

An update on work to raise awareness among young people of green careers in Leeds around COP26

Date: 1 November 2021

Report of: Chief Officer (Sustainable Energy and Air Quality)

Report to: Climate Emergency Advisory Committee

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- This report introduces a presentation at the meeting that provides an update on work undertaken by the Council and partners to raise awareness of, and inspire young people into, 'green collar' jobs in Leeds. Representatives from the council's Sustainable Energy and Air Quality service, Employment and Skills service, and Ahead Partnership will be in attendance.
- To build on the national conversation about tackling climate change and engage young people in this discourse around COP26 the council has partnered with Ahead Partnership to raise awareness of green careers among secondary-age pupils and tackle perceived barriers.
- This activity will centre around an in-person event for 30 pupils based at the headquarters of the low carbon construction firm CITU on 5th November. The event will bring together pupils and local workers in jobs that contribute towards decarbonisation from a diverse range of sectors, as well as speeches from the West Yorkshire Green Jobs Taskforce, the council's Executive Member for Climate, and the Mayor of West Yorkshire. It is recognised as an official COP26 Regional Roadshow event. The panel Q&A and speeches will be filmed and shared after as a resource for all Leeds schools to benefit from.
- Alongside the event, the council will also be sharing real-life case studies of local people currently working in green jobs on social media and raising awareness of the opportunities for green jobs and apprenticeships currently available through the council's Employment and Skills channels. Key messaging will focus on the values of working in green jobs as well as the benefits to local people and the local economy. To address known barriers, our key messages will focus on demonstrating that green jobs are desirable, attainable, diverse and a way of making a positive difference.

Recommendations

- a) To note the contents of this report and presentation and invite Members to comment.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 As the UK transitions towards a net zero economy, many new jobs will be created and many existing jobs will need to adapt. Some industries expected to be in particular demand will include construction, manufacturing, transport and storage. Research by the Place Based Climate Action Network (PCAN) has estimated that almost 100,000 Leeds district jobs will experience either increased demand or require upskilling because of the transition.
- 2 Nationally, the UK Government has announced its commitment to quadruple the number of adults employed in skilled green jobs from 410,000 to 2,000,000 by 2030.
- 3 However, according to the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), skills and training is currently misaligned to the needs of key 'green transition' industries. The CBI also concluded that a lack of awareness of the need for transitional skills and jobs is a current barrier to delivering net zero. The CBI has recommended promotion of 'green' career paths in schools and colleges.
- 4 Achieving a "just transition" that benefits and includes all communities has been identified as a key aim for Leeds as the city moves towards a greener economy. This is consistent with the aims of the Leeds' Inclusive Growth Strategy. A core focus of this strategy is to ensure that communities can respond effectively to economic change and that young people are kept at the heart of economic growth.
- 5 The recent youth climate movement and school strikes are just two of the indicators that demonstrate that young people in Leeds are passionate about addressing the climate emergency. By directing this enthusiasm towards an increased awareness and consideration of green careers, Leeds can be well positioned for the transition to net-zero and to benefit from future economic opportunities.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards Affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 6 There are no equality and diversity, or cohesion and integration implications as a result of this report.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 7 The Committee meeting will provide an opportunity for Members to comment on the information presented.

What are the resource implications?

- 8 There are no specific implications as a result of this report.

What are the legal implications?

9 There are no specific implications as a result of this report.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

10 There are no risk implications as a result of this report.

Does this proposal support the council's 3 Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

11 The project highlighted will support the work that the council needs to undertake to meet its targets as part of the Climate Emergency declaration.

Options, timescales and measuring success

a) What other options were considered?

12 Not applicable.

b) How will success be measured?

13 Not applicable.

c) What is the timetable for implementation?

14 Not applicable/

Appendices

15 None.

Background papers

16 None.