

YORKSHIRE & HUMBER CLIMATE COMMISSION

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

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Minutes

Yorkshire & Humber Commission Meeting, 17th March 2021, 3-5.30pm, via zoom.

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed Commissioners, Observers and the Secretariat to the meeting. A full list of Commissioners and Secretariat attendees is appended. (See Annexe 1).

Apologies were received from Kate Josephs, Chief Executive, Sheffield City Council

Aims, structures, governance

The Chair introduced Paper 1, *Draft Terms of Reference* and Commissioners were invited to comment on it.

Verbal comments and comments from the Zoom chat would be collated and the Terms of Reference would be revised and a second draft recirculated to members before the next meeting. Proposed amends are listed in Annexe 2.

2. Aims, objectives and priorities

See proposed amends in Annexe 2.

3. Structures and working patterns

See proposed amends in Annexe 2.

4. Terms of reference and governance

See proposed amends in Annexe 2.

Standing items

5. Climate risk and resilience

Paper 2 on *Climate risk and resilience* was presented by Gordon Rogers, formerly of Yorkshire Water and Rosa Foster from the Environment Agency.

Key points noted were:

- The projections in the paper were to guide the Commission on what to plan for as decisions today would have impactful consequences in the future.
- A Working Group would update the regional action plan around which the Commission could build momentum for action, with a more detailed version of the paper being prepared over the next month.
- Whilst there were many forums tackling climate resilience, the YHCC could add value by identifying gaps around pace, scale, urgency and the need to tackle trade offs.

See comments in Annexe 3.

ACTION: Gordon Rogers and Rosa Foster to incorporate relevant comments (See Annexe 3) into the next draft of the Climate risk and resilience paper.

6. Carbon and net zero

Paper 3 on *Carbon and net zero* was presented by the Director.

Key points noted were:

- Since 2000, the region's emissions had fallen by 41% with an annual rate of reduction of c.2% p.a. whereas in order to stay within our science-based budget, carbon emissions need to be reduced at a rate of 12% year.
- The region's energy bill is £10 billion p.a. By committing to the carbon mitigation measures set out in the roadmap, it could save £2 billion p.a. and create c330,000 years of employment in green jobs.
- Although 240,000 people in the region work in jobs which could see demand for their work increase due to net zero, 250,000 would see demand for their skills fall so it is essential to address the just transition.

See comments in Annexe 4.

ACTION: The Chair and Director to discuss metrics offline with Melanie Taylor.

ACTION: Simon Bowens to send FoE resources to Margo Hanson to share through Commission channels.

ACTION: Suggestions to be added as an addendum to the minutes and the Director to follow up.

7. Just and inclusive transitions

Bill Adams from the TUC gave a presentation on *just and inclusive transitions*.

Key points noted were:

- 30,000 jobs were directly at risk from the need to reduce emissions in line with the Paris agreement, with a further 70,000 – 100,000 indirectly.
- It was hoped that the Commission would be a strong voice on sectoral bargaining and supporting left behind areas, including targeting these areas for green investment.
- The TUC were working with a number of employers across the region. Consideration needed to be given to education and training / retraining of both young people and established workers whose jobs may be displaced.
- A lot of public engagement would be required. The TUC has an established training programme and this could most effectively be delivered on a sectoral basis.
- Social partnerships comparable to those in mainland Europe were required.
- The TUC was very willing to play its part and is keen that the Commission be successful.

Comments

- Consider a twin track approach of health/ wellbeing alongside the structural impact of widescale green jobs creation.
- Important to recognise the current system has evolved over a long period and we need to deliver change quickly - how we build consensus, and as Bill Adams says in a fair way, will be critical to achieve transition let alone quickly. Commission has a very important leadership role to show how this can be done, and as noted in an integrated way.
- Quick signpost to another report produced by Friends of the Earth, this time on potential for green apprenticeships and skills provision - <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/download/green-jobs-report-emergency-plan-green-jobs-young-people>

ACTION: Commissioners with further comments should email them to the Secretariat pcan@leeds.ac.uk or add them to the chat box.

ACTION: Rosa Foster to follow up with Rob Hall on his social impact suggestion.

8. Nature-based approaches

Rachel Bice from Yorkshire Wildlife Trust presented on *Nature-based approaches* and the needs for a just transition for other species.

Key points noted were:

- This was about heart and soul and quality of life.
- It was critical that the Commission sees the nature crisis alongside the climate crisis.
- Nature based approaches mean that we could change our landscape for the better, generating positive opportunities and making places more resilient. Approaches

include green/ blue infrastructure, restoration of peatlands, the northern flowerhouse, rewilding and many other tools.

Other items

9. Discussion on permanent and ‘pop-up’ panels

- Commissioners agreed that key to the Commission’s success will be how we harness enthusiasm.
- It had been proposed that the Commission convene a number of permanent and ‘pop-up’ panels. Yorkshire Universities had agreed to convene a panel for the region’s universities and the TUC and CBI had agreed to convene a panel for employment and skills. Other panels might include nature-based solutions, finance and investment etc.

ACTION: Any Commissioners who have ideas on panels and / or are willing to convene a panel to email the Director/ Secretariat.

ACTION: The Chair and Director to discuss convening a panel on community engagement.

- Consideration should be given to what type of platform could be provided to highlight what communities were already doing which could inspire others.
- The Commission should consider how it could engage in an inclusive way. Faith could be a good starting point for engagement. Think about how to reach the ‘hard to reach’.
- It would be useful to have a resources part of the website for toolkits, signposting to existing materials/ campaigns such as ‘Count us in’
- Young people could act as climate ambassadors for outreach as schools function as local hubs

ACTION: Bill Adams / Alexis Percival to share their research with the Commission / Robert Hall.

- Community Energy England would be running an online conference in April. Details would be added here: <https://communityenergyengland.org/events/community-energy-conversations>
- The following Commissioners offered to participate in panels: Community Engagement: Simon Bowens, Emma Bridge, Siobhan Laird, Melanie Taylor, Phil Holdgate, Stuart Strathdee , Oliver Harmer, Amandeep Kaur Mann, Bill Adams, Polly Cook, Rachael Bice, Policy: Emma Bridge, Environmental research – Rachel Bice; Decarbonising transport/active travel: Alexis Percival, Innovation Forum – Polly Cook?; Jobs and Skills: Polly Cook, Bill Adams?, Nigel Foster?, Alexis Percival.

ACTION: Peter O'Brien offered to discuss the proposed work of the Research & Evidence Panel with any other Commissioners.

ACTION: Margo Hanson to note offers of help in the chat box.

ACTION: The Chair and Director to discuss setting up of the Engagement and other panels.

ACTION: Volunteers to lead and support panels to contact the Chair and Director .

10. Climate summit, action plan and COP26

- It was hoped that it would be possible to run a Virtual Summit in early September which would involve face to face panels. It had been proposed that a professional services company would run this event.
- Various conversations had taken place about launching the climate action plan at COP 26. Three applications had been submitted for an event.

Comments

- Commissioners were supportive of an action plan and a September summit.
- The Climate Coalition was also hosting their Big Green Week in September.

ACTION: Emma Bridge to pull together what her organisation is doing and share this with the Director.

ACTION: Simon Pringle to share relevant documents from Chatham House.

11. AOB

- The Commission had been asked if it would request the Secretary of State, Robert Jenrick, to call in the Leeds Bradford Airport expansion application.
- It was proposed that the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission stated it supports Leeds Climate Commission's statement which asks national government to bring forward a strategy on aviation emissions which would be consistent with the Sixth Carbon Budget.

Comments

- The Commission **agreed** that as a holding position, the Director would make this statement on its behalf, emphasising it was the view of the Commission but not of any individual on the Commission.
- Further consideration would need to be given as to what other issues the Commission would take a position on.
- It was proposed and **agreed** that there would be a Question Time event after the June meeting.

ACTION: Margo Hanson to note that future papers circulated to members to be labelled whether or not they were for publication / circulation

ACTION: Simon Pringle to provide examples of Chatham House guidance and would work with the Director on this.

12. Dates of next meetings

- June 16th, 3-5.30pm (virtual/venue tbc)
- September 15th, 3-5.30pm (virtual/venue tbc)
- December 8th, 3-5.30pm (virtual/venue tbc)

Actions

5. Climate risk and resilience

ACTION: Gordon Rogers and Rosa Foster to incorporate relevant comments (See Annexe 3) into the next draft of the Climate risk and resilience paper.

6. Carbon and net zero

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ACTION: Volunteers to lead and support panels to contact the Chair and Director .

10. Climate summit, action plan and COP26

ACTION: Emma Bridge to pull together what her organisation is doing for Green Week and share this with the Director.

ACTION: Simon Pringle to share relevant documents from Chatham House.

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Annexe 1 – Attendees

1 Commissioners

Chair Liz Barber, Chief Executive, Yorkshire Water

Vice Chairs

South Yorkshire – Dan Jarvis MP for Barnsley Central and Mayor of the Sheffield City Region

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

North Yorkshire – Councillor Richard Cooper, Leader of Harrogate Borough Council

Director Prof Andy Gouldson, University of Leeds

Senior Officer Nominees

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

Kate Adams, Environment and Land Use Adviser, National Farmers Union

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

Rachael Bice, Chief Executive, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

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

Emma Bridge, Chief Executive, Community Energy England

Martyn Broadest, Executive Director, Connect Housing Association

Chris Brown, Senior Director Sustainable Supply Chains, ASDA

Rob Cawkwell, Managing Director, Sewell Construction

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

Patrick Erwin, Director, Northern Powergrid

Nigel Foster, Director, Fore Consulting

Robert Hall, Associate Director, Federated Hermes

Oliver Harmar, Area Director for Yorkshire, Environment Agency

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

Philip Holdgate, Head of Production Sustainability, ITV Studios

Dr Siobhan Laird, Director, South Yorkshire Climate Alliance

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

Mike Maudsley, UK Generation Portfolio Executive Director, Drax

Dr Jatinder Singh Mehmi, Sikh Alliance Yorkshire (sharing Commissioner role with Amandeep Kaur Maan)

Dr Peter O'Brien, Executive Director, Yorkshire Universities

Sarah Pemberton, Assistant Director in the North, National Trust

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

Simon Pringle, Director, Project Rome

Emma Richards, Project Leader, The Carbon Literacy Project

Gordon Rogers, former Head of Sustainability at Yorkshire Water
Stuart Strathdee, chemistry teacher, Greenhead College
Melanie Taylor, Head of Stakeholder Relations, Northern Gas Networks

2 Secretariat

Millie Duncan, Policy Fellow, Place Based Climate Action Network, University of Leeds
Margo Hanson, Research Manager, University of Leeds
Kate Lock, Communications Manager, Place Based Climate Action Network, University of Leeds
Simon Moore, Communications Officer, Place Based Climate Action Network, University of Leeds
Andrew Sudmant, Research Fellow, CCCEP, University of Leeds

Annexe 2 – Aims, structures, governance & Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference – Suggestions and proposed amends made in person and in the Zoom chat

Context and aims and objectives

- Split aim and objectives
- Add 'protect... restore and grow to the line about nature and biodiversity
- Change promote to drive
- Enhance the wording re urgency
- Consider introducing leadership in accelerating climate resilience and progress to net zero carbon
- On the para stating what the Commission isn't, ie 'it is not a planner, regulator or a delivery body. ' Need clarity on what it is / does. It is a voice for climate ambition.

Membership, Structure and Roles

- Commission should be a role model on standards in public life
- Consider establishing a register of interests or declarations of transparency
- Aim to be net zero in how we operate
- Need to be clear whether/when people are voting for the organisations that they represent rather than just their personal views
- Need a timeline for publication of minutes that needs to be reviewed offline. Currently some internal contradictions.
- Face to face meetings will have their own carbon footprint. Should think about the message of travelling to one place.
- Propose Chatham House rules so that individuals are not identified.
- Public events should be accessible to people from across the region
- Para on the secretariat needs amending. 1.5 days a week for each of the analysts and communications lead and 3 days a week for the administrator).

Conflicts of interest

- If Commissioners feel that they have conflicts of interest, they should email the Chair and recuse themselves from the relevant section of the meeting

Governance and Decision Making

- Some of the points came from the experience of issuing Position Papers from the Leeds Climate Commission, hence making the point that where there are differences of opinion which can't be resolved, this be made clear in the Paper.

Annexe 3: Climate risk and resilience

The following comments were noted:

- There needed to be more awareness and engagement around the impact of sea level rise on affected communities.
- Both climate resilience and climate mitigation planning would benefit from a SWOT analysis.
- It would help both external engagement and potentially internal dialogue if there were clear working definitions of climate resilience and adaptation.
- Examples of the 'wicked' problems the region is facing should be given, without necessarily locating them, in order to think through the advice which will need to be given.
- The Commission's priority for COP 26 should be to shine a light on what can be achieved within Yorkshire.
- Consideration needs to be given for integrating the Commission's work on climate resilience and mitigation.
- The Commission has a key role to play in building understanding of the impacts the region is tackling and will continue to tackle.
- Positive actions should be highlighted eg peatland restoration.
- Businesses were struggling to understand the implications of climate impacts and what building resilience means for business. It was acknowledged that this is more complex than the concept of NetZero and the Commission could play a useful role in clarifying what building resilience means in practice.
- A SWOT analysis would be useful as would asking a series of key questions such as: What does this mean for me? Who is there to help? How do we ensure that when investing in resilience, we have the right plan.
- It was noted that social dimensions of resilience are very important and resonate with people in terms of psychological impacts, quality of life and wellbeing.
- It would be useful to link in with schools around stress / resilience. A major campaign with schools can achieve a range of important outcomes - understanding, behavioural change, future skills etc. However, must be careful not to put too much onto the younger generations given the short time frames available to take meaningful action

- Food resilience is key. There are many farmers and growers in the region who would want to better understand what they can do to help build resilience and it is important that we take them with us.
- A mapping exercise should be carried out overlaying what already is in place e.g. Northern forest / Northern Bog.
- It may be possible to bring in watercourse management and reducing flood risk. River flooding is an issue of huge importance for the West Yorkshire local authorities. A detailed look at SuDS and how initiatives such as Northern Forest may be able to link into this would be very valuable to LA's planning ahead.
- There is a lot of potential for NHS Ocean (a lot of seagrass potential), NHS Forest, NHS Memorial woodlands, Northern Forest and how we connect them all together.
- Focus on the art of the possible, keep it solution focussed and avoid the doomsday rhetoric. Some great advice and detailed research from On Road Media who would likely be happy to present to us as a group.
- We need a plan for adaptation and risk assessment as well as mass migration challenges - the local resilience forums in the Hull area have a plan for a one way M62 to Leeds.
- Britain Talks Climate is an evidence-based toolkit designed to support any organisation that wants to engage the British public on climate change. It offers a shared, strategic understanding of the British public, and – against a backdrop of growing concern about polarisation – identifies effective ways to engage across the whole of society. <https://climateoutreach.org/britain-talks-climate/>
- The regional summit (if we can run it - more later!) - would be a significant opportunity for engagement and awareness building.
- Climate anxiety and mental health are critical and should be included.
- Choice of language for messaging to business is really important that we need to consider
- Kate Lonsdale and Rachel Harcourt were working on 'discussion document' rather than a stocktake, which would be ready in the next couple of weeks.
- Re getting organisations on board, the UKCIP tools are still relevant <https://www.ukcip.org.uk/>
- There would be a section on Health and Wellbeing in the paper but there is also Climate Just <https://www.climatejust.org.uk/>
- Look to create a register of species at risk within Yorkshire that we can highlight as part of the commission's work.
- The impact on nature and our Yorkshire landscapes is a great way to engage the public around climate change and bring to life.

Annexe 4 - Carbon and net zero

Comments

- Deliverability critical. In many cases, authorities have signed up to aspirational targets. There is often a massive disconnect on what they do on a daily basis, including in their purchasing.
- Some great announcements today on CCS for the Humber area. A scope 3 footprint may put us in a more favourable light.
- Is there a commonality of approach as to how local authorities have set their targets?
- Zero Carbon Humber is a model of getting real.
- All sectors need to understand what 'get real' looks like. People need to be given clear examples of what works. About building understanding.
- Too many climate organisations have declared a climate emergency without having an action plan for effective carbon reduction. Organisations need to be held to account.
- Can this Commission sense check sector / organisation plans?
- The Commission could have a very helpful role health checking how the region is doing. To do so, it needs a metric to measure against.
- Friends of the Earth signposted its resources which include action plans, user friendly tools to assess action plans.
- The Commission should also look at what central Government is doing and seek to influence it.
- The Commission's role should be to support, push, drive and challenge. This will require political bravery.
- If we think that existing targets pretty much get us to where we need to be, is helping to identify and remove blockers to delivery of targets something this Commission could focus on?
- We need Climate Action Plans to be delivered and resources applied to delivery.
- Even if targets are met, we still have to adapt to at 1-2degrees of change and the subsequent impact of flooding, drought, sea level rise etc.
- The trade offs on short to long term are really difficult.
- Important to recognise that some carbon reductions have the potential to be broadly linear while others will be lumpy. Both are valid and we should identify ways to support both.
- We need to help identify the interdependencies in the system and where there has to be systemic/infrastructure investment or regulatory change to enable the changes.
- It needs a whole "system" approach people. Businesses, local authorities and importantly Government that can send the signals to the market or will need to provide funding linked to outcomes.
- Establishing a baseline is the crucial first step for any organisation.
- There's a real knowledge gap between many carbon reduction plans that are at a higher level, and those on the ground who need to understand how those plans relate to their everyday job role so they can be working towards those targets with every decision they make - more education is needed

- Would a SWOT help for carbon too? Getting underneath the targets and having an honest assessment of the risks/opportunities and progress would help us understand where we can add value.
- An over arching / integrated climate change SWOT for the region might work. Then more details resilience, carbon, just transition SWOTs if more granularity wanted.
- Are you aware of a region-wide MACC curve that provides an indication of a cost/utility hierarchy of reduction opportunities across Yorkshire? It might be a useful starting point
- Leeds Climate Commission have done something that they have called a Climate action readiness assessment on a sector basis - they are really useful in identifying policy, funding, technology gaps etc - not dissimilar to a SWOT analysis.
- <https://ashden.org/schools-campaign/>. There is also a COP26 schools programme
- Andy Gouldson's team has produced league tables of the most carbon and cost effective measures and will refine them asap.