YHCC is going out today to 466 subscribers through the webform, and to Commissioners and members of working groups and panels.
- It will also be put on our website and promoted through Twitter.

18. AOB

Commission Briefings

- Andy Gouldson will brief the commission on the meeting with the National Infrastructure Bank
- What other briefings would Commissioners like to have

Action 9: Commissioners to suggest ideas for briefings at Commission meetings

19. Dates of next meetings

Sept 27th, 2-30-4.30pm - Special Commission meeting to sign-off on the regional climate action plan

Dec 8th, 3.00-5.30pm – Next Commission meeting

Annexe 1 – Attendees

Chair Liz Barber, Chief Executive, Yorkshire Water

Vice Chairs

West Yorkshire – Councillor Jack Hemingway, Deputy Leader of Wakefield Council

Director Prof Andy Gouldson, University of Leeds

Senior Officer Nominees

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

Wallace Sampson, Chief Executive, Harrogate Borough Council

Ian Floyd, Director of Customer and Corporate Services, City of York Council

Kate Josephs, Chief Executive, Sheffield City Council

Rosa Foster, Environment, Planning and Engagement Manger, Environment Agency

Commissioners

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

Amandeep Kaur Maan, Eco-Sikh (sharing Commissioner role with Jatinder Singh Mehmi)

Beckie Hart, Director for Yorkshire and Humber, Confederation of British Industry (CBI)

Chris Brown, Senior Director Sustainable Supply Chains, ASDA

Dr Jatinder Singh Mehmi, Sikh Alliance Yorkshire

Dr Peter O'Brien, Executive Director, Yorkshire Universities

Dr Siobhan Laird, Director, South Yorkshire Climate Alliance

Gordon Rogers, former Head of Sustainability at Yorkshire Water

Kate Adams, Environmental and Land Use Advisor, NFU Northeast Region

Martin Stead, Managing Director, Sewell Group

Martyn Broadest, Executive Director, Connect Housing Association

Melanie Taylor, Head of Stakeholder Relations, Northern Gas Networks

Natasha Nauth, Relationship Director, NatWest

Nigel Foster, Director, Fore Consulting

Oliver Harmar, Area Director for Yorkshire, Environment Agency

Philip Holdgate, Head of Production Sustainability, ITV Studios

Rachael Bice, Chief Executive, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Rob Purdy, Director of Balance Sheet Management, YBS

Sajalu Dahal, Energy Projects Manager, Hull and East Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership

Sarah Clark, Operations Manager, Aura Innovation Centre, University of Hull

Sarah Pemberton, Assistant Director in the North, National Trust

Simon Bowens, Regional Campaign Organiser for Yorkshire and the North East, Friends of the Earth

Stuart Stratthdee, Chemistry teacher, Greenhead College

Secretariat

Jane Stanbury, Administrator

Kathryn Lock, Policy and Communications Manager