



## CLIMATE EMERGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

---

Meeting to be held Remotely on  
Monday, 13th December, 2021  
at 10.30 am

---

### MEMBERSHIP

#### Councillors

B Anderson  
N Buckley  
P Carlill  
M Dobson  
Finnigan  
E Flint  
A Forsaith  
A Garthwaite  
C Hart-Brooke  
H Hayden  
J Illingworth  
M Shahzad  
P Wadsworth  
N Walshaw (Chair)  
P Wray

Note to observers of the meeting: To remotely observe this meeting, please click on the 'To View Meeting' link which will feature on the meeting's webpage (linked below) ahead of the meeting. The webcast will become available at the commencement of the meeting.

<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1133&MId=11744&Ver=4>

---

Agenda compiled by:  
Harriet Speight  
Governance and Scrutiny Support  
Telephone: 0113 37 89954

# A G E N D A

Item No	Ward	Item Not Open		Page No
1			<p><b>APPEALS AGAINST REFUSAL OF INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>To consider any appeals in accordance with Procedure Rule 15.2 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (in the event of an appeal the press and public will be excluded).</p> <p>(*In accordance with Procedure Rule 15.2, written notice of an appeal must be received by the Head of Governance Services at least 24 hours before the meeting)</p>	
2			<p><b>EXEMPT INFORMATION - POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To highlight reports or appendices which officers have identified as containing exempt information, and where officers consider that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons outlined in the report.</li> <li>2) To consider whether or not to accept the officers recommendation in respect of the above information.</li> <li>3) If so, to formally pass the following resolution:-</li> </ol> <p><b>RESOLVED –</b> That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following parts of the agenda designated as containing exempt information on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information, as follows:-</p>	

Item No	Ward	Item Not Open		Page No
3			<p><b>LATE ITEMS</b></p> <p>To identify items which have been admitted to the agenda by the Chair for consideration</p> <p>(The special circumstances shall be specified in the minutes)</p>	
4			<p><b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b></p> <p>To disclose or draw attention to any interests in accordance with Leeds City Council's 'Councillor Code of Conduct'.</p>	
5			<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>To receive any apologies for absence from the meeting.</p>	
6			<p><b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b></p> <p>To receive and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2021 as a correct record, and to note the notes of the consultative meeting held 1 November 2021.</p>	5 - 14
7			<p><b>ANNUAL REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL</b></p> <p>To consider the report of the Chief Officer (Sustainable Energy and Air Quality) that seeks the approval of the Committee's Annual Report to Full Council.</p>	15 - 26
8			<p><b>DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The next consultative meeting will take place Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 10.00 a.m.</p>	

### Third Party Recording

Recording of this meeting is allowed to enable those not present to see or hear the proceedings either as they take place (or later) and to enable the reporting of those proceedings. A copy of the recording protocol is available from the contacts named on the front of this agenda.

Use of Recordings by Third Parties— code of practice

- a) Any published recording should be accompanied by a statement of when and where the recording was made, the context of the discussion that took place, and a clear identification of the main speakers and their role or title.
- b) Those making recordings must not edit the recording in a way that could lead to misinterpretation or misrepresentation of the proceedings or comments made by attendees. In particular there should be no internal editing of published extracts; recordings may start at any point and end at any point but the material between those points must be complete.

This page is intentionally left blank

## Climate Emergency Advisory Committee

Wednesday, 10th March, 2021

**PRESENT:** Councillor N Walshaw in the Chair

Councillors B Anderson, J Bentley,  
N Buckley, P Carlill, A Forsaith,  
A Garthwaite, H Hayden, J Illingworth,  
M Midgley, M Shahzad, P Wadsworth and  
P Wray

### **54 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents**

There were no appeals.

### **55 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public**

There were no exempt items.

### **56 Late Items**

There were no late items.

### **57 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests**

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

### **58 Apologies for Absence**

Councillor L Mulherin submitted her apologies to the meeting, and Councillor H Hayden was in attendance as substitute.

### **59 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 be approved as an accurate record.

### **60 Open Forum**

Members of the public were asked to submit a video recording of their open forum submission in advance of the meeting.

The Leeds Cycle Campaign submitted a video, which can be viewed [here](#), highlighting the need for urgent action to provide safe access for cyclists, runners and walkers to the Aire and Calder canal at Skelton Grange Road Bridge.

Members noted their shared concerns on the matter, and advised that further discussions with stakeholders had been arranged later in the week to move the issue forward.

## **61 Working Groups Update**

The Chief Officer for Sustainable Energy and Air Quality, Polly Cook, provided an update to Members on the progress of the working groups to the Committee as follows:

- **Biodiversity and Food** – At the most recent meeting, guest speakers from the University of York and the University of Leeds presented the benefits of soil management, the Vulnerability Index and how this can be used to protect communities, and the benefits of vertical farming. At the next meeting, guest speakers are scheduled to attend to present recent research to develop a new food system across the city. The group have also started to develop a low-carbon food action plan.
- **Planning, Buildings and Energy** – The group have continued to review existing climate related planning policies with a view to these being updated and their implementation strengthened. Recent meetings have also focused on developing new and enhanced climate related policies within the Local Plan update ahead of public consultation. At the next meeting, the group will focus on the Domestic Energy Strategy for the city.
- **Transport** – The group has not met since the last Committee meeting, however, plans to meet in coming weeks to look specifically at behaviour change related to the draft Transport Strategy consultation.

## **62 Leeds Climate Commission: Zero Carbon Roadmap**

The Chief Officer (Sustainable Energy and Air Quality) that submitted a report that introduced a presentation from the Leeds Climate Commission on the recently published Net-Zero Carbon Roadmap for Leeds, which has been developed in response to the recommendations of the Leeds Climate Change Citizens' Jury.

Professor Andy Gouldson, Chair of the Leeds Climate Commission, delivered a PowerPoint presentation setting out the Net-Zero Carbon Roadmap for Leeds. The key messages were presented as follows:

- Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions from Leeds have fallen by 40% since the turn of the Millennium. With on-going decarbonisation of grid electricity, and taking into account population and economic growth within the city region, we project that Leeds' 2000 level of annual emissions will have fallen by a total of 45% in 2030 and 49% in 2050.
- The periods of lockdown throughout the pandemic will have had an impact, particularly due to changes in working patterns with most people working from home, however, it is not expected to change the broader scale of the challenge.

- Leeds has a clear opportunity to become a leader in how it shapes consumer behaviour, by addressing the carbon reduction opportunities set out within the Roadmap and introducing low carbon measures for:
  - Households and for both public and commercial buildings (including better insulation, improved heating, more efficient appliances, some small scale renewables);
  - Transport (including more walking and cycling, enhanced public transport, electric and more fuel efficient vehicles);
  - Industry (including better lighting, improved process efficiencies and a wide range of other energy efficiency measures).

Members discussed a number of matters, including:

- *Finance and Investment.* Members recognised the financial barriers to families and private landlords making sustainable investments in their homes, particularly for a large proportion of housing in Leeds built in the Victorian era. It was noted that the recently announced National Infrastructure Bank to be situated in Leeds will provide opportunity for more green investment options. Members highlighted that the financial benefits to investments need to be calculated and presented through easy to understand communications to Leeds residents to evidence the value of eco-retrofit.
- *Changing travel behaviour.* In response to a query, Members were advised that electric aviation models are very unlikely to be commercially available by 2030, and therefore behavioural change is necessary to change travel habits, and encouraging residents to reduce plane travel, for example, from one week-long trip abroad every year to a two week trip every other year. Members noted the ambitions set out within the draft Transport Strategy that promote active travel and the benefits of '15 minute neighbourhoods' – meaning that neighbourhoods include all necessary amenities within 15 minutes walking distance and therefore reducing the need to travel by car.
- *Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission.* Members queried whether the Leeds roadmap is consistent with neighbouring local authorities, and were advised that the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission has been established in recognition of the need for joined up thinking across the region, and is to be launched in the coming weeks.

**RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report and appendices, along with Members comments, be noted.

### **63 Annual Report to Executive Board on the Climate Emergency**

The Chief Officer (Sustainable Energy and Air Quality) submitted a report that introduces the annual Climate Emergency report considered at the Executive Board meeting held 10th February 2021, which provides an update on the progress being made towards reducing emissions at both a national and local level, setting out key actions that have been undertaken. The report also reflects upon the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on both emissions and how the road to recovery can be founded in the green economy.

The Chief Officer (Sustainable Energy and Air Quality) presented the report, highlighting the range of work streams currently taking place along with successful funding bids.

Members noted in regards to the tree planting agenda, that there could be an opportunity to change residents' attitudes towards large scale tree planting by being more flexible around tree removal in individual gardens – an issue Members are frequently contacted about by ward residents.

**RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report and appendices, along with Members comments, be noted.

#### **64 Any Other Business**

The Chair noted that following the close of the recent planning application relating to Leeds Bradford Airport, an item will be scheduled for a future meeting of the Committee to discuss aviation policy and any further lobbying action to be taken.

#### **65 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

To be confirmed.



**CLIMATE EMERGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – CONSULTATIVE  
MEETING**

**MONDAY, 1ST NOVEMBER, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Councillor N Walshaw in the Chair

Councillors B Anderson, N Buckley,  
P Carlill, M Dobson, E Flint, A Forsaith,  
A Garthwaite, C Hart-Brooke, H Hayden,  
J Illingworth, M Shahzad, P Wadsworth and  
P Wray

**24 Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**25 Declarations of Interests**

There were no declarations of interests.

**26 Notes - 13th September 2021**

Matters Arising

Item 21 - It was requested that the reference to the development of the communications plan be amended to reflect that work has been undertaken by the team/service as opposed to an individual councillor.

**RECOMMENDED** – That the note of the meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 be noted.

**27 Open Forum**

Members of the public were invited to submit a video recording of their open forum submission in advance of the meeting.

One video was submitted on this occasion from Foodwise Leeds, advising Members of the organisation’s application to the Sustainable Food Places ‘Food for the Planet’ campaign grant to pilot a Community Composting project, and seeking financial commitment from Leeds City Council to support their bid. Members agreed to consider the options, including potential funding opportunities through Community Committee wellbeing funds, in more detail at the next meeting of the Food and Biodiversity Working Group. The video can be viewed [here](#).

Pat Urry, a representative from Roundhay Environmental Action Project (REAP), attended the meeting and addressed the Committee. Members were

advised of concerns within the local community about the domestic changes required to reduce the carbon output in their homes, and whether the Council intend on developing detailed advice and guidance, including a list of suitable contractors in Leeds. The Executive Member for Infrastructure and Investment advised of ongoing work taking place with Leeds City College and local business partners to ensure that young people are taught the skills required for sustainable building and retrofit, including a Green Careers event with schools, to be considered in further detail later in the meeting (Note 29 refers).

A Committee Member raised an issue on behalf of a local resident in regard to the cutting back of trees by Network Rail. The Chair noted his shared frustrations on the matter, however highlighted that the local authority has no legislative powers to stop the actions of Network Rail.

## 28 Working Groups Update

The Chief Officer for Sustainable Energy and Air Quality, Polly Cook, provided an update to Members on the progress of the working groups to the Committee as follows:

- **Behaviour Change and Transport** – At the most recent meeting, Members discussed plans to increase bus patronage, with presentations from Professor Gillian Anable (University of Leeds) on the latest insights to barriers to increasing bus travel, Connecting Leeds on the latest zero-carbon ‘Park and Ride’ in Stourton, the West Yorkshire Combined Authority with an update on the core network, and the West Yorkshire Mayor’s plans for bus travel in the region going forward. At the next meeting, the group will focus on responding to aspects relating to electric vehicle charging points within the most recent consultation documents released by Government.
- **Biodiversity and Food** – At the most recent meeting, Members focused on actions from the last Committee meeting with Housing Leeds, who explained their general approach to managing land, woodland planting and biodiversity. Members highlighted examples of locations where the approach has not worked effectively, which the team have agreed to assess, and updates will be provided at a future meeting on alternative approaches taken to improve the process. Planning officers also presented their new leaflet to promote the benefits of front gardens and provided an opportunity for Members to comment on the campaign prior to launch. The group also discussed the use of harmful chemicals, which will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting, along with the Food Action Plan.
- **Planning, Buildings and Energy** – At the last meeting, Members were provided with an update on the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and some of the challenges experienced, along with a further discussion regarding the PAS 2035. At the next meeting, the group

will consider the cross-party response to the heat and energy aspects of the Government's consultation.

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

The Chief Officer (Sustainable Energy and Air Quality) submitted a report that 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.

The following were in attendance:

- Chad Newton, Senior Communications and Marketing Officer, Sustainable Energy and Air Quality Team, Leeds City Council
- Carly Boden, Employment and Skills Manager, Leeds City Council
- Georgina Johnson, Ahead Partnership

Representatives delivered a PowerPoint presentation, highlighting the following:

- A 'green collar' job is any role that contributes to the net-zero carbon ambition and will be mostly available in the private sector, predominantly within building and energy industries, but the transition requires significant support from the public sector and is a core feature of the Government's Net Zero Strategy.
- A number of green jobs have already been created in Leeds – through the Leeds PIPES District Heating Network and companies such as Cenergist.
- Young people's understanding and passion for climate issues provides an opportunity to engage with them at an early stage to raise awareness of green careers and ensure that schools, colleges and employers are equipped to support green career pathways – reflected in the collective calls to action within the Talent and Skills Plan in Leeds.
- An official COP26 Regional Roadshow event will be held 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021 for school pupils in Leeds at the low carbon construction firm CITU, focusing on bringing 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.

Members discussed a number of matters, including:

- In reference to the issues raised during the open forum (Note 27 refers), Members highlighted that accessible training is crucial across trade sectors immediately, to ensure that consumer choice is available in relation to home retrofit. The Chair noted that changes to building practices will be encouraged by upcoming changes to lending from major banks to businesses and prospective homeowners, which will be limited depending on the sustainability of the product / dwelling.
- It was requested that links to the Government's recently published Heat and Building Strategy be circulated to Members following the meeting.

#### **RECOMMENDED –**

- a) That the contents of the report and presentation, along with Members comments, be noted.
- b) That the Government's Heat and Buildings Strategy (2021) be circulated to Members.

### **30 Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Update - Schools in Leeds**

The Chief Officer (Sustainable Energy and Air Quality) submitted a report that introduces a presentation on the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) programme of works being delivered by the Sustainable Energy and Air Quality service.

Senior Project Officer, Joe Callin, delivered a PowerPoint presentation, detailing the process of decarbonising school sites as part of the PSDS programme in Leeds, including examples of completed projects, an explanation of funding allocation, some of the challenges experienced to date, differentials of costs between decarbonised and non-decarbonised sites, and the scale of future challenges.

Members discussed a number of matters, including:

- The Chair noted that the funding allocation of £1.4bn until 2025 for the PSDS programme announced by Government was disappointing, and that to achieve maximum impact and achieve 2030 net-zero ambitions, sustained funding of multiple billion pounds per year is required.
- The Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate noted her thanks to the team for their continued efforts to deliver the programme.
- In reference to the recent announcement of rising energy prices, Members queried whether the costs detailed in the presentation are likely to vary and were advised that the constant fluctuation of energy

prices makes it difficult to update business cases to reflect the current picture.

- In response to a query, it was confirmed that excess electricity generated by solar panels outside of term time is used by 'Solar for Schools', the community interest company who own the solar panels, for other similar projects in schools and the funds generated by over recovery of electricity are paid back to the school.
- Members queried the alternative sources for heating if the heat pumps malfunction or are unable to fully heat the school on a particularly cold day. It was explained that the schools have a hybrid heating system and that gas boilers are maintained as secondary heat source to support the heat pumps during peak demands. The boilers are also able to accommodate the full heat demand of the site in the event of a malfunction.

**RECOMMENDED** – That the contents of the report and presentation, along with Members comments, be noted.

### **31 Climate Education**

The Chief Officer (Sustainable Energy and Air Quality) submitted a report that introduced an update on work undertaken by the Council and partners to support delivery of climate education to young people in Leeds.

The following were in attendance:

- Steve Ruse, Lead Sustainable Schools Consultant, Children and Families, Leeds City Council
- Chris Jackson, Leeds Development Education Centre (Leeds DEC)

The Lead Sustainable Schools Consultant introduced the report, providing an overview of work undertaken by the Council and partners to support climate education for children and young people in Leeds, following previous discussions at the Committee's meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Members were advised that the Climate Action Route Map (CARM) presented previously had been finalised and made available to schools. Members were shown Southroyd Primary School's webpage dedicated to their climate priorities and commitments, along with a copy of their action plan for the school year, which was developed using the CARM guidance.

Chris Jackson, Leeds DEC, advised Members that in recognition of the pressure on teachers to focus on delivering a national curriculum that does not yet feature climate issues as a key aspect, Leeds DEC have created a range of resources to support global education to be integrated within core subjects. A demonstration of the Leeds DEC website and the resources available was presented on screen.

Members discussed a number of matters, including:

- Members commended the work of Southroyd Primary School and agreed to write to the school to thank them for their contribution to the city's 2030 net-zero ambitions.
- Members recognised that until climate education is recognised as a key subject to be taught in schools, teachers time and resources are restricted to meeting statutory responsibilities, particularly recognising the additional pressure of 'catch-up' learning required as a result of school closures during the pandemic. Members welcomed the approach and resources available through Leeds DEC.
- In reference to earlier discussions around green jobs, Members suggested that a local accreditation process be developed for schools and colleges who deliver key climate initiatives from the Council and partners and agreed to discuss further and consider options at a future Behaviour Change and Transport Working Group meeting.
- In recognition of the heightened feelings of stress and anxiety amongst young people in relation to climate change, Members noted the importance of climate education resources and plans incorporating time for children and young people to reflect on the emotional impact of topics raised and provide wellbeing support.

**RECOMMENDED –**

- a) That the contents of the report and presentation, along with Members comments, be noted.
- b) That a letter be sent to Southroyd Primary School by the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, commending their commitment to climate action.

**32 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13th December 2021 at 10.30 a.m.

## Annual Report to Full Council

Date: 13 December 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**

- The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of Members to the Committee's Annual Report to Full Council.
- Members are requested to consider the draft annual report reflecting the work of the committee in the 2020/21 municipal year attached at Appendix 1 and determine whether any additional commentary is required prior to submission to Full Council in January 2022.

### **Recommendations**

The Climate Emergency Advisory Committee is asked to consider and approve the draft Annual Report at Appendix 1 and refer the report to Full Council for consideration.

### Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 Members are requested to consider the draft annual report reflecting the work of the committee in the 2020/21 municipal year attached at Appendix 1 and determine whether any additional commentary is required prior to submission to Full Council in January 2022.

### What impact will this proposal have?

**Wards Affected:**

Have ward members been consulted?      Yes      No

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

### What consultation and engagement has taken place?

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

### What are the resource implications?

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

### What are the legal implications?

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

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

- 6 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

- 7 The projects and schemes 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?**

- 8 Not applicable.

**b) How will success be measured?**

- 9 Not applicable.

**c) What is the timetable for implementation?**

- 10 Not applicable.

## Appendices



11 None.

## **Background papers**

12 None.

This page is intentionally left blank



## **Draft Annual Report to Full Council**

Climate Emergency Advisory Committee 2020/21

## Foreword by the Chair, Councillor Neil Walshaw

It is a pleasure to present this report to Full Council from the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee for the 2021/2022 Municipal Year. I would like to place on record my thanks to all the Committee members, our hard-working officer team and everyone from our great city who has attended and contributed over the last twelve months. As a Committee we have continued to hold the majority of our meetings and workshops remotely to reduce our own carbon footprint and assist in maintaining a healthy work life balance for members and officers. This approach also helps a wide and diverse range of organisations and groups to work with us far more easily and at lower cost.

It is by turns both fascinating and amazing to reflect on the climate and carbon journey CEAC has been on since its formation in May 2019. We have been able to build upon the excellent work already being undertaken by the Council and across Leeds; help develop the knowledge base of ourselves and our partners; bring people and their ideas together for collaborative working and raise awareness of the Climate Emergency we all face. I am especially pleased with our work examining how to fund the changes we know we need to make in Leeds. Every member of CEAC can be proud of what we have achieved together.

The Climate Emergency is a clear and present threat to our civilisation. I wish I was exaggerating I really do. We must do everything we can do to limit warming to 1.5 degrees. A four-degree warmed world is one of chaos and destruction. Currently we are on track for around two and a half. Whether we achieve the former or the latter will be shaped by the decisions we take in this decade. Once we accept that doesn't our mission become clearer and easier colleagues?

I look forward to working with you all in the future.

With best wishes,



Councillor Neil Walshaw Chair, Climate Emergency Advisory Committee

## Summary:

- The Climate Emergency Advisory Committee was introduced following the declaration of Climate Emergency in March 2019. It is a cross party advisory committee authorised to consider and make recommendations regarding climate change and sustainability.
- This report provides an annual update on the work of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee and its working groups. The last report was taken in January 2021. This report does **not** provide an update on all climate work undertaken by the council – this will be covered in the annual report that is taken to February’s Executive Board.
- The main committee has continued to host open forum, allowing members of the public to present on issues that they wish the committee to consider via video link or via pre-recorded video. This is considered an important aspect as it provides an opportunity for public engagement.
- The key themes that have been explored by the committee this year are:
  - Funding in the context of the climate emergency and alternative funding routes,
  - How to best engage the city on climate,
  - Review of the climate action plan
  - Green jobs and skills
  - Climate mitigation within schools
  - Climate education
- Two of the four working groups have continued as last year:
  - Food and Biodiversity working group
  - Planning, Energy and Buildings working group
- The transport working group was amended to also include wider behaviour change as this was considered such a fundamental part of the work that is needed to achieve net zero.
- A Finance working group was set up following the main Climate Emergency Action Committee that focused on funding.
- The working groups allow members to delve into issues in more depth, often hearing from external speakers as well as officers from across the council. The working groups provide a number of key benefits:
  - Support members to be well briefed on climate related areas, enabling them to engage in the climate discussion in a more meaningful way with stakeholders;
  - Provide a forum for check challenge of progress against a number of key themes as well as supporting the development of policy;
  - Develop cross party lobbying strategies on key climate related issues;
  - Input into local and national consultation responses

## Main Committee

As the country started to return to work, the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee debated whether they should return to face to face meetings or continue on a remote basis. As the committee is not a decision-making body, it was not bound by the central government decision on returning to face to face meetings. It was decided that most meetings would remain on a remote basis as this was more in keeping with the overriding objective of the committee to reduce carbon emissions due to the reduced travel emissions of members. It also enables the committee to hear from a range of speakers from across the country as well as ensuring that the meeting can be accessed by the community as it continues to be broadcast via YouTube.

In June the meeting focused on climate communications as lack of buy in or engagement continues to be considered a key barrier to achieving net zero. We heard from the communications leads within the council on both the specific climate emergency communication as well as the travel behaviour change campaign on Connecting Leeds. A representative from the Leeds Climate Commission and Climate Action Leeds also gave an overview of the work that they were undertaking, highlighting partnership work taking place to engage the Leeds public by public, private and third sector groups. Members underlined the importance of engaging a wide variety of different communities across the city, especially those not already engaged on climate issues. Comments helped to inform the council's own communications strategies.

In July the meeting focused on another key barrier to success – funding. A presentation was provided that set the scale of the financial challenge and then two external speakers provided an insight into different routes of funding:

- Bankers without Boundaries – the key focus was on investment at scale utilising low cost pension funding, combined with pre-existing funding such as HRA or grant.
- Abundance provided insight into the new government bond scheme as well as green bond schemes that they had supported other local authorities to establish and the level of success

Due to the complexity and importance of the topic, it was agreed that an additional working group would be established to allow further time to be spent with both organisations and to help members and officers to gain a more in-depth understanding and agree how to progress this area of work.

In September, the committee heard from the Parks and Countryside service about the work that they are undertaking to improve their estates. This led to a number of follow up actions that were assigned to the Food and Biodiversity working group to explore in more detail.

The committee also heard about the different activities happening linked to COP26. Detail was provided on the launch of the regional climate action plan by the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission. An overview was also given on the various events that would be happening in the lead up to COP26:

- Car Free Day Event (22<sup>nd</sup> September)
- Low Carbon Lunch Event (29<sup>th</sup> September)
- Nature and environment themed light night (14/15<sup>th</sup> October)
- Exploring Green Careers event for young people (5<sup>th</sup> November)

An update was also provided on the council's own climate action plan with a focus on the work we are undertaking to meet the COP26 objectives:

- Secure global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach
- Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats
- Mobilise finance
- Work together to deliver

In November the main Committee looked at green jobs and skill in more depth. Context was provided around the importance of green jobs and skills and a just transition. The session also examined the role of various parties in this transition – government, education sector, industry and how they need to work up in a joined-up way to guarantee a successful transition. Practical examples were provided of how investment by the council in both District heating and Air Source Heat Pumps had led to job creation in the city. Economic development provided an overview of the newly developed Talent and Skills plan and how this will link to green jobs and Ahead Partnership provided more insight into the Green Careers event, linked to COP26.

Within the same meeting the committee heard about the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and how the team were delivering a £25 million programme of decarbonisation across circa 40 buildings. The session focused on the schools' element of the programme and set out some of the challenges such as the amount of preliminary work that has to be undertaken before a contractor can even start on site and the difficulties of balancing the additional running costs of air source heat pumps with solar panels to ensure that a school is not left in a worse financial position.

Finally, the Committee heard about Climate Education, hearing from a representative from Children's and Families on their own programme of work and a particularly outstanding example from Southroyd Primary School who have created their own Climate Action Plan. LeedsDec also presented the great work that they are undertaking to create climate educational materials that can be used within numerous subjects, allowing for true integration of climate into the curriculum as well as the training courses that they can offer within schools as well as within communities. The committee agreed to help promote their work and as a result LeedsDec have been promoted at every community committee with an ask to members to promote their work within schools where they have a relationship as a governor, parent or grandparent.

## **Working Groups**

### **Food and Biodiversity working group**

The food and biodiversity working group has primarily focused on the food aspects since the last report. This has included consulting with numerous parts of the council to understand the scope of catering within the council – ranging from pre-prepared meals to food that is freshly cooked on the premises. During the work on food the working group also heard from a number of external speakers who provided in-depth insight into some of the actions that we could take as a council. The work on food culminated in the council making three food commitments on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and a food action plan being created:

1. Buy local, serve local. We'll increasingly source more of the food we serve from producers based in Yorkshire and surrounding counties, to support local businesses and cut food miles.
2. Ban air-freighted imports. Where we use ingredients that can't be produced locally, we'll reduce the impact of transporting it by using boat, road or rail
3. Halve the carbon footprint of meals served by 2030. We'll review and update all of the meals we serve to cut their environmental impact, without sacrificing flavour, variety or nutrients.

Some actions from the main committee meeting were also deferred to the food and biodiversity working group to take forward. This included working with Housing Leeds to consider how they best use their land to support biodiversity as well as tree planting as well as looking at the policy related to the use of chemicals within park maintenance. The group also reviewed the leaflet produced by planning to encourage residents to leave their front gardens as gardens rather than paving over them and provided valuable feedback to the planning team.

The on-going role of the group will be to monitor progress against the food action plan and to provide check and challenge.

The group will also be involved in considering the initial findings from the micro feasibility study that has been commissioned to consider options for the development of a sustainable greenhouse, linked to the district heating network as well as providing oversight to a new tool that is being developed in partnership with the University of Leeds that will enable the calculation of the carbon footprint of recipes to be automated, enabling easier decision making and smarter use of data.

The group would also like to support community engagement to promote allotments and back garden vegetable growing as well as looking at how vertical farming can be developed in the city.

### **Finance working group**

The finance working group was set up following the finance Climate Emergency Advisory Committee and was used to delve more deeply into the issues raised at the main committee. This group has then asked a group of officers to work together to identify the ideal area to target for an area based scheme, demonstrating the level of investment already present in the area identified and what further funding would then be required to deliver an area based intervention. The group will review the decision making process used by officers to identify the area and will support the development of a strategy to raise the profile of the identified area as a potential pilot with both private investors and government.

### **Planning, Buildings & Energy working group**

Since the last report to Full Council, members of the CEAC Planning, Buildings & Energy working group have reviewed existing climate related planning policies with a view to these being updated and their implementation strengthened. They have also influenced the development of new and enhanced climate related policies through the Local Plan Update ahead of this going out for public consultation this year, including topics on carbon reduction, flood risk, green infrastructure, place-making and sustainable infrastructure. This consultation has now been concluded, with the outcomes reported back to Members.

The group has also been involved in the development of a domestic energy strategy for the City. Although there have been significant successes in delivering energy efficiency and low carbon measures across the Council's housing stock, this needs to be scaled up and delivered at pace across all tenures if carbon reduction targets are to be met. Members have considered and fed into the development of strategic



business cases for the most deliverable packages of work, how the relevant skills and supply chain can be developed, how a financial offer can be created that will ensure sufficient take-up across the owner occupied and private rented sectors, and how Government should be lobbied to provide policies and funding in support of these aims.

Members have engaged with the issue of the significant potential implications of the new PAS 2035 domestic energy efficiency retrofit standard on the Council's low carbon housing schemes and have steered the approach to lobbying Government. This has resulted in consideration of amendments to the standard's criteria such that it does not frustrate schemes due to impacts on delivery timescales and affordability.

The working group has also reviewed examples of current best practice in achieving net zero carbon through sustainable design and considered how these principles might be embraced by the major housing contractors in delivering zero carbon schemes. The group has monitored progress on the implementation of decarbonisation measures across the corporate estate using grant funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS). Members have also reviewed relevant local and national strategies (including the recent BEIS Heat and Buildings Strategy) and have fed into relevant consultations on key building decarbonisation issues.

### **Transport and Behaviour Change working group**

The Climate Emergency and Advisory Committee's transport and behaviour change (T&BC) working group has played an important role this year, briefing members on a range of issues related to transport emissions and enabling members to advise on both local and national policy.

Still in its early stages, the working group has convened academics and policy makers to discuss issues including the future of commuting, increasing bus patronage, the provision of electric vehicle charge points and more.

The T&BC working group has ensured that interested members from all political parties in Leeds have received expert briefings on the above issues and have been able to contribute their view on behalf of residents to official consultations relating to the UK's Net Zero Strategy, for example a consultation on proposals regarding the future role of local authorities for electric vehicle charge point provision. Going forward, it is expected that members of the working group will also be given an opportunity to contribute to a response to Government proposals regarding ending the sale of certain types of single use plastics. The working group will also discuss behavioural issues including wood burning, walking and cycling, getting people into green jobs, and promoting goods reuse.

### **Conclusion**

The Climate Emergency Advisory Committee has considered the key barriers to implementation at pace this year including funding, communications and engagement as well as further area specific investigations such as jobs and skills and climate education. CEAC continues to provide challenge and oversight to the on-going work of the council on achieving net zero as well as identifying potential new opportunities and developing policy direction in response to numerous consultations.

This page is intentionally left blank