



Commission meeting, 3.00 - 5.30pm, 16th March 2022

On Zoom: <https://universityofleeds.zoom.us/j/81334520821?pwd=TmNBSkZuWjZLdEiLNW00ckl2Z2lyUT09>

Minutes

1	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representatives of the Regional Youth Climate Assembly who are joining the Commission were welcomed. Bruce Heppenstall was welcomed as the new Commissioner from Drax. Bruce has replaced Mike Maudsley who has moved to Enfinium Group but will still be involved with the Commission through the Future Economy Panel. Thanks was given to Chris Brown from Asda who has stepped down. Apologies were received from Gordon Rogers, Emma Bridge, Wallace Sampson, Mark Jones, Kate Josephs and Rachael Bice. Amir Hussein, Yeme Architects and Helen Slinger, Yorkshire Water introduced themselves, joining a Commission meeting for the first time and were welcomed by Liz. Commissioners were invited to declare conflict of interests. There were none declared.
2	<p>Action Log and Minutes from the last meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minutes from December's meeting were accepted with no comments. There were two live actions noted on the Action Log. Firstly, the action on health and resilience; contacts have been passed onto the Climate Resilience Working Group. Secondly, Action 5; the Land, Water, Nature and Food Panel is still seeking a co-chair. There are some ongoing actions which can be seen on the Action Log. Actions 10 and 12 will be dealt with in the agenda.
3	<p>Proposed switch to Co-directors and resourcing news</p> <p>Co-directors:</p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andy Gouldson has been appointed as the lead climate adviser to the UK Infrastructure Bank (half time). The Chair congratulated Andy and commented how this will forge fantastic links between the UKIB and the Commission.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To strengthen the team, it was proposed that Rosa Foster becomes Co-Director alongside Andy, enabled by a half time secondment from the Environment Agency to the Secretariat. • Rosa will lead on the resilience and the land water nature food side, and Andy on the net zero and future economy side, and they would share the role more broadly. <p>Resourcing:</p> <p><u>Key points</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University of Leeds has recently published a new strategy and a climate plan – including committing £170m through the 2020s to decarbonise its activities. • Linked to this, it has allocated 4 new jobs to support the Yorkshire and Humber and the Leeds Climate Commissions, starting in August. The proposal is that we turn these into secondments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Supporting our work on net zero and future economy – Supporting our work on resilience and land water nature food – Enabling national and regional policy engagement – Supporting business and community engagement – Supporting comms and project management • The posts will run from Aug 2022 through to Spring 2024 and are likely to be 4 days a week. Anyone interested in being seconded to these roles please contact Andy. <p><u>Comments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair gave a big thanks to the University of Leeds and to the Environment Agency for supporting the Commission in this way. • There was interest expressed in how the recruitment for the posts would be done, how they are being promoted and that we should be broadening our reach as much as possible. <p>Action 13: Andy Gouldson to circulate information about the funding allocation to each secondment post and the recruitment process</p>
4	<p>Working plan for Commission for the next 2 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Themes ○ Best practice sessions ○ Commentaries ○ Digital deliberations ○ Mapping onto the Climate Action Plan ○ State of the Region report <p>Andy Gouldson presented the working plan set out on Paper 1, with apologies that it wasn't circulated in advance.</p> <p><u>Key points</u></p>

- The panels and working groups will have 8 quarterly meetings. How do we most effectively use them? The Commission is working towards delivering the 23 actions which the Commission committed to, with a book end event at the end and a stock take. This will take us 4 years into the 2020s where we have to deliver so much. What would be required as an input into this?
- There is the Regional Policy Forum and the National Policy Forum. Crucially we have the Regional Policy Forum to talk to officers and elected members, and bring normal practise up to best practise.
- There are the 2 working groups and the Land Water Nature Food Panel and Future Economy Panel who have each proposed 8 themes.
- The Communities and Engagement Panel is where the Commission engages in a 2-way dialogue with the general public, the Research and Evidence Panel will feed into the work of the Commission, and this is underpinned by the quarterly public engagement events.
- There is some overlap between the Net Zero Working Group and Future Economy Panel, and the Land Water Nature Food Panel and the Climate Resilience Working Group. Plus there is some overlap between the Regional Policy Forum and the Future Economy Panel, for e.g. Procurement.
- Each quarterly session will run as a best practise session. We will issue a call for best practise evidence and then hold a best practise session. We will produce a thought leadership piece which asks: what do we need to do and by when? What does regional best practise look like, and what is normal practise? How can we change? The main focus will be on what are the key enablers and blockers, who are the key stakeholders, what policy needs to be changed, what could the Commission do to enable best practise?
- This will be followed by the use of digital democracy using online deliberative platforms to open up to broader consultation. Then we produce a final version for the state of the region report. It's hoped that the work plan will enable the Research and Evidence Panel to see what is coming up and they could prepare research/evidence in advance. The quarterly sessions will also generate a series of outputs.

Comments

- There is a lot on the work program. Should a choice be made between breadth or doing a deeper dive on fewer issues. It would have more impact if it was given more time.
- What impact does the Commission want to have? This is what the Commission will do. How will we consider what impact looks like e.g. changes in local or national policy? It is important not to lose sight of impact.
- It was agreed that identifying impact was important
- Can the themes be mapped against the action plan?
- It is crucial to map the themes against the action plan.
- Creating connectivity between the working groups is important.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An interim event is a good as long as we are clear what the actions are that we want to achieve. • The themes are a real opportunity to deepen and widen engagement by casting out for expertise e.g. within the Future Economy Panel there is the theme ‘logistics and distribution’ but there isn’t someone from that industry on the panel. Is there are an opportunity to reach out to that industry? • It was agreed that it was a really good idea to make sure we have the best people feeding in either by joining a session or joining a panel. The Future Economy Panel membership is not complete yet • The Climate Resilience Working Group will run themes 7 and 8 a lot sooner and continually. They will be more like a work stream that will run alongside the best practise sessions. • An idea to develop impact was proposed to move the Local Authorities and businesses that don’t have a Climate Resilience Plan from having no plan, to having a plan. Without too much resource from the Commission, we could walk them through that process. • The outcome of the best practise sessions is going to give us a lists of things to do. We need clarity on who is going to deliver these things. Is it the Commission? • Even with the new posts we won’t have delivery capability. But people could take this further outside of the quarterly sessions. The Commission can convene, catalyse but not deliver. The Regional Policy Forum will be working with the Local Authorities to get policy change. Organisations that sign the pledge document can cascade this to their supply chains. We will also be working with communities, the public and third sector. • The ‘how’ is fascinating. Can we create an enabling environment where people feel empowered. Can we map geospatially where things are happening – can we identify where the exemplars might be? • There is an opportunity for integration of those work streams eg infrastructure and transport. What are the barriers when we look in a more integrated way? • In the work plan table we are dividing it up, but hopefully then we can bring it back together. By making it transparent hopefully it will be more joined up. What are the key interlinkages? <p>Action 14: Identify what the impacts are that we want to achieve for each best practice session. DONE</p> <p>Action 15: Co-Directors will share the mapping of the priority themes to the 23 actions at the next Commission meeting. DONE</p>
5	Regional Climate Leaders Pledge statement

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair introduced the pledge statement. The purpose of the pledge is to get the largest institutions to sign up, not just to Net Zero, but also Climate Resilience and Nature Recovery. Liz invited viewpoints on the pledge <p><u>Comments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The phrase “protecting nature” isn’t strong enough, it should be “recovering nature” given the nature emergency. What scope is there for small to medium businesses to sign up, as there are a lot in Yorkshire? The York and North Yorkshire LEP is looking at engaging with small to medium enterprises. We are focussing on large organisations who could then amplify out to their supply chains. SME’s can also sign up but perhaps the bottom 3 bullet points could scare off SMEs. It was agreed that including SMEs was important. It is good that the pledge doesn’t include numbers. Do we know how it maps onto other pledges i.e. is it more difficult/less difficult? Quite a lot of big organisations will have already signed up to a pledge. A Project Officer reviewed all the pledges and mapped best practise onto this one and removed any duplication. The scope of our pledge is broader as it includes Climate Resilience and Nature Recovery. We are trying to make a play for the regional dimensions of this, but maybe this is not coming through strongly enough. What practical difference does it make? Could we get them to commit their top 5 actions in order to show that something’s happening? Otherwise it’s a one-way document. <p>Action 16: The phrase “protecting nature” to be changed to “recovering nature” in the Climate Pledge. DONE</p> <p>Action 17: Adapt the Climate pledge so that it is suitable for SMEs. DONE</p>
6	<p>Aviation statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair introduced the item. It was noted that there will be differing views and that not all members of the Commission are 100% behind this as a statement. Commissioners were asked if they broadly supported the statement or if they had any profound issues that prevented support for the statement. Andy took the Commission through the aviation statement and then invited feedback. <p><u>Comments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree on the need for a national aviation strategy. There is a question about the first bullet point and being consistent with the 6th Carbon Budget – we need

	<p>to limit demand. Are we just being canny or do we want to be more explicit about limiting the increase? There is an opportunity for us as a non-public sector organisation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The section on organisation and individual behaviour is contentious ground. Airports are a key area of economic growth and this is going too far. • We did say we see this as an issue of shared responsibility of airport and consumers so it would be strange not to mention both strands. Plus there is a need for government policy. There is a collective action problem. The Jet Zero report talks about more market interventions being required. • Lets think about how we pick this up because we aren't about ruining the local economy but we are about highlighting important climate action. There are opposing views that we need to work to reconcile. <p>Action 12: Aviation statement will be amended and shared with Commissioners DONE</p>
	Break
7	<p>'3 in 60' Session</p> <p>Humber Flood Strategy - Helen Todd, Environment Agency</p> <p><u>Comments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sobering stuff and important work. How does this fit in within the CAP and how does it meet our regional outcomes? • Very interesting and graphic. A compelling approach to create a regional strategy. Could this be a vehicle that would mobilise a broader range of things beyond flooding but also serve other objectives? • If we get the flood bit right, so much else can happen. Working as a collective partnership is crucial. This is not an EA strategy. Our partners can unlock the other ambitions and objectives. • There are hundreds of thousands of people living in the areas shaded in red. How can we engage with the people in those areas? • Everybody is talking about the right messages about risks of flooding and what we are doing about it • We could affect partnerships in all kinds of areas so what is transferable to other areas, what are the big learning points from your experience? • We continue to learn, we are just embarking on this long-term project so it is about how we can learn together. <p>Humber Net Zero Strategy - Sajalu Dahal, Hull and East Yorkshire LEP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are running a workshop on the 23 March on the cultural and social aspects i.e. what people think and diving a layer deeper and analysing choices.

Understanding why people would or would not support a change is critical for us to gather a wide range of voices, and make sure the transition is just.

White Rose Forest - Guy Thompson, Kirklees

Comments

- What engagement have you had with the farming community. You touched on food security.
- There has been an overwhelming increase in landowner interest. In the farming community, people are holding back waiting for the ELMS which we have fed back to DEFRA. I think providing it pays and they have support, I think they are prepared to give. It can start off in small areas and build up over time. There is not much take up on the Carbon. Culturally there is a real desire for people to leave a legacy and do the right thing for future generations.
- This is similar to the story we are hearing – a survey of our members 74% are looking at carbon sequestration on the land

The Chair thanked the presenters for their time and asked them to keep the Commission updated.

8 Short term energy and fuel poverty plan

Key points

- What the Commission can do in the next 9 months to prepare for the energy price spike that seems likely next winter.
- Can we put an emergency plan for fuel poor households and could it be connected to retrofit? Are there organisations interested in sponsoring, or leading on this? Is there some Local Government funding available?
- Can the Commission act here? Do you know of similar initiatives, or a potential project manager?

Comments

- The Department of Work and Pensions is looking at benefits – could we link to this through the Mayoral Authorities and Local Councils, that may be a way into an established network?
- Are we aware that Better Homes Yorkshire are providing free solar panels for people on a low income and with an E rating. Or a D rating for insulation.
- How can we promote this?
- We can approach Tracy Brabin’s office and see what is happening
- The York and North Yorkshire LEP are looking at retrofitting 65% of homes by 2030. Sheepswool is fantastic for insulation – lots of farmers would be up for providing this.

	<p>Action 18: Amelia Duncan to contact Mayoral CAs to find out about the DWP plan re benefits and fuel poverty DONE</p>
9	<p>Communications update - Kate Lock Kate welcomed the two people from RYCA who are attending the Commission meeting today. We are very thrilled they have joined the Commission</p> <p><u>Key points</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are discussing a half day event with RYCA and Y&HCC and will report back on a future date. • On Internal Comms we have started a Members' bulletin. 10 March was the first one. It will share news, events and opportunities, and upcoming panel and working group meetings. The deadline for submitting items for the next one is 21 March. If you post events in Slack we will put this in the bulletin. • We are using Slack for communication internally, so we need you to join it and use it for it to be really useful. It's in the bulletin about how to join. • We have a Linked in group which is external, with over 100 followers and an unlisted private group with less engagement. • I set up a Whatsapp group at the request of Commissioners - this could perhaps be for urgent communications. • There is a slide deck for presentations on Slack (pinned in the #general channel) or you can email us directly to request it. • We now have 3 graphic wheels that sum up the Climate Action Plan representing Climate Resilience, Net Zero and Framework for Change. They are clear and simple, with all the information in one place. I have pinned these in the #general channel in Slack.
10	<p>Priorities for next meeting and AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioners were asked to suggest thoughts for agenda items for the next meeting. • Friends of the Earth have launched a whole suite of case studies • Could we have a speaker to talk about how can we make the domestic journey to solar easier and facilitate it? <p><u>Comments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liz – Perhaps can we add something to website about stress free steps to going solar • Andy – I can talk to NPG directly about that. • Simon P – I sit on the CEG for NPG and can introduce Andy to some people. <p>Action 19: The domestic journey to solar panels to be considered in the Net Zero Working Group community energy session</p>

The Chair reiterated her welcome to new members, and asked Commissioners to keep comments coming in. The calendar of activities is really thoughtful, we need to think about impact and bring that back to the next meeting. Commissioners were reminded to come back to Andy on the aviation statement if there were any big issues.

Date of the next meeting: Wednesday 15 June 15.00 - 17.30

Annex 1 Attendees

Chair Liz Barber, Chief Executive, Yorkshire Water

Vice Chairs

CLlr 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

Adam Fowler, on behalf of Mark Jones, Hull City Council

Commissioners

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

Amir Hussain, Yeme Architects

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

Bill Adams, Regional Secretary for Yorkshire and the Humber, Trades Union Congress (TUC)

Bruce Heppenstall, Plant Director, Drax

Claire Wiley, RYCA

Dr Jatinder Singh Mehmi, Sikh Alliance Yorkshire

Dr Peter O'Brien, Executive Director, Yorkshire Universities

Dr Siobhan Laird, Director, South Yorkshire Climate Alliance

Emma Richards, Project Leader, The Carbon Literacy Project

Helen Slinger, Head of Sustainable Business, Yorkshire Water

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

Martyn Broadest, Executive Director, Connect Housing Association

Natasha Nauth, Relationship Director, NatWest

Nigel Foster, Director, Fore Consulting

Oliver Harmar, Area Director for Yorkshire, Environment Agency

Peter Cole, Principal Environmental and Sustainability Officer, Transport for the North

Philip Holdgate, Head of Production Sustainability, ITV Studios

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

Rob Purdy, Director of Balance Sheet Management, YBS

Two representatives from RYCA

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

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, Director, Project Rome

Secretariat

Jane Stanbury, Secretariat Administrator

Kathryn Lock, Policy and Communications Manager

Amelia Duncan, Policy Fellow

Simon Moore, Communication Officer

Kristy Hallett, Secretariat Project Officer