

**Climate Emergency Advisory Committee
4th of November 2024**

Supplementary Information:

**Item 6 – Draft Minutes from the Consultative
meeting on the 23rd of September 2024**

Item 8 – Strategy & Resources Presentation

Item 10 – Climate Action Leeds Report

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CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 23RD SEPTEMBER, 2024

PRESENT: Councillor K Dye in the Chair

Councillors B Anderson, E Bromley,
P Carlill, R Downes, A Rae, M Rafique,
A Rontree, M Shahzad, P Stables and
J Tudor

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor N Harrington and Councillor O Newton.

2 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3 Notes of the Previous Meeting

RECOMMENDED - To agree the meeting notes of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee held on the 22nd of July 2024, subject to the following amendments:

Minute 21 – To confirm whether *Calverley Flood Storage held back up to 1million meters²* should be metres³ and to update accordingly, and to correct meters to metres.

4 Matters Arising

The following points were raised under matters arising from the notes of the previous meeting:

Minute 18 – As previously raised under matters arising, there was outstanding information that had been requested by Members that was to be followed up with relevant Officers again, and it was hoped to be available for the next Committee meeting.

Minute 20 – As part of the Leeds Food Strategy Update, Members were reminded that suggestions were encouraged to connect the service with local growers and farmers.

5 Open Forum

At the discretion of the Chair, a period of up to 15 minutes may be allocated at each ordinary meeting for members of the public to make representations or to ask questions on matters within the terms of reference of the Committee. No member of the public shall speak for more than five minutes in the Open Forum, except by permission of the Chair.

The following submissions were made as part of the Open Forum:

Boston Spa Energy Efficiency Trial (BEET)

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Monday, 20th January, 2025

The issue of high voltage management within Boston Spa had previously been presented to the Committee as part of an Open Forum submission and had significantly developed, leading to the establishment of BEET. The local resident providing the deputation had served within the electricity industry, including roles in voltage management and designing networks. Upon identifying that households within Boston Spa had been experiencing high voltage levels, a challenge had been posed to the industry and electricity providers that needed to be addressed. Following research and dialogue BEET was developed which currently covered over 10,000 buildings across the Wetherby Ward, to safely decrease the voltage levels and overall energy usage. BEET had created an average of 4% savings on electricity bills for local homes and businesses, as well as reducing emissions through reduction in power usage and increased network capacity. Regulations did not include a requirement for providers to monitor voltage levels unless complaints were received but the issue had become apparent, assisted by the rollout of smart meters. The issue had been revealed to the regulator and the Northern Power Grid, with a project team developed in response in order to feed data back to primary sub stations where alterations can then automatically made. BEET had been commissioned on the 15th of January 2024 and so far, had been successful. The programme was to be built into Northern Power Grid business plans with a further roll out across the grid; it was hoped that the trail would influence other providers and amend regulations.

To supplement the deputisation, a video was played for Members to outline the rollout and processes for the BEET programme through the Northern Power Grid.

The Chair gave her thanks for the fascinating work and would be in contact to assist with further questions and promotion of the programme, alongside other Committee Members.

Royal Horticultural Society (RHS)

As part of the National Education Nature Park programme, the Senior Programme Officer for Yorkshire and the Humber RHS, and local contact for the institution, provided details for upcoming events and ways to promote and engage with the events. The programme was launched on the 4th of October 2023 and was partnered with a number of larger organisations, being led by the Natural History Museum and commissioned by the Department for Education. The broad goals for the programme were to increase bio-diversity within the sites of educational institutions, facilitating climate based learning and outdoor education for children of all school ages. There were over 3000 education institutions engaged with over 1400 having confirmed their site boundaries which were needed to confirm land ownership and map natural features which could be enhanced or developed; notable habitats were grouped by area designation. For Yorkshire there were over 380 education institutions signed up, with 50 of them being within Leeds. The programme was student led and was to be run until summer 2027 with nature park grants of up to £10,000 being administered through the RHS, with further additions available after initial grants. 29 settings eligible for grants had been identified in Leeds, with the closing date for new applications noted as the 27th of March

2025. There was also the Climate Ambassador, Sustainability Support for Education and Let's go Zero 2030 programmes which linked to the National Education Nature Park programme. Members were encouraged to spread the word and to connect local schools to the programme.

Links for eligibility criteria and further details were provided:

National Education Nature Park website:

<https://www.educationnaturepark.org.uk/>

Nature Park Grants Eligibility list and criteria:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nature-park-and-climate-action-awards-funding-allocations>

Nature Park grant FAQ:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/schools/national-education-nature-park/national-education-nature-park-grant/frequently-asked-questions-2024-25>

Climate Ambassadors:

<https://climateambassadors.org.uk/>

Sustainability Support for Education:

<https://www.sustainabilitysupportforeducation.org.uk/>

Let's Go Zero:

<https://letszero.org/>

Contact the Yorkshire Nature Park team (Jen Horseman/Jen Davies):

yorkshirenaturepark@rhs.org.uk

The Chair outlined she had scheduled to meet with the Senior Programme Officer and Climate Ambassadors and Members outlined they would contact local schools and provide further details accordingly.

6 Working Groups Update

As Rachel Wainwright, Policy Officer (CEGS) was unable to attend the meeting, the Chair noted discussions had been held regarding date and topics for future Working Groups and upcoming dates were to be provided to Members via email.

7 Update on Nature and Tree-planting Initiatives in Leeds

The report of the Chief Officer, Climate, Energy and Green Spaces provided an update on woodland creation and on the programme of tree planting related initiatives. In addition, an update was provided on biodiversity net gain as well as an update on practical initiatives such as the establishment of wildflower areas in collaboration with Butterfly Conservation in Roundhay Park using seed sourced through Natural England in order to provide areas of managed habitat for native butterflies and other invertebrates which linked to the conservation work undertaken at Tropical World.

Tony Stringwell, Parks Operations Manager, Climate, Energy & Green Spaces, highlighted the following information for Woodland Creation:

- In response to the Council's 2019 climate emergency declaration there was a need for significant tree planting, woodland creation and improvements to existing woodland. Submissions to and agreements from the Executive Board had doubled the proposed number of trees to be planted through corporate funds, with a target of 5.8 million trees over 25 years.

- The Arium supported the programme, with trees grown there before being replanted by the operations team, as well as supporting public engagement and volunteering schemes.
- Infographics were shown to outline the scope of benefits provided through tree planting which were available to Members for promotion of the programme.
- The progression of tree planting since 2019 had been steady and for every 75 sites that were to be planted on, around 150 to 200 required prior identification as sites coming to fruition were often impacted by other service and utility requirements.
- Progress for the planting season for 2024/25 was outlined as 39 current schemes with 16 whip planting sites and 23 new standard tree installation sites comprising of 27.4 hectares.
- Internal and external consultations were held in order to seek opinions on sites planned for tree planting. The public consultation had closed on the 16th of September 2024 and results were 79% positive, 14% negative and 7% neutral out of the 327 responses.
- Beat-up surveys were used to assess the number of trees surviving at the end of the maintenance period and following surveying trees planted in 2022/23 an additional 37,039 trees were required to bring these sites up to standard. Significant rainfall had impacted upon tree survival rates.
- 1558 trees had been surveyed and audited with a fairly good success rate with 69% being healthy, however issues of vandalism were noted.
- A GIS platform was used to for data analysis and quality assurance to monitor sites across the city. The mapping system was also used as a tool for the public to suggest potential sites, with 216 being received.
- In order to limit the use of glyphosate, mulch matting trials were being run, including at a site Morwick Terrace, however, it was expensive, and glyphosate was often essential to meet targets. The trial had been positive, with a 68% survival rate and a further trial was proposed at a site in a more urban setting.
- Seed collection schemes had engaged with young people and received good publicity, with seed collection days being run by park rangers.
- An overview of the programme was displayed outlining key statistics of progress, which were overall positive.
- Members with thanked for their input and support for delivering woodland creation.

A progress update was provided by Emma Trickett, Parks Technical Manager, in relation to bio-diversity net gain (BNG):

- BNG was a planning regulation, introduced by the Environment Act 2021 and as of February 2024, it was mandated that a minimum 10% uplift in biodiversity was delivered on a given development site, or using BNG credits, where the Council would act as a broker, for sites deemed unsuitable for BNG.
- Delivery of BNG was through improvement to or creation of wildlife habitats, which were to be maintained for 30 years.

- Off site BNG delivery, using credits, was covered by the Council and was supported by the Parks & Green Spaces Strategy with the goal being to *increase wildlife and biodiversity and reduce the impact of climate change*.
- During the pre-mandatory stage, the planning department had requested voluntary commitments from developers which had been used as a trial for the BNG process. During this time 18 pilot schemes were agreed as part of approved planning permissions, involving 101 biodiversity units (equivalent to £2.3million), with 6 more likely to be agreed. So far, 47 units (equivalent to £1million) had been received for 7 schemes.
- The aim was to deliver BNG as close as possible to development sites, subject to suitability and capacity. Through consultation, 6 sites had been agreed for delivery, along with 30 year management plans, including a relaxed mowing scheme at Wyke Beck Valley, managed mowing at Asket Hill and three woodlands. Signage was to be installed to explain work and management processes to the public.
- For the mandatory stage, the 10% uplift was enforceable, and the additional rules meant delivery was to be through a Habitat Banking Vehicle (HBV), rather than directly through the Council. This process, of allocating land for BNG to be leased to a HBV and registered with Natural England, was in development in liaison with Planning and Legal services.
- BNG was to be like for like, so if hedgerows were removed then new hedgerows were required.
- Land allocated for BNG was preferred to be large and linkable to other sites. Work was ongoing to identify and prioritise BNG sites potential sites at Otley Chevin, Rothwell Country Park, Skelton Lake and Killingbeck Fields under consideration.

Isobel Smith, Senior Estates Manager, provided an update on initiatives to establish wildflower areas, Butterfly Conservation and conservation work undertaken at Tropical World:

- The Tropical World building, originally known as Coronation House and built in 1911, focused on conservation, preserving plant and animal species, with a role of educating the public on sustainable practices, biodiversity, as well as research projects. Members were encouraged to visit Tropical World and a site visit was proposed to be arranged.
- The Butterfly Conservation Project, in line with zoo licence requirements, aimed to provide conservation research and training, captive breeding and reintroduction. Butterflies had been housed and associated with Tropical World since the 1940s.
- Wildflower meadows at Roundhay Park were being established to provide habitat and food for native butterflies. Local community projects were run to involve people in protecting wild spaces and native species.
- Wildflower meadow development relied upon partnership work with knowledge shared between institutions, with the Butterfly Conservation Society assisting with the scheme and Natural England donating seed.

- Since the 1970s it was estimated that butterfly numbers and sightings had decreased by 80% and initiatives such as relaxed mowing assisted in reversing losses.
- Meadow development work began in April 2023 with the areas Lakeside Meadow and Castle Meadow being selected, in consultation with partners and the public. Following success, the areas were to be expanded.
- To encourage education and raise awareness, signage had been installed and zoo education, including workshops, were run at Tropical World. For future maintenance of the meadows, training and apprenticeships were available.
- A sculpture trail had been built around Tropical World and Roundhay Park to connect people to nature and the wildflower meadows.
- Butterfly populations were monitored as part of the conservation work requirements at Tropical World which included inclusive training, a transect walk and the annual Big Butterfly Count, with data uploaded to the Butterfly Conservation Society website, which allowed success to be monitored.
- Future plans to improve conservation work included expanding the development of the wildflower meadows, a new partnership with Wild Spaces, expansion of community events and expanding conservation work to include other species.

During discussions, the Committee considered the following points:

- Seeking alternatives to glyphosate for woodland creation was supported by Members, but where glyphosate was used it was important to provide clear signage for the public.
- Some concern regarding the capacity of overall suitable sites for woodland creation, given the need for some open green space provision and limitations for tree planting on land outside of Council ownership, were raised. In response it was noted that work in partnership with Asset Management and Regeneration sought to find the correct balance in spatial capacity for other purposes and needs from the corporate estate.
- Council owned parks and greenspaces were comprised of over 4000 hectares and a balance was needed for different habitats and Members were to be kept informed of forthcoming proposals or options.
- Engagement with private landowners was ongoing to identify sites with enough capacity for woodland creation and Members suggestions were welcome.
- The details for the metrics for determining BNG were defined by Natural England and required an ecologist to make an assessment of the size, value and rarity of a site and develop proposals for a 10% biodiversity uplift, with the methodology considered robust.
- The transect walk was on a defined route in order to provide equitable data for butterfly population monitoring over long time periods.
- Kick sampling was explained as water sampling to assess the health of water habitats to inform research and was conducted at sites including Gledhow and Wyke Beck.

- Although there had been some success in the mulch matting trial and further trials were planned, moving away from glyphosate in full posed difficulties in more urban settings. Glyphosate usage had decreased, and it was hoped that less reliance on it would be developed through further plans and consideration of other options.
- It was confirmed that the nature and sculpture trails were open and information on conservation work, along with education events, were provided to schools. Further engagement work with schools was agreed to be explored, including improved communication models and updating information on the toolkit for young people on the Leeds By Example website.
- The right balance for woodland creation against other community needs was important as open space was valuable and tree planting on Council housing land was not always appropriate. There had been objections noted to a tree planting consultation in Killingbeck and Seacroft and a response was to be followed up.
- If parks were oversaturated with trees, rather than open amenity space, it may cause people to travel out of the area which had a carbon impact. It was hoped more options for woodland creation on privately owned land could come to fruition.
- BNG was proposed to be delivered as close to a development site as possible but often limited space was available, it was noted that BNG was mandatory and could be provided anywhere across the city and could be added to existing high value sites. It was outlined that BNG credits were used to maintain and improve habitats and would not lead to a financial gain for the Council but would add value site management.
- As the woodland creation programme was ambitious, all proposed sites were open to public consultation and in most cases required some form of agreement with Elected Ward Members, in liaison with the local community.

RECOMMENDED – That the report, along with Members comments, be noted.

8 Leeds Household Waste and Recycling Collection Strategy Update

A verbal update regarding relevant national policy, strategy and legislation; together with a draft strategy for managing household waste in Leeds in a way that met national Simpler Recycling requirements and helped Leeds residents to reduce the amount of waste they produced that was not re-used or recycled was presented to the Committee.

John Woolmer, Chief Officer for Environmental Services, Communities, Housing & Environment, outlined the following information to Members:

- Environmental services covered refuse, fly tipping, litter bins and street cleansing and managed the Leeds Household Waste and Recycling Collection Strategy.
- The strategy had been presented in the previous week to the Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board, with that reported contained in the agenda for Member's information, which

outlined the current national position for waste management, applied to the context and ongoing work within Leeds.

- The Environment Act 2021, as agreed by Parliament, had brought new requirements for kerb side collection of glass, garden and food waste. The Act was underpinned by additional legislation and processes, including, extended producer responsibility for packaging (EPR), food waste policy and deposit return schemes (DRS) for plastic and metal beverage containers, which was also noted to potentially decrease litter. This reduced waste by changing regulations and with the incentive held at the top of the supply chain on producers, through associated fees.
- A full update on processes were provided to Local Authorities by the Government in 2023, in attempt to create clearer, simpler waste management programmes, with additional information on 'Simpler Recycling' outlined in May 2024.
- The update noted Local Authorities should focus on reducing overall waste and the number of bins provided to residents, as well as directing legislation to reduce the number of black bin collections.
- The new legislation was clear on emphasis on co-mingling where possible and expectations for the implementation of kerb side collection of glass, metal, garden, and food waste, with specific splitting of different recyclable materials, by 2026 and DRS by 2027.
- Leeds was in a good position in light of the forthcoming changes and future models, as there was already a low bin count, with just black, green and brown. Leeds had the largest garden waste collection within the UK, with 60% of houses having a brown bin, free of charge.
- Glass was now collected at kerb side within green bins as on the 1st of August 2024, with initial success as a proof of concept. 700 tonnes of glass had been collected in August, with 80% suitable for remelting, this was above the current national target of 72%.
- A contract had been procured with HW Martin to implement their glass collection technology infrastructure, which had been successful. Current data forecast that 8,500 tonnes of glass was to be collected per year, but it was hoped to increase further, as well as the remelt percentage.
- The next steps, prior to Government funding agreements, for the strategy was exploring options for food waste processes, with agreement from the Executive Board. An interim method for food waste in brown bins was under consideration, with expanded brown bin provision and collection frequency for residents, which would also reduce overall black bin wastage.
- Influencing people's approach to waste and recycling was a good approach prior to Government funding agreements when viable reviews could take place.

During the discussions the following matters were considered:

- The logistical processes for the interim proposals for the food waste brown bin trial were queried. In response it was outlined that examples from other Council's currently collecting food waste had been explored

and options were to provide separate biodegradable bags and kitchen caddies for food waste as well as composting. It was also noted that dealing with household food waste was a personal decision for residents.

- With glass collected from green bins, data displaying the effect on black bins and bottle banks needed around 3 months to outline reliable trends. In November 2024 an update was anticipated for accurate statistics for the new glass collection model, glass remelt and recycling, glass put in bottle banks, as well as black bin composition analysis.
- Work to address issues of glass still being placed in black bins, and not green bins or bottle banks, was to be targeted, with Members engagement encouraged.
- Whether additional allowances were going to be made for brown bins, given the impact on capacity food waste proposals would have, was queried. In response this was to be reviewed as part of the proposal, however, it was noted there were other options for additional garden waste, including composting and household waste tip sites. There was an option of charging for a second brown bin.
- The brown bin proposals were an interim approach to food waste collection prior to mandated legislation for weekly food waste collection and all options were still under consideration and review, with clarity of funding needed prior to any decision.
- Information for the purpose of brown bin provision needed to be clearer. Free garden waste collection was a good offer and was a service to assist with garden waste as opposed to collection of all garden waste.
- It was confirmed that, given the additional impact on capacity glass had on green bins, there was the ability for residents to request additional green bins but certain criteria for recycling needed to be met. Contact details to access this offer were to be provided to Members.
- Without access to a car, residents were limited in their ability to travel to household waste sites to drop off excess garden waste. Options for residents to pay for second brown bin provision were to be explored.
- Despite green bin glass collection, bottle banks were to be retained as long as they were needed. Emerging data noted bottle bank usage was to drop off, but bottle banks were cost neutral due to not requiring a sorting process but may be reviewed on a site by site basis. If a low amount of glass collection was recorded at a carpark bottle bank site, removing some bottle banks would free up carparking space.
- With 80% of glass suitable for remelt, the reasons for some glass being unsuitable for remelt were outlined as contamination and size and quality of the glass pieces. A video showing the process was available online and an offer of a site visit to the processing facility was extended to Members.
- The proposed food waste models had been developed in liaison with industry experts which allowed for carbon impacts and carbon savings to be forecast. There were difficulties in providing accurate carbon saving figures prior to the procurement of contracts and market response.

- There were various options to consider for food waste proposals, including processing models, and brown bin collections would be changed to once per week only if they were selected to include food waste.
- It was requested that an update regarding glass being incorrectly placed in the black bin was available to inform public communications, when it became available. This was agreed to be provided by Officers.
- There was support offered by Members for the brown bin option for forthcoming food waste proposals.

RECOMMENDED – That the update, along with Members comments, be noted.

9 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

RECOMMENDED - To note the date and time of the next meeting as Monday the 4th of November 2024 at 2.00 pm

Strategy and Resources Directorate Update to CEAC

Andy Dodman

Interim Assistant Chief Executive – People, Digital & Change

November 2024

Role of the directorate

To provide organisational leadership on strategy, culture, finance, legal and digital, through excellent and coordinated professional services to support colleagues, and deliver a wide range of high-quality front line services that make a positive difference to the public.

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No longer the lead for Net Zero agenda, but update from:

- ***Legal, Democratic & IG***
- ***Finance & Procurement***
- ***IDS***
- ***HR & Business Support***
- ***Strategy & Performance***
- ***CEL***

Legal, Democratic and Information Governance

- Exploration of increasing digitisation of records in Information Management Work Programme.
- Providing legal advice and support in relation to:
 - “Local Plan Update 1” – **Your City, Your Neighbourhood Your Planet**
 - **Habitat Bank and biodiversity net gain (BNG)** and range of planning applications & **Trees for Climate Change** Programme
 - **Leeds Pipes** – planning to enable routes and council as a body delivering the scheme
 - **Solar for Schools** decarbonisation grant funding
 - Decarbonisation of **LCC Activity Centres**
 - **Climate Innovation District**
- Collectively contributing and adherence to corporate initiatives:
 - **Hybrid working** – reductions in commuting and office usage continues
 - Good **energy saving** practices promoted
 - Included in **staff communications**
 - **Reduced printing** where possible.

Democratic Services

- **Reviewed and reduced printed agenda** packs and scaled back number of home delivery for agendas for members still in receipt (now to Group Office).
- **Hybrid Civic vehicle for the Lord Mayor** for when the Lord Mayor is travelling to engagements outside of the City Centre (in City Centre generally try to walk if possible).
- **Support to a wide range of non-executive members to effectively challenge decision makers** with regard to progress against the Council's ambitions for climate and carbon reduction- particularly via CEAC and the associated annual update to Council, but also through scrutiny.

Finance

- Similar to Legal Services – **extensive range of professional advice** on all net zero programmes and projects, including both capital and revenue aspects.
- **Support financial management of various eEfficiency schemes** e.g. Public Sector Decarbonisation/Habitat Banking Vehicle to enable direct investment in strategic nature recovery/ District Heating Network (Leeds Pipes) and Woodland Creation.
- **Governance: Capital Schemes** considered through Challenge Group, Strategic Investment Board. Template includes a section for the impact.
- **Financial reporting** now incorporates whether the latest revenue and capital in year position has any consequences for the Council's Best City Ambition.

Procurement

- **Procurement of sustainability initiatives/measures** (e.g. Solar PV, electric vehicles, DHN, flood alleviation).
 - **Procurements which include specific sustainability requirements** (e.g. new housing delivery specifications not permitting use of gas boilers).
 - **Contracts above £5m require Carbon Reduction Plan** (e.g. use local supply chain, local employment/training, carbon reduction, using low/no emission vehicles, removal of single use plastics, donations to environmental initiatives).
- Delivery of additional social value** beyond the core contract requirements. **Social Value Team, Engine and Network** allow for a holistic organisational view of commitments to deliver wider impact. **Working with Climate team** to map out strategic priorities
- Joining up with other Leeds anchors** to develop single approach to SV across the city.

Integrated Digital Services

- Transformation and **Migration to the Cloud** to reduce physical footprint.
- Cloud providers have **strong net zero policies** e.g. Microsoft Azure.
- Contribution to **hybrid working with devices**, working remotely applications.
- **Recycling** of IT equipment, across the council and with communities.
- **Rationalisation of Applications** which will reduce the Physical Infrastructure.
- Automation via RPA and AI that **reduce Computer Usage and travel.**
- Including messaging in **staff communications** to maintain awareness.
- Led changes to **printing habits.**

Integrated Digital Services

- Deployment of new **low energy Managed Print Devices which are 60% more efficient** with a further reduction in toner waste
- Reduction in the numbers of Managed Print Devices from **720 devices to 346**
- Trial of Copilot for electronic transcription of meetings to reduce handwritten meeting notes
- Trialling use of mobile phone transcription of social case assessment interviews to further reduce note taking in notebooks
- Delivering a remote 'factory reset' option for LCC laptops to avoid the need to return to base for rebuild when things go wrong
- Deploying BYOD policies and eSIM options for mobile devices rather than issuing new devices to all employees, will reduce digital waste
- Creation of Web Forms, to reduce leaflets and paper forms and double keying
- Migration from old **WIFI infrastructure to modern Meraki energy efficient access points** across Council buildings

Human Resources & Business Support

Active Travel schemes in place e.g.

- Bikes to work scheme – remains popular.
- Public transport travel discounts – e.g., Metro cards

Page 21 Ultra-low emission car leasing – 300 Hybrid/EV leased cars, offer extended to schools.

- Encouraging **corporate travel plan** new edition being promoted from October
- Roll out of better **digital options** for recording, claiming and monitoring journeys/mileage claims on new HR system.

- **Grey Fleet Car use policy** – Set in 2019 to phase-out business mileage payments for journeys in diesel/petrol vehicles by 2025. Achieving transitions now not possible without undue disruption/costs falling on staff. Policy under review. Progress in reducing emission has however been made given hybrid working and budget controls on travel. More staff also using EV/Hybrid vehicles; reducing Scope 3 emissions
- **Hybrid working** – reductions in commuting and office usage continuing.
- **Reduced printing** where possible and discussed at communications events.
- Management development & engagement; **carbon literacy training** options to be explored in Be Your Best Mgt Dev programmes.

Strategy & Performance

- Climate resilience considered through West Yorkshire Community Risk Register that includes risks associated with climate change:
 - Severe weather (very High)
 - Heatwave (High)
 - Poor Air Quality (High)
 - Surface water flooding (high)
- Council's Corporate Risk map includes climate resilience risks - major flooding and climate change (high risks).
- Council's Major Incident Response Plan, reflects the UK government National Risk Register and includes our emergency major incident response to natural hazards.
- Resilience & Emergencies Team co-ordinating council wide review and production critical area Business Continuity Plans, that reflect WY Community Risk register and National Risk Register climate risks.
- and inform public and businesses about incidents via a range of channels
- Council's Severe Weather Plan reviewed to incorporate the new MET Office Extreme Heat Warnings
- Resilience and Emergencies Team with Home Care Commissioning and Public Health held two workshops to train both Residential and Home Care Providers on the risks of a heatwave
- West Yorkshire Resilience Forum Strategic Exercise theme of Heatwave
- The Heatwave Silver Group provides guidance for adapting services during heatwaves, including altered working hours, water provision, ventilation, and encouraging WFH. They also review and update these guidelines annually. [InSite - Working during a heatwave: guidance for managers and staff](#)

Civic Enterprise Leads

Cleaning/FM/Passenger Transport

- **Technology being used to aid efficient routing of vehicles, reducing miles on road.**
- Switch to Electric Vehicles to support towards decarbonisation targets for the city.
- **Improving building's efficiency, through activities such as LED lighting and energy management.**
- Staff now work flexibly from home and work together on sustainable travel arrangements e.g. car sharing is promoted and utilised where it can be.

- Promotion of building energy efficiency initiatives such a Big Switch Off and increased recycling of waste.
- **Support building energy efficiency initiatives through effects repairs and maintenance strategy for new plant such as solar panels and heat pumps.**
- **Supported the roll out of SMART meters to all corporate buildings to give vital intelligence to enable us to deliver energy saving strategies.**
- Reviewed all Civic Flavour menus to support sustainability in food and energy use e.g. increased vegetarian offers with a lower carbon footprint.

Civic Enterprise Leads

Leeds Building Service

- **Procurement decisions focusing on sustainability e.g. recent procurement exercise involved geographically diverse locations to have access to materials closer to job location.**
- Continued rollout of electric fleet and less travel through more effective planning. Service now operates with 171 electric vehicles.
- 🕒 **Training carried out for 43 operatives to maintain renewable technologies.**
- 🕒 Supporting people to deliver designs and getting schemes to site including renewable technologies - we have picked up the housing air source heat pumps and ground source heat pumps and we also now are doing repair and install of solar and have previously trained operatives on EV charging points.

Civic Enterprise Leads

Fleet Services

- Current position:
 - **24% of corporate fleet is electric (364 small vehicles)**
 - 130 electric vehicle home charging points have been installed
 - 220 electric vehicle charging points installed across the directorates
 - 4 direct current charge points installed at Newmarket House (for eRCV's)
- 3 electric Refuse Collection Vehicles ordered and due for delivery within the next month.
- 3 new electric vehicles received, replacing diesel vehicles.
- 2 hybrid cars received, replacing euro 5 diesel vehicles.
- 95% of LCC fleet vehicles are Euro 6 compliant which restricts the emission of NOx gases to less than 80 mg/km for diesels, or 60 mg/km for petrol.
- **Telematics roll out to remaining CEL vehicles commenced in July 24. Benchmarking underway to identify immediate efficiencies however, from previously fitted vehicles, we've seen a reduction in fuel and CO2 emissions from improved driver behaviour.** Planning of jobs is easier and speedier; improving vehicle utilisation.
- Recycling of materials within the depot; oil, filters, batteries, spray canisters, plastic, cardboard and paper.
- Speed awareness course in place – helping to inform and train drivers of consequences, improve driver behaviour, in turn reduce fuel consumption and vehicle maintenance costs. 49 trained so far this financial year.
- Tyre supplier establishing a Leeds depot. Localised storage facility in place to reduce deliveries/miles.

Civic Enterprise Leads

Catering Leads

- Suppliers are locally based within Yorkshire.
- Fruit and veg supplier uses zero emission electric vehicles.
- Fresh produce packaging with recycled boxes used for deliveries.
- Menus are Food for Life Bronze Served level accredited.
- Enhanced 'Planet Friendly Menus' which utilise more plant protein and less meat on non-vegetarian days which take place twice per week.
- Vegan options are regular menu option supported by our vegan toolkit.
- Where manufacturers use Palm Oil, it is from sustainable sources and complies with relevant accreditation.
- Developed a carbon calculator to calculate the carbon footprint of school meals.

- Electronic solution procured and being rolled out to catering establishments, already seeing 29 sites utilising pre-ordering of meals, reducing over production/food waste. 127 sites using digital systems reducing paperbased functions (paper/print/postage) significantly. Roll out will continue across sites.
- **Working with schools to help them lower their emissions, working to halve the carbon footprint of the meals we serve by 2030, by: buying local, serving local and banned air-freighted imports; reducing meal and dairy, and increasing plant based dishes.**
- Working with the sustainability team on contract specs for enhancements relating to sustainability ahead of key contracts being let next year.
- All suppliers using euro 6 vehicles or better (e.g. EV) for the supply of goods.
- Food hygiene and manual handling refresher training now delivered via an on-line approach, which will see 940 sessions delivered virtually this year, rather than travelling to central locations and utilising paperbased resources.

Civic Enterprise Leads

How CEL adapts its delivery and working environment to climate change (e.g. extreme heat, flooding etc):

- Operational adjustments are made to services when extreme weather is experienced, this could mean, changes in PPE, adaptations to menus and delivery times, advice groups on how to look after yourself and signposting to wider advice relating not just to their employment with LCC.
- Toolbox talks on how to extreme conditions are in place and give practical tips on how to look after yourself and your team.

Next steps...

Strategy and Resources will..

1. **Strategy:** Further strengthen the Best City Ambition to better reflect the progress made and partnership arrangements underpinning the city's efforts to tackle climate change.
2. **Partners:** Work with colleagues to position Leeds to take advantage of opportunities emerging from the Government's missions which support innovation in tackling climate change, working with partners across all sectors and with communities. Actively engage in any consultation from government to explore the benefits/challenges of hybrid/full remote committee meetings.
3. **Funding:** Continue to work closely with services to identify appropriate funding opportunities that support the Council's climate change priorities.

Next steps continued...

4. **Infrastructure:** Complete rollout of new low power multi-functional office printers, reducing by 50% and continue the move to Cloud computing, reducing physical hardware in Council data centres.
5. **Infrastructure:** Continue to focus on the energy efficiency of the corporate estate; through energy efficient approaches such as moving to LED lighting, enhanced energy management and awareness through the roll out of smart meters and new plant such as solar panels and heat pumps as part of repair and maintenance.
6. Continue to train and officers/operatives on renewable technologies and improve carbon literacy.
7. Focus on the future fleet make up and the emerging options for this; electric, hybrid, hydrogen etc for the different needs across the corporate fleet.
8. Continue the ongoing work to halve the carbon footprint of the meals we serve by 2030, by: buying local, serving local and banned air-freighted imports; reducing meal and dairy, and increasing plant based dishes.

Conclusions

- Thank you for the invitation.
- A good discipline for us to review and reflect on activity.
- We do a lot, thanks to the drive and knowledge of the various teams.
- There is always more that we can do.
- We will keep this in our conversations and work programmes.
- Welcome comments and observations or ideas on anything omissions.

Thank you

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Climate Action Leeds Update

Date: 25th October 2024

Report of: Chief Officer Climate, Energy and Green Spaces

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

Brief summary

Climate Action Leeds (CAL) is working for a zero carbon, nature friendly, socially just Leeds by the 2030s. Their aim is to support this by mobilising communities, campaign groups and different sectors to plan and act together. They have been supported through National Lottery grant funding and work in partnership across the city with a range of groups, such as Voluntary Action Leeds, Leeds Tidal, Our Future Leeds, Together for Peace and CAG Consultants amongst others. They aim to deliver positive change through.

- Local Community Hub working
- City Movement Building
- Sector & Campaign Support – this covers seven key transition areas;
 - Energy
 - Housing
 - Food
 - Nature
 - Work & Economy
 - Youth Education
 - Transport

Climate Action Leeds will update CEAC on their work to date.

Recommendations

- a) To note the presentation to be made to the committee, and to consider requests for support from Climate Action Leeds and to use their feedback to develop ongoing alignment in Net Zero delivery between CAL and Leeds City Council.

What is this report about?

1. This report provides an update to CEAC on the work of Climate Action Leeds, As the presentation will be delivered directly by Climate Action Leeds, a full report was not possible available at the time of this cover report being submitted, it will instead be presented during the meeting by CAL representatives.
2. The key aspects of their presentation will cover and overview of the whole programme for those who are unfamiliar, details of the numbers of citizens they have reached and the groups who have been involved, examples of grassroots action and the benefit and impact delivered by the community hubs. There will also be case studies from of different CAL projects that show quantified carbon reductions, a brief overview of their doughnut economy report findings and community wealth building. They will end with next steps and any asks of the CEAC and Leeds City Council.

What impact will this proposal have?

3. The presentation from CAL will help inform the CEAC committee on work being delivered in the third sector on delivery of Net Zero objectives and engagement with communities therefore providing useful understanding to support ongoing work undertaken by the committee in their role supporting and providing check and challenge on the city’s climate emergency response as well as providing opportunity to find alignment and shared objectives to support ongoing work.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

- Health and Wellbeing Inclusive Growth Zero Carbon

4. The aims of Climate Action Leeds compliment the work being done in support of the council’s net-zero ambition. It includes objectives and ambitions that relate to all three pillars of the Best City Ambition.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:		
Have ward members been consulted?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

5. Not applicable

What are the resource implications?

6. There are no direct resource implications as a result of this report.

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

7. There are no specific risk management implications as a result of this report.

What are the legal implications?

8. There are no direct legal implications as a result of this report.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

9. Not applicable

How will success be measured?

10. Climate Action Leeds have their own processes and timetables for measuring their delivery against objectives and targets and report to the National Lottery as part of their funding agreement.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

11. Not applicable

Appendices**Background papers**

Not applicable

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