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## CLIMATE EMERGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Meeting to be held in Civic Hall, Leeds on  
Thursday, 23rd June, 2022  
at 2.00 pm

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### MEMBERSHIP

#### Councillors

B Anderson  
D Blackburn  
J Bowden  
N Buckley  
P Carlill  
K Dye (Chair)  
A Garthwaite  
C Hart-Brooke  
H Hayden  
O Newton  
M Shahzad  
E Thomson  
P Truswell  
J Tudor  
P Wadsworth

Please do not attend the meeting in person if you have symptoms of Covid-19 and please follow current public health advice to avoid passing the virus onto other people.

Note to observers of the meeting. To remotely observe this meeting, please click on the 'View the Meeting Recording' 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://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLPjmOAZpvCo-9S0G2DoZITBEDTUtAa8eU>

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**Agenda compiled by:**  
**Helen Gray**  
**Governance and Scrutiny Support**  
**Telephone: 0113 37 88657**

# 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 PREVIOUS MEETINGS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To receive and approve the minutes of the last formal meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021</li> <li>b) To receive and note the meeting notes of the Consultative Meeting of Members of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022</li> </ul>	5 - 14
7			<p><b>OPEN FORUM</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Please note: Members of the public are asked to submit a video of their question or statement to <a href="mailto:climate.emergency@leeds.gov.uk">climate.emergency@leeds.gov.uk</a> by 5.00 pm on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June.</p>	

Item No	Ward	Item Not Open		Page No
8			<p><b>FORWARD PLAN 2022/23</b></p> <p>To consider the report of the Chief Officer (Sustainable Energy and Air Quality) which sets out the proposed meeting schedule for 2022/23 at Appendix 1 and suggested amendments to the Committee's working groups for discussion. The report also seeks the Committee's consideration of the approach to holding physical and/or remote meetings for the forthcoming year.</p>	15 - 22
9			<p><b>CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE PLAN</b></p> <p>To consider the report of the Chief Officer (Sustainable Energy and Air Quality) summarising some of the learning and activity that has taken place since the Committee considered the Climate Adaptation Update at the meeting held in March 2022. The report also details plans to undertake a deeper council-wide climate risk assessment to further prevent and protect against future climate impacts.</p>	23 - 34
10			<p><b>LEEDS LOCAL PLAN UPDATE</b></p> <p>To consider the report of the Director of City Development submitted in support of a presentation to be given which provides an update on the development of the Leeds Local Plan.</p>	35 - 40
11			<p><b>DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>Thursday 21st July 2022 2.00 p.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.

## 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.



**CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, 9TH MARCH, 2022**

**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,  
N Walshaw and P Wray

**10 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**11 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**12 Notes of the Previous Meeting**

**RECOMMENDED** – That the note of the consultative meeting held 17 January 2022 be noted.

**13 Climate Adaptation Update**

The Chief Officer (Sustainable Energy and Air Quality) submitted a report that introduced a presentation on the council's ongoing work to support climate adaptation.

The following were in attendance:

- Jonathan Moxon, Flood Risk Manager, Leeds City Council
- Rosa Foster, Environment Planning & Engagement Manager, Environment Agency
- Richard Emmott, Director of Corporate Affairs, Yorkshire Water

Representatives delivered presentations on the individual perspectives on adaptation across the three organisations and the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission, and how they work in partnership to support the city's resilience to the current, potential and expected impacts of climate change. Members were also advised that the council's draft Adaptation and Resilience Plan is currently being developed and will be brought back to Executive Board in July 2022.

Members discussed a number of matters, including:

- Members noted that rivers do not respect the boundaries of any particular city and that mitigation efforts in one area may have knock on effects for other areas and sought assurance that local authorities work together across regions to ensure that flood schemes are integrated. Members were advised that there is a well-established statutory framework, within which the Environment Agency have a strategic oversight of flood risk and work at regional and sub regional level with partners on a whole catchment basis. Related to this, it was also noted that there will soon be a requirement for the three main water companies across the north to collaborate on future water supply.
- Members highlighted the importance of soil health in future adaptation planning, as well as the potential for harvesting rainwater for water supply in retrofit planning. It was confirmed that both matters are being discussed as part of the Local Plan update. Members were also reminded that the Local Plan update workshops being held later in the month are open to all members and will provide opportunity to raise such matters.
- Members were supportive of the constructive and accessible approach taken to the presentations delivered and future communications for adaptation and resilience.

**RECOMMENDED** – That the contents of the report, along with members comments, be noted.

#### **14 Executive Board 9th February 2022 - Climate Emergency Annual Report**

The Chief Officer (Sustainable Energy and Air Quality) submitted a report that introduced the Climate Emergency Annual Report considered at the Executive Board meeting on 9th February 2022.

The Chief Officer delivered a presentation, highlighting the key areas covered by the annual update report, including an overview of the recently agreed energy strategy, new guidance being developed for new builds and the upcoming food strategy.

Members discussed a number of matters, including:

- Members queried whether schemes to support council employees to switch to electric vehicles are readily available or in progress. Members were advised that existing car lease scheme, which has several electric vehicle options, is available to all council employees, and that a trial of an electric vehicle pool scheme for use during working hours will be launched shortly.
- In recognition of the importance of engaging with the public, it was suggested that a social media infographic be developed for elected members to share to encourage sign-up to the climate newsletter.
- Members requested an update on the plan for electric vehicle charging across the city, specifically in recognition of the significant amount of terraced housing without off street parking. The Chief Officer advised

that teams are working to develop a 'hub' approach to charging, whereby charging points are installed within the locality, for example in car parks or within a cul-de-sac. Leeds have also recently been announced as a partner on the government's geo-spatial programme, which will support mapping of charging points locally.

- The challenge of addressing the retrofit need across the private rented sector, particularly in the most disadvantaged areas of Leeds, was noted.

**RECOMMENDED** – That the contents of the report, along with members comments, be noted.

## 15 Open Forum

Members of the public were invited to submit a question / statement in advance of the meeting.

Two submissions were received. The first submission from the Clean Air Alliance was read out to the committee as follows:

'I represent the Clean Air Alliance in asking that there be an alternative 'festival' on 5th November/ Bonfire Night, since the format we've grown up with leaves us with polluted air. Whilst appreciating that risk assessments are in place, there is no consideration of the longer-term health of attendees, including Council staff, or local residents. The community bonfires in 2020 and 2021 were cancelled due to Covid, but we understand that air quality had not been considered. Covid has caused a break in the tradition for many people and 2022 would be a good time to review the whole issue.

The results of research carried out by the University of Leeds, which makes sombre reading, indicating that dioxins may stay in the air for up to 2 weeks. We know that respiratory clinicians in Leeds hospitals are concerned about the damage which smoke and particulates from bonfires cause to health, particularly with the cumulative impact of covid.

Whilst acknowledging that the Council 'puts on a good show', we know that Councillors regularly receive complaints from constituents forced to stay at home on that night, because of the noise and smoke of fireworks, inconsiderate parking, breathing difficulties and large crowds, whilst many people affected do not complain. The events exclude sections of the community, - they are a no-go area for many with mobility issues, and for families with young children due to tightly packed crowds and the difficulty children have seeing the displays.

Also of concern is the state of the parks afterwards where the bonfires have been held. The litter is picked up by Council staff and volunteers and whilst the grass does grow again, it's an effort and a Council cost which needn't happen.

Since signing up to Climate Emergency measures, many Councils are now looking at alternatives to bonfires and fireworks, e.g. Ashbourne, Bideford, Edinburgh, London, Newcastle, Norwich - all of which have had laser light shows, plus London and Edinburgh using drones too with spectacular success.

Perhaps 5th November/Bonfire Night could be combined with the hugely successful Light Night, with imaginative 'bonfire' and 'fireworks' displays. Gradually, more districts could be included, and use iconic buildings as the backdrop, such as Kirkstall Abbey, Temple Newsam, Guiseley/Yeadon/Morley/Wetherby Town Halls, Hunslet Library, Royal Armouries. Since the displays would be spread over a whole evening, not just whilst the fire burns or the fireworks are let off, people would be spread out too, creating more revenue-generating possibilities for the Council from food, drinks and other vendors.

It's likely that many residents who have bought fireworks and watched bonfires over the years could not explain the origin of this British custom, and I guess for the remainder, the origins are of no significance anymore. We ask for your assurance that this event be brought up-to-date for the environment and to be inclusive for all residents.'

The second submission was received from Climate Action Leeds, a video that provided an update on the Leeds Doughnut project and invited Members to the project launch event on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

## 16 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 received a presentation on the Vision Zero Strategy and the E-Bike Hire Scheme, and took away some comments from members to feed into the broader consultation. Planning colleagues will host a workshop to discuss the approach to 20 minute neighbourhoods across the city.
- **Biodiversity and Food** – This group had not met since the last meeting, but at the next meeting will discuss the National Food Strategy from a sustainability perspective and how the Leeds strategy can address some of the issues raised.
- **Planning, Buildings and Energy** – At the January 2022 meeting, the group focused on energy strategy in relation to the Council's activities and energy consumption. Members were briefed on the market position for energy prices and on the Council's approach to forward purchasing its gas and electricity. The main areas of focus for the strategy in terms of reducing consumption, becoming more energy efficient and increasing the level of energy sourced from renewables and low-carbon technologies were

discussed, as well as carbon reductions achieved to date and those expected to be secured through planned measures. The March 2022 meeting will be used to engage Members in a Local Plan Update policy workshop.

The Chief Officer advised that the next meeting of the finance working group had been delayed due to capacity issues.

**17 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

To be confirmed.

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## Forward Plan 2022/23

Date: 23 June 2022

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 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.
- In addition to the formal committee meetings, the Committee established four working groups aligned to the key themes of the Climate Emergency – Planning, Buildings and Energy, Biodiversity and Food, Behaviour Change and Transport, and Finance.
- This report proposes a meeting schedule for the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee for the 2022/23 municipal year.

### **Recommendations**

- a) To consider the proposed meeting schedule for meeting in 2022/23 at Appendix 1 and provide feedback.
- b) To consider the suggested amendments to the committee's working groups.

## Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 The first meeting of the new municipal year provides an opportunity to reflect on the structure of meetings and working groups, to ensure that the work of the committee aligns with council priorities, and reflects the current challenges of tackling climate change, both locally and nationally.
- 2 The meeting dates for the 2022/23 municipal year have been set as follows:  
Thursday 23rd June 2022 2.00 p.m.  
Thursday 21st July 2022 2.00 p.m.  
Monday 19th September 2022 1.00 p.m.  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022 1.00 p.m.  
Monday 28th November 2022 1.00 p.m.  
Monday 23rd January 2023 1.00 p.m.  
Monday 20th March 2022 1.00 p.m.
- 3 A proposed schedule for the 2022/23 meetings is set out at Appendix 1 for Member's consideration. In addition to the items set out at Appendix 1, the Chair will invite each director of the council to attend a meeting throughout the year to provide an update on the work taking place in each directorate to address the climate emergency. The committees' Terms of Reference are set out at Appendix 2.
- 4 The Leeds approach to climate mitigation and adaptation follows two key national strategies – the [Net Zero Strategy](#) and the [National Adaptation Programme](#). It is proposed that over the course of the next municipal year, each meeting will monitor progress of one or more key climate mitigation and adaptation themes, as follows:

### Climate Mitigation

- 1) Power
- 2) Fuel
- 3) Heat & Buildings
- 4) Transport
- 5) Nature & Waste
- 6) Industry
- 7) Greenhouse Gas Removal

### Climate Adaptation

- 8) Flooding
  - 9) Heat
  - 10) Drought/Water Supply
  - 11) Economic Impacts
- 5 In addition to the formal committee meetings, three working groups were set up that were aligned to the key themes of the Climate Emergency – Planning, Buildings and Energy, Biodiversity and Food, Behaviour Change and Transport, and Finance.
  - 6 It is proposed that the working group titles and remits be amended to the following:
    - *Infrastructure, Planning and Buildings* – Chaired by Councillor K Dye. Remit to include all aspects of housing and public building retrofit, green planning, energy, and transport.



- *Biodiversity, Food and Waste – Chaired by Councillor B Anderson.* Remit to include food production and supply, the circular economy, tree planting, parks and countryside, and waste services.
- *Community and Business Engagement – Chaired by Councillor M Shahzad.* Remit to include behaviour change initiatives, city-wide communications, local community projects, and business engagement.
- *Economy and Finance – Chaired by Councillor P Carlill.* Remit to include business cases for climate action, innovative funding solutions, green jobs and skills, and economic impacts of climate change.

7 The Chair sought the views of committee members in advance of the meeting in regards to the continuation of remote meetings or the return to physical meetings for the forthcoming municipal year. Most members preferred the remote meeting approach but also recognised the benefits of physical meetings. Therefore, the Chair has resolved that the first and last meetings of the municipal year will take place physically, in the Civic Hall, with all other meetings (including working group meetings) to be held remotely. Where a meeting requires a formal decision to be taken, in line with the Local Government Act 1972, a physical meeting will be held.

**What impact will this proposal have?**

**Wards Affected:**

Have ward members been consulted?       Yes       No

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

**What consultation and engagement has taken place?**

9 The Committee meeting will provide an opportunity for engagement on the content of the forward plan.

**What are the resource implications?**

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

**What are the legal implications?**

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

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

12 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

13 The content of the forward plan 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?**

14 Not applicable.

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

15 Not applicable.

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

16 Not applicable.

## **Appendices**

17 Appendix 1 – Climate Emergency Advisory Committee 2022/23 Proposed Schedule

18 Appendix 2 - Climate Emergency Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

## **Background papers**

19 None.

Meeting Date	Items	Themes	
		Mitigation	Adaptation
Thursday 23rd June 2022 2.00 p.m.	Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan		Flooding Heat Drought / Water Supply Economic Impacts
	Local Plan Update	Power Heat and Buildings Transport Greenhouse Gas Removal	Flooding Heat Drought / Water Supply
Thursday 21st July 2022 2.00 p.m.	Analysis of Waste Services in Leeds (Carbon Impact and Waste Composition)	Nature and Waste	
	Embedded Carbon	Transport	
Monday 19th September 2022 1.00 p.m.	Draft Food Strategy for Leeds	Industry and Business Nature and Waste	Economic Impacts Drought / Water supply
	Corporate Travel Plan	Transport	
	Draft Waste Strategy for Leeds	Nature and Waste	
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2022 1.00 p.m.	Local Plan Update – Consultation	Power Heat and Buildings Transport Greenhouse Gas Removal	Flooding Heat Drought / Water Supply
Monday 28th November 2022 1.00 p.m.	Social Progress Index	Heat and Buildings Transport	Flooding Heat Economic Impacts Drought / Water Supply
	Inclusive Growth Strategy Refresh	Industry and Business Heat and Buildings Transport	Economic Impacts

Monday 23rd January 2023 1.00 p.m.	City-wide Climate Engagement Update	Cross-cutting	
	Climate Emergency Advisory Committee Annual Report to be submitted to Full Council (Spring 2023)	Cross-cutting	
	Mass Transit Update (TBC)	Transport	
Monday 20th March 2022 1.00 p.m.	An overview of the annual Climate Emergency update report to be submitted to Executive Board (February 2023)	Cross-cutting	

## Climate Emergency Advisory Committee

An advisory Committee<sup>1</sup> authorised to consider and make recommendations regarding climate change and sustainability and in particular

1.) To advise the Council in relation to functions which are<sup>2</sup>

- specified as being non executive functions or
- being local choice functions, are reserved to the Council; and

to report annually to full council; and

2.) *To advise the Executive in relation to functions which are<sup>2</sup>*

- *specified as being executive functions, or*
- *being local choice functions, are not reserved to the Council, or*
- *are functions which are not specified as being either non executive functions or local choice functions and by default are executive functions*

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<sup>1</sup> Appointed by the Council in accordance with Section 102(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

<sup>2</sup> In accordance with the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 as from time to time amended.

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## Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan

Date: 23 June 2022

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**

- Following the last climate adaptation item considered at the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee meeting in March 2022, a range of activity has taken place across the council, and with our partners, to progress our plans to build the city's resilience to the impacts of climate change locally, in line with the government's National Adaptation Programme (NAP) and the latest UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA). This report summarises some of the learning and activity that has taken place to date. This report also details plans to undertake a deeper council-wide climate risk assessment to further prevent and protect against future climate impacts.

### **Recommendations**

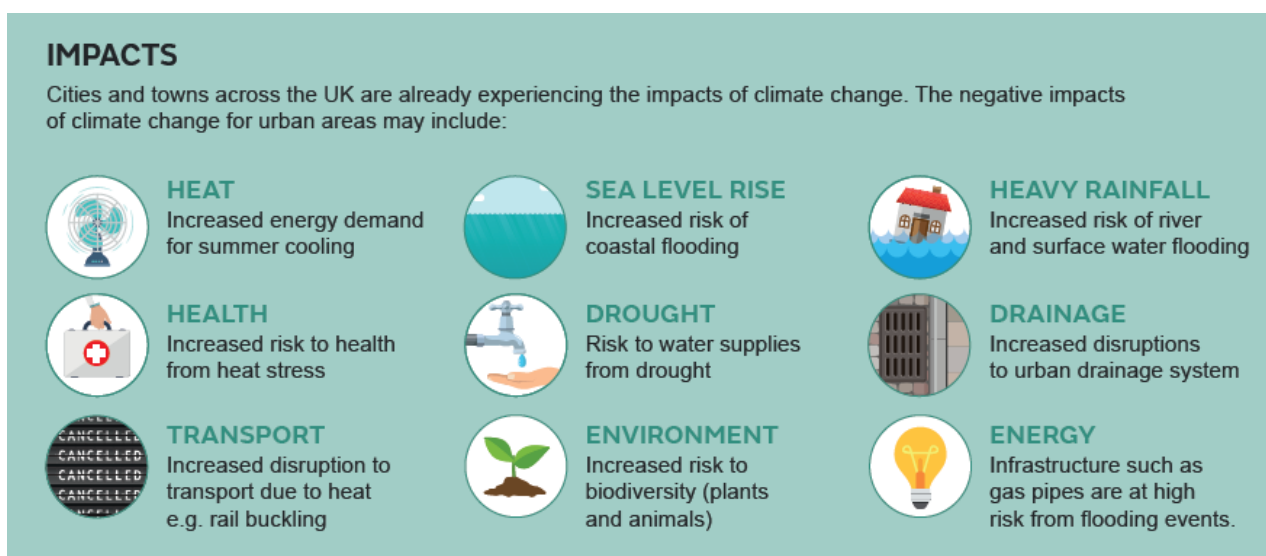
- a) To note the update provided on activity taking place across the council to address the current, future and expected impacts of climate change.
- b) To note the leading role the council is playing in the work on resilience and adaptation across the region in conjunction with the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission.
- c) To support the approach to undertake a service-led climate risk assessment, including the delivery of a series of workshops, which will inform council-wide reviews of business continuity plans and the corporate risk register.
- d) To support enhanced city-wide engagement with every community in Leeds over the next 12 months to raise awareness of—and receive feedback on—the council's activity to support climate mitigation and adaptation.
- e) To support the involvement of the committee's working groups in this work moving forward.

## Why is the proposal being put forward?

### Background

- 1 Climate adaptation is broadly defined as referring to any activity that minimises the impact of current, expected, and potential climate change and its effects. Climate change poses a threat to lives, livelihoods and local wildlife. Climate related risks will continue to increase, even if the global commitments of the Paris Agreement succeed in limiting warming to well below 2°C and efforts to limit it to 1.5°C are met.
- 2 We are already experiencing changes to our weather, with the UK climate already 1.1 degrees Celsius warmer than pre-industrial levels according to NASA. Broadly speaking, climate-related hazards that Leeds is increasingly likely to experience can be grouped into four themes: extreme and prolonged heat, flooding, drought, and indirect economic impacts resulting from climate-related trade disruption and population displacement elsewhere. The graphic below from the Met Office (Figure 1) shows the expected future impacts of climate change to urban areas like Leeds.
- 3 The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) recommend that while we aim to limit warming to 1.5°C, the evidence shows that we must be prepared for warming up to 4°C. Further international action would reduce these risks and therefore we will continue to monitor and be informed by the CCRA, National Risk Register, and National Adaptation Programme, which are each reviewed and updated on a regular basis.
- 4 The council is clear that this work is complementary of, not instead of, the third Key Pillar of the Best City Ambition to transition to a net zero economy as quickly as possible. Until this happens, Leeds will continue to contribute to climate change and will therefore be amplifying the risks outlined above. Becoming a net zero city (climate change mitigation) and preparing for the predicted impacts of climate change (climate change adaptation) are equally important strategic goals of our climate action work.

Figure 1



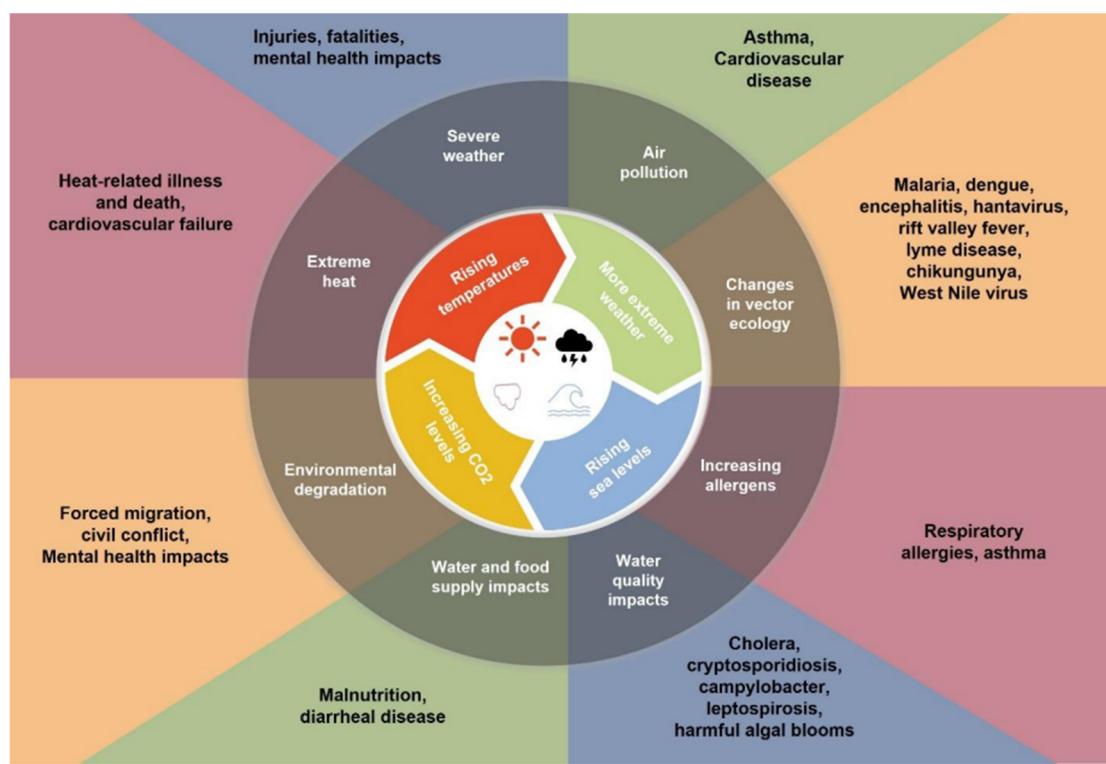
- 5 The [National Adaptation Programme \(NAP\)](#) sets out the governments' plan to prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change. The [third CCRA](#) was published in January 2022 and set out 61 individual climate risks that will impact our local economy, environment, health and wellbeing. It identifies eight priority areas for the Government to respond to in the next National Adaptation Programme, which is due to be published in



2023. The NAP and CCRA both provide useful context for adaptation planning.

- 6 Supporting the work of the NAP, 81 organisations across the UK's public and private sectors have already been required to produce adaptation reports considering the future risks and business continuity impacts of climate change. These include airport operators, energy generators, financial regulators, digital communications, water companies and many more. Other organisations have done so voluntarily.
- 7 One example of these is the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)'s [Third Health and Care Adaptation Report](#), published in 2021. The report summarises the current and future effects of climate change on the health and care sector and outlines practical next steps for the sector to build resilience and adapt. As climate change has the potential to widen existing health inequalities, the report also outlines how to support those most vulnerable to the systemic shocks associated with climate change. This report will have implications for Leeds. Figure 2 is a graphic from the report that details health impacts associated with changing weather and increasing temperatures.

Figure 2



- 8 It is prudent to ensure that the council is doing all we can to make informed considerations of the impact of climate change on our services and communities and to take proportionate action to protect lives, livelihoods and local wildlife. Doing so would not only protect the city in the future but also has the potential to deliver immediate benefits to Leeds residents, such as an enhanced quality of life.
- 9 Regardless of the hazard, there are four general aims of climate adaptation: we can adapt our city to **prevent** some hazards from occurring; we can **protect** the city from harm and damage by mitigating exposure and vulnerability to hazards; we can effectively **respond** to hazards when they do occur; and we can plan to **recover** quickly after a hazard has occurred. Each of these approaches will be important to a degree and so, throughout this process, the council must consider how best to balance these four aims.

## **Risk Management and Emergency Response**

- 10 The council has risk management arrangements in place which feed into a corporate risk register, updated and reported to the Corporate Leadership Team each quarter for review and discussion. A comprehensive update is provided to Executive Board via the Annual Corporate Risk Management Report. The corporate risk register houses the most significant, cross-cutting risks that could impact on the outcomes we aim to deliver via the Best City Ambition. Climate change – including failure to adapt to and mitigate more extreme weather conditions brought about by climate change, resulting in an adverse impact on Leeds (its people, communities, infrastructure, economy, and natural environment) – is one of over 20 corporate risks and is currently rated as ‘very high’. Beyond the corporate risk register, directorates identify and manage their own risks, which are also monitored on a quarterly basis.
- 11 The council also has an overarching business continuity management arrangement as well as individual business continuity plans (BCP) for services identified as being ‘critical’. The BCPs outline the steps required to recover service delivery to an agreed level following a disruptive incident. The council’s BCPs already include some arrangements for workforce planning and service delivery following a severe weather event, however this work provides an opportunity to review service level business continuity plans to ensure that service resilience considers the potential impacts of future climate change, such as the potential for an increased frequency and extent of impacts.
- 12 The West Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum (WYLRF - also known as West Yorkshire Prepared) is made up of the region’s key emergency responders and specific supporting agencies, including the council. The partnership works to help communities prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and major incidents, such as severe weather events, as well as working to protect critical local infrastructure. The WYLRF shares information between local, regional and national partners and its work is used to inform the council’s own Severe Weather Plan, corporate risk register, and business continuity plans. The WYLRF is well placed to play an important role in managing the response to climate-related hazards in the future.

## **Future approach**

- 13 There is already significant work taking place across the council to address some of the impacts of climate change and the council has previously demonstrated the robust arrangements in place for dealing with severe weather (e.g. flooding) and planning for potential economic shocks. Nevertheless, a comprehensive climate risk assessment of all council services has not yet been undertaken.
- 14 The council intends to undertake a service-led risk assessment over the next 12 months to identify any gaps and opportunities to ‘future proof’ and enhance existing policy. This work will be co-ordinated by officers from Sustainable Energy and Air Quality and Flood Risk Management. Following an initial audit of service plans, officers will deliver a series of workshops with council teams with support from academic partners. The aim of these workshops will be to enable services to identify climate-related risks to their operations and service users, raise awareness of activity that is already taking place to address such risks, and understand how teams can build further climate resilience within their own policies and frameworks, including service level risk registers and business continuity plans. It is proposed that the committee’s working groups monitor and advise on this ongoing work

across the council.

- 15 In July 2021, the council carried out an initial statutory public consultation on a Local Plan Update, which will update planning policies for carbon reduction, flood risk, green infrastructure (including biodiversity), place making and sustainable infrastructure. An update on the progress of this work will be provided as a separate item on this agenda.
- 16 The council's website will be updated in the coming months to reflect, and signpost to, current plans and policies in relation to climate adaptation, along with information and guidance for residents and businesses summarising the hazards and how to build preparedness within Leeds communities.
- 17 Alongside work taking place to assess climate risk in Leeds, the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission has set up a task and finish group, led by Environment Agency and Leeds City Council representatives, to develop a programme for local authorities to support adaptation and resilience planning. This will build upon lessons learned in Leeds and ensure joined up thinking across the region. It will also allow the council to play a leading role in piloting and developing the knowledge, skills, and tools all local authorities will need to develop their own adaptation plans.
- 18 The current arrangements and recent developments for flooding, extreme and / or prolonged heat, water supply issues and drought, and climate-related economic impacts are set out below.

### **Flooding**

- 19 The potential direct impacts of future flooding include risk to life and physical / mental wellbeing, damage to property and infrastructure, destruction of agriculture, and harm to the environment. Leeds has previously experienced many of these impacts. The Boxing Day floods in 2015 following Storm Eva had devastating consequences for our communities and businesses, and directly cost Leeds an estimated £36.8m and the city region more than £500m with indirect costs and economic impacts estimated to be much higher although harder to fully quantify.
- 20 The Environment Agency has a strategic overview of all sources of flooding and coastal erosion, as defined in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Lead local flood authorities (LLFAs) have the lead operational role in managing the risk of flooding from surface water and groundwater and ensuring that [a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy](#) (LFRMS) is published and regularly reviewed for their area. The council is the LLFA for Leeds, working in conjunction with the other Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) such as the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water, who have a statutory role for managing flood risk from sewers. The council must maintain a register of key assets and investigate significant flood incidents as well as play a statutory consultee role on all planning applications with respect to flood risk from surface and ground water. Infrastructure disruption as a result of flooding, such as damage to power networks, is coordinated locally through the WYLRF and is led nationally by the approach set out in the Government's National Infrastructure Strategy.
- 21 Flooding can also have a direct impact on the health and wellbeing of our communities, with increased risk of mental health issues and illness associated with water pollution. According to the CCRA, there is also a greater risk of vector-borne diseases if flooding provides new habitats for species of insects that transmit disease (see Figure 2). The LFRMS recognises the risks set out above and the associated impacts from an infrastructure perspective, but there is a need for further engagement with Environment Agency, UKHSA and Yorkshire Water to better understand risks to health and wellbeing

associated with flooding and opportunities to manage them.

- 22 In 2017, the council completed Phase 1 of the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS1). This innovative mix of hard engineered defences and moveable weirs reduced flood risk to 3500 homes and businesses in the city centre. FAS1 reduces flood risk to a 1% probability of occurring in any given year, which is also known as a '1-in-100-year level of flood protection. The FAS1 design also considers the increased protection required to maintain this standard until 2069 because of the increased risk of flooding predicted as a result of climate change.
- 23 In March 2022, work began on the Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase 2 (FAS2). Leeds FAS2 combines catchment-wide natural flood management and traditional engineering that stretches for 14km along the River Aire between Leeds Train Station and Apperley Bridge. When it is complete in Autumn 2023, Leeds FAS2 will reduce flood risk to a 0.5% probability of occurring in any given year (a 1-in-200-year level of flood protection) for 1,048 homes and 474 businesses as well as the area protected by FAS1. Like FAS1, FAS2 also includes an allowance for climate change up to 2069. Once completed, FAS2 will protect against flood events similar to the Boxing Day floods in 2015. The climate change allowance is achieved through nature-based measures across the whole catchment that will mature and offer increased protection over time by reduce peak flows in the catchment by 5-10%.
- 24 The West & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce has worked closely with Leeds City Council throughout the FAS development to support the city's 32,000 businesses. Developing the 'Waterfront Charter' in March 2017, the chamber has focused on the future growth of the Leeds Waterfront. The West Yorkshire Combined Authority, Local Enterprise Partnership and the councils Economic Development team worked closely with flood affected businesses following Storm Eva. The city has since seen further flood events—most notably Storms Ciara and Dennis in 2020—that have put further pressure on businesses and communities as they face financial uncertainty (insurability, lending confidence) and these impacts cascade onto supply chains and the local workforce.
- 25 The council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) was first published in 2014 and subsequently refreshed in 2018 to better reflect the changes to risk and the measures implemented in the city. One additional key element of the refresh was to highlight the impacts that climate change will have on the city with respect to flooding. Another key principle of the strategy is to engage with communities and businesses around the impacts of flooding and the Flood Risk team now includes a dedicated communications officer.
- 26 In addition to the LFRMS the council also conducts Preliminary and Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRA) that identify and prioritise areas of the city in relation to flood risk that help inform the Local Plan and planning policies. The SFRA is currently being updated as part of the Local Plan Update and this will provide the clearest picture we have of the flood risk across the city. By considering how future climate change will predict local flooding, once published the SFRA will allow informed decisions on investment and infrastructure development and thereby support inclusive growth of the city and enable housing needs to be addressed in a more climate-resilient way.

### **Extreme and prolonged heat**

- 27 According to the UKHSA, the UK experienced a record number of heat-associated deaths in 2020 with 2,556 all-cause excess deaths (excluding deaths from COVID-19) recorded in the UK during episodes of heat. UKSHA project that, without further action, the number of heat related deaths could triple by 2050. The UKCCRA predicts that extreme and prolonged heat are likely to become more frequent and potentially more severe as the

climate warms.

- 28 A summary of the health-related risks associated with extreme and prolonged heat are set out in Figure 2. Vulnerable groups include older people (65 years of age and above), the very young (under 5 years of age) and people with pre-existing medical conditions. [The Heatwave Plan for England](#) also identifies some of the non-health impacts that extreme and/or prolonged heat can have on infrastructure, including service disruption and economic losses caused by infrastructure failure, increased demand on the power grid, and agriculture/forestry loss.
- 29 Like other types of severe weather, prolonged and extreme heat can be forecast at a regional level which enables action to be taken to mitigate the risks. Last year, the Met Office launched a new 'extreme heat' impact-based weather warning to recognise the need to prepare for the potential widespread disruption and adverse health effects that extreme heat (which may be separate to prolonged heatwaves) can cause. This new warning sits alongside the established 'Heatwave' and 'Heat health alert' warnings.
- 30 When it comes to preparing for and managing extreme or prolonged heat, [the Heatwave Plan for England](#) recommends a series of actions that should be taken by local authorities and partners to reduce the local risks to health from prolonged exposure to severe heat. The heat-health alert system set out within the Heatwave Plan comprises of 5 main levels (levels 0-4). The levels cover scenarios ranging from long-term planning for severe heat to responding to a major national emergency. The Plan is currently being reviewed and is expected to be replaced by a consolidated 'Single Adverse Weather and Health Plan for England' next year.
- 31 Locally, the implementation of the Heatwave Plan for England is reflected within two locally managed action plans. The council's public health team are refreshing their 'Heat and Heatwave Plan for Leeds 2022' which takes a preventative approach to support those most at risk if a heatwave occurs and reflects levels 0, 1 and 2 of the national plan. The council's Resilience and Emergencies Team manage the corporate Severe Weather Plan which sets out the approach to responding to and managing a heatwave (levels 3 and 4 of the national plan) once it occurs. Government intervention is likely during a level 4 heatwave.
- 32 Infrastructure disruption as a result of extreme heat, such as damage to power networks, is managed locally through the WYLRP but is ultimately led nationally by the approach set out in the Heatwave Plan for England, National Infrastructure Strategy and Critical National Infrastructure arrangements.
- 33 Given the increasing and predicted risks from extreme and prolonged heat, as identified in the UKCCRA, it is recommended that long-term actions are also taken to protect our people, buildings, infrastructure and environment by reducing exposure and vulnerability to severe heat. Doing so would complement work to ensure robust plans are in place to respond to extreme or prolonged heat.
- 34 The design of our buildings and adoption of passive cooling measures (including green and blue infrastructure) will have a key role to play in helping to protect residents from extreme and prolonged heat. Improving the thermal efficiency of properties will also help to reduce exposure to extreme heat although it is likely to be less effective during longer heatwaves without cooling measures.
- 35 The Future Building Standard will introduce greater requirements for cooling measures in regulations for new buildings once it is implemented nationally, however there may be an opportunity for local policy to do more to make our buildings resilient to heat. Future risks from severe heat also underscore the importance of the council's work so far to improve the thermal efficiency of public buildings, social housing, and low-income private housing—as

well as highlighting the need to retrofit significant numbers of the city's remaining domestic and commercial buildings.

- 36 Finally, in addition to the immediate risks posed by extreme or prolonged heatwaves the UKCCRA also identifies risks to people and the environment associated with the more gradual warming of our climate.
- 37 The UKHSA has identified an increased risk to public health from vector-borne diseases (such as West Nile Virus and Lyme Disease) as a result of warmer temperatures extending the season of indigenous disease-carrying insects ticks whilst also making the UK more hospitable to species of disease-carrying insects new to the UK. Locally, the council's public health teams support the work of UKHSA to monitor infectious diseases and manage them when they occur. This work may become increasingly important as the climate changes.
- 38 Warming temperatures can also pose a risk to soil health and local wildlife, either directly (some local wildlife may struggle to adapt) or indirectly (warmer temperatures could better accommodate invasive species that threaten local wildlife). Further engagement is needed with Environment Agency and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to better understand these risks locally and to identify local responsibilities and opportunities.
- 39 Building on a service-led climate change risk assessment the council will identify opportunities to: make council services, building and land more heat-resilient; increase the uptake of passive cooling measures; and take targeted action to protect the most vulnerable to heat. Further work and engagement will also be undertaken with regional and national partners including the Environment Agency, DEFRA, Natural England, UKHSA and others.
- 40 Whilst the CCRA highlights the risks of a warming climate, the NAP has identified several potential opportunities that may be relevant locally which need further exploration. These include: greater opportunities for tourism, improved agricultural productivity (for certain crops), reduced winter heating demand, and fewer cold-related deaths. Further work will be undertaken to engage with Visit Leeds on their long-term plan and with the Environment Agency and DEFRA to better understand opportunities and local responsibilities to support farmers with climate adaptation.

### **Water supply issues and drought**

- 41 The CCRA identifies several risks related to reduced rainfall and water supply disruption in the future. These can be summarised as: business and infrastructure disruption, reduced agricultural or forestry productivity, an increased risk of wildfires, and harm to local wildlife and soil health. Coupled with higher temperatures, British summers are expected to experience less rainfall than present.
- 42 Research commissioned by the UK Committee on Climate Change estimated that the demand for water in England will exceed supply by between 1.1 billion and 3.1 billion litres per day by the 2050s, depending on the extent of climate change and population growth. Yorkshire Water have stated that the region's supply of water has potential to be less than the demand for water by 2038 if no action is taken.
- 43 Yorkshire Water has a duty to manage water supply for Leeds and the wider region. They are required to fulfil statutory responsibilities relating to water supply and environmental management. Their operations are regulated by both OFWAT and the Environment Agency.

- 44 Leeds City Council works alongside the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water as part of the West Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum. In the event of impending water supply disruption, the WYLRF would have significant advance notice and the Forum would lead on co-ordinating the response to it. Actions to prevent and respond to a regional water supply drought are set out in Yorkshire Water's [Drought Plan 2022](#). Yorkshire Water has also published a [Water Resources Management Plan](#) to outline how they plan to provide a secure supply of water to all customers over the next 25 years. Broadly, this includes measures to identify new supplies of water, reduce leakage across the system, and promote improved water efficiency and other demand reduction measures. This plan also states that in the event of water supply issues, the most vulnerable customers will be prioritised.
- 45 Fixing leakage within the water system will be extremely important to prevent the future risk of droughts. Yorkshire Water has committed to reduce leakage by 40% between 2018-2025, with plans to spend £325m on reducing leakage as part of their Water Resources Management Plan.
- 46 Residents and businesses also have a role to play to reduce water consumption, such as using more water efficient technologies and adopting behaviours that minimise water wastage. Additionally, businesses can also consider water supply disruption as part of their business continuity plans—a consideration which the council and West Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum already encourages.
- 47 Locally, improving the water efficiency of the city's buildings can help to reduce the per head demand for water without impacting quality of life. Since 2019, Leeds City Council's water efficiency planning standard has exceeded the national standard and sets out that residential developments of 10 or more dwellings (including conversion), where feasible, are required to meet a maximum water consumption standard of 110 litres per person per day. This reflects the tighter optional standard in building regulations. Work is also being undertaken to develop the high-level design principles to guide a review of the council's approach to new builds to include water efficiency. Such principles will then be developed into more detailed technical guidance notes for scheme development.
- 48 Further work will be undertaken to better understand how council services can support greater water efficiency, become more drought resilient where necessary, and help to reduce the city's overall water consumption. Further work will also be undertaken to engage with the Environment Agency and DEFRA to better understand opportunities and local responsibilities to support farmers with climate adaptation.

### **Economic impacts**

- 49 HM Treasury state in the [Net Zero Review](#) published in 2021:

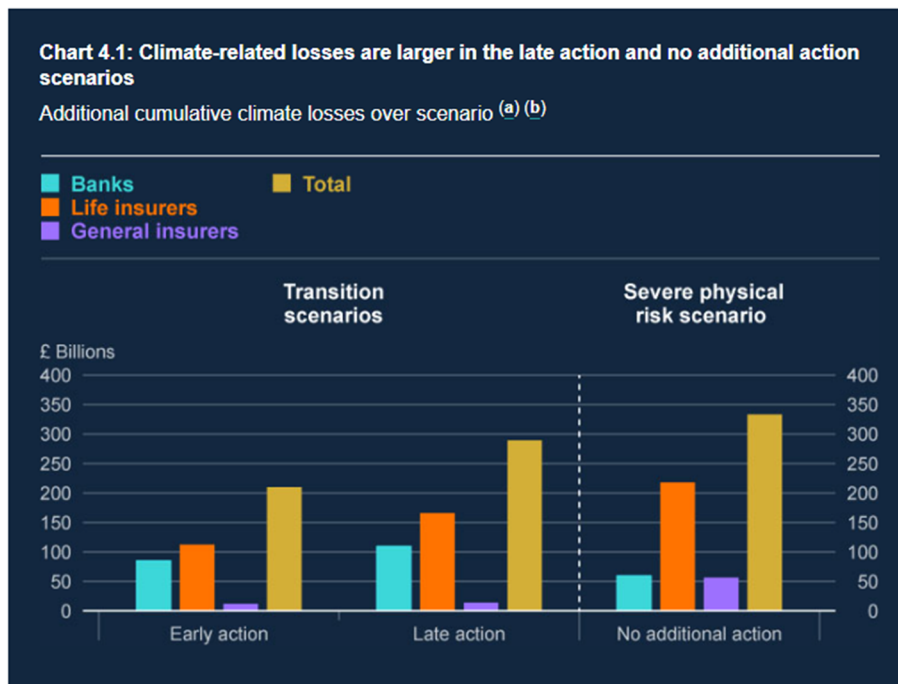
*“The costs of global inaction significantly outweigh the costs of action. Higher temperatures and an increased prevalence of extreme weather events could lead to reduced productivity growth in the UK and significant damage to UK capital stock. Most studies do not reflect the economic impact of indirect effects and global spillovers; for example, damage to global supply chains affecting trade, reduced production in trading partner nations pushing up the cost of imported goods, and changes to migration from regions heavily affected by climate change. The true cost of a warmer climate to the UK economy could be higher than current estimates.”*

- 50 The CCRA sets out key risks to supply of food, goods and vital services due to climate-related collapse of supply chains and distribution networks. A National Resilience Strategy is currently in development and is expected to provide further guidance to local authorities in relation to supply chain resilience and other economic disruptions that can be caused by

climate change.

- 51 The council will review arrangements in place to ensure appropriate supply chain resilience across the council as part of the climate change risk assessment work. This work will build on previous experience preparing the city for the potential economic disruptions caused by national and international events and supply chain disruption experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic. The council has well-established links to economic forums and business networks and regularly engages and discusses business intelligence with the private sector. Building resilience, including climate-related resilience, is a key aim of the Leeds Economic Recovery Framework.
  
- 52 The council has also made commitments to procure more food served and sold by the local authority from Yorkshire and its surrounding regions. As well as reducing the carbon emissions from food transportation, this commitment will also support regional food producers—helping to improve the resilience of our food system from climate-related shocks, e.g. shortages relating to global supply chain disruption. A Leeds Food Strategy and action plan is currently in development with key partners across the region and will be considered at Executive Board in Autumn 2022.
  
- 53 The CCRA also sets out risks to finance, investment and insurance including access to capital for businesses, as well as specific risks to the UK finance sector from climate change overseas. Leeds is the largest UK financial sector outside of London, with financial services accounting for £38% of the city’s economic output. Last month, the Bank of England warned that banks and insurers that fail to manage climate risks as a “first-order” issue could face a 10% to 15% hit to annual profits and higher capital requirements, after undertaking a stress test of how Britain’s financial system will cope with climate change and the transition to net zero (Figure 3). We will be exploring this issue further to understand local responsibilities in implementing HM Treasury’s Green Finance Strategy, which is due to be updated soon.

**Figure 3**



Sources: Participating firms’ submissions and Bank calculations.

(a) Incremental additional losses compared with losses that would be expected to occur in a hypothetical counterfactual scenario in which there are no additional headwinds from climate risks.

(b) For banks, chart shows cumulative 30-year impairment losses on bank lending. For life insurers it shows additional investment losses at year 30. For general insurers it shows additional investment losses at year 30, plus the cumulative increase in average annual loss over 30 years relative to year zero.



- 54 The Government's [Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy](#) sets out that climate change has the potential to re-shape patterns of migration and displacement. The routes to migrate to UK are determined by national policies, however, the '[Migration in Leeds 2021-2025](#)' strategy sets out the council's long-term strategic direction on migration, which aims to ensure people who migrate to Leeds can establish their lives quickly and successfully.

### What impact will this proposal have?

**Wards Affected:** All (City-wide)

Have ward members been consulted?      Yes      No

- 55 Climate change will continue to have an impact for decades and will continue to do so until global net zero is achieved. The work outlined in this report will inform action to be taken across the council to protect our services, communities, businesses and environment from the worst impacts of climate change.

### What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 56 This item will provide members of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee with an opportunity to reflect and comment on the plans set out prior to Executive Board in July 2022.
- 57 In the next 12 months, a city-wide public engagement exercise will take place to seek the views of residents and businesses on our climate action.

### What are the resource implications?

- 58 There are no direct resource implications as a result of this report.
- 59 Future workshops with services will identify if there are any resource implications associated with embedding climate adaptation and resilience into existing schemes and policies. In the short term, plans and policies may need to be reviewed and revised. Longer term resources, practices and processes may also need to change to reflect the measures needed to mitigate the risks identified and to support adaptation measures. Equally, infrastructure projects may need to be revised or specifically implemented to support adaptation.

### What are the legal implications?

- 60 There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

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

- 61 Corporate and service level risk registers will be amended where appropriate to reflect the climate risks identified through the workshops with individual services.

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

Inclusive Growth       Health and Wellbeing       Climate Emergency

- 62 Responding to climate change is central to our overall vision for the future of Leeds, as set out in the Best City Ambition. This initial plan sets out how we will adapt to the hazards of climate change and protect our most vulnerable residents, doing so in a fair way which improves standards of living in all the city's communities and supports our economy. The

specific impacts on health and wellbeing and inclusive growth are highlighted throughout this report.

### **Options, timescales and measuring success**

#### **a) What other options were considered?**

63 This approach has been developed using the Local Partnerships Climate Adaptation Toolkit, a resource specifically designed for local authorities to use to develop a climate adaptation and resilience plan.

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

64 Key risks identified through the climate risk assessment will be monitored through the Corporate Risk Register.

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

65 Workshops are expected to take place in Autumn 2022, with further action developed, including a city-wide public engagement exercise, within the next 12 months.

### **Appendices**

66 None.

### **Background papers**

67 None.

## Leeds Local Plan Update

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

Report of: Director of City Development

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 is submitted in support of a presentation to be given to the Committee which will provide an update on the development of the Leeds Local Plan.
- The Committee is advised that the CEAC meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022 will consider a further report as part of the formal consultation on the Leeds Local Plan planned for October to November 2022.

#### Recommendations – Members are requested to:

- a) Note the contents of this report and the presentation

#### Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 Planning has a role to play in reducing carbon emissions and ensuring that places in Leeds can adapt to climate change. In June 2021 Executive Board agreed to update and create new policies; make consequential changes, within the Adopted Leeds Core Strategy (amended 2019), the Natural Resources and Waste Local Plan (2013) and Unitary Development Plan (2006) which focus on: carbon reduction, flood risk, green infrastructure, place-making and sustainable infrastructure in order to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change and ensure the delivery of sustainable development within the Leeds Metropolitan District for a period of at least 16 years from Adoption. This is known as Local Plan Update 1 (LPU1).
- 2 LPU1 is the first of two updates and LPU2 is a separate plan making exercise that will be scoped later this year; to potentially include issues such as housing, employment and town and local centres.

#### Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?  Yes  No

## **What impact will this proposal have?**

- 3 LPU1, once adopted, will take climate change mitigation and adaptation matters into account when planning applications are determined. National guidance states local planning authorities (LPAs) may give weight to policies in emerging plans according to: a) their stage of preparation; b) the extent to which there are unresolved objections; and c) the degree of consistency with the National Planning Policy Framework (the closer the policies in the emerging plan to the policies in the Framework, the greater the weight that may be given).
- 4 Leeds has a Local Plan with existing policies aimed at addressing climate change; ranging from a spatial strategy, which encourages growth in sustainable locations, to detailed policies on carbon reduction, green infrastructure, flood risk, biodiversity, heat networks, electric vehicles, renewable energy generation, air quality and tree replacement. However, these policies largely pre-date the declaration of the Climate Emergency in March 2019 and the aspiration to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. To ensure that the existing suite of policies is heightened and maximised in the meantime, work has been undertaken on officer training and awareness raising, so that Council decisions are as aligned with the Climate Emergency as they can be using existing policies. This work has also formed the basis for Member training on planning, climate change and sustainable development.
- 5 LPU1 has been prioritised to provide a suite of revised statutory development plan policies to improve the quality of development in Leeds and directly help tackle the climate emergency. Although it is recognised that in so doing the policies to be refreshed have wider impacts on biodiversity, health and well-being and inclusive growth. To that end, LPU1 focusses on the areas as set out in **Appendix 1** of this report. These areas will be covered in a presentation to CEAC by the Head of Strategic Planning.

## **What consultation and engagement has taken place?**

- 6 Following the Executive Board approval in June 2021 public consultation was carried out between July and September 2021. Nearly 800 submissions were made with the vast majority (circa 87%) supporting the LPU's focus, with respondents being encouraged by the proposed direction the Plan will take. There were concerns from the development industry as to the deliverability of the policy ambitions and the costs burdens this would place on development, already constrained by other planning burdens and a difficult economic climate.
- 7 A series of officer and Members workshops were held in the Spring 2022 (including with CEAC working group Members in March) where the emerging suite of policy areas was described. The development industry has been involved through specific workshops and the Leeds Climate Commission has been informed of progress and has participated in some evidence gathering.

## **What are the resource implications?**

- 8 The LPU1 policies will be subject to independent examination and tested against specific criteria as set out in the NPPF. Much of the time since the last consultation has been spent focussing on these areas, including commissioning necessary evidence work around renewable and low carbon energy potential, 20-min neighbourhoods, carbon reduction and viability.

## **What are the legal implications?**

- 9 Since the LPU is a statutory document it has to pass legal tests such as co-operation with neighbouring authorities, Strategic Environmental Assessment and consultation. In many cases the Council is seeking to go beyond a simple local reflection of national guidance. It is therefore critical to the plans success that its policies be well evidenced.

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

- 10 Production of the LPU is dependent on resources that have been affected by the pandemic during early 2022. This has created slight delays to the timetable for Publication of the policies, but the team is confident that these delays can be made up at later stages of plan-making.
- 11 Changes to Government guidance are a key risk to the LPU and the Government has begun a review of the planning system via the Levelling Up Bill. The National Planning Policy Framework is also due to be revised with national Development Management policies, which could constrain a LPAs ability to set local policy. It is hoped that changes will provide a firmer basis for LPAs to tackle the climate crisis in the manner set out in the LPU1 policies, but until both planning law and guidance are clarified it is not possible to know that at this stage. Officers are engaging with DHLUC to ensure that proposals are foresighted by Government and are engaging on consultations as they arise.

## Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?

- Inclusive Growth       Health and Wellbeing       Climate Emergency

- 12 There is a clear role for planning in delivering against all of the Council's pillars as established through the Best Council Plan. At this early stage of preparation, the subject of the LPU could contribute positively to the Council's key strategies, as follows:
- Climate Emergency – by managing the transition to zero carbon via policies including: increasing the energy efficiency of buildings, the design of places, the location of development, accessibility to public transport, renewable energy supply and storage;
  - Health and Well-being Strategy – through people-centred policies including the design of places, quality of housing and accessibility to green infrastructure and services;
  - Inclusive Growth Strategy – through policies including the links between homes and jobs, the location of development, green infrastructure, and connectivity.

## Options, timescales and measuring success

### What other options were considered?

- 13 Not progressing the Local Plan Update in the form proposed could result in key adopted policies relating to the climate emergency being out of date. It would also mean that the Council would not be maximising opportunities to help address the climate emergency and the ambition to be net zero carbon by 2030, through Local Plan policies

### How will success be measured?

- 14 Success will be measured by the adoption of a LPU which introduces planning policies that help address the climate emergency.

### What is the timetable for implementation?

- 15 The Local Plan Update has a provisional timetable of Adoption late 2023. The next key milestone will be further public consultation on publication policies in October 2022 with submission to the Planning Inspectorate early 2023.

## Appendices

- 16 None

## Background papers

- 17 None

## Appendix 1 – Overview of policy topics being considered by the LPU1

Topic Area	Policy Areas Considered
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• overall strategic policy on climate change mitigation and adaptation</li> <li>• clarifying the role that development plays in meeting this</li> <li>• establishing links between carbon reduction, health &amp; well-being and inclusive growth</li> <li>• encouraging considerations of climate change mitigation and adaptation to be explicit within policy making and development proposals</li> </ul>
Carbon Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• requiring a whole life carbon cost assessment for all buildings to be set out for each planning application to ensure that the full emissions impacts of development are understood and recorded (but not determinative to planning permission as this will initially be about intelligence gathering) and include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ transportation of materials</li> <li>○ embodied carbon in construction materials</li> <li>○ operational emissions</li> <li>○ demolition / recycling of materials</li> </ul> </li> <li>• reducing carbon emissions from all buildings by setting standards for carbon emissions associated with the building’s operational energy that are above 2025 Future Homes Standard building regulations and ensure “zero carbon ready” buildings alongside consideration of carbon off-setting</li> <li>• requiring that sustainable construction standards for all buildings are met by reference to an approved list that helps to address a number of areas</li> <li>• requiring that development takes an energy hierarchy approach including plugging into heat networks</li> <li>• identifying suitable opportunity areas for the delivery of wind, solar and geothermal energy generation as well as support for wider specific energy generation technologies and for energy storage</li> </ul>
Flood Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• considering flood risk for all development commensurate with the degree of potential risk – supported by a refreshed Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Leeds (which takes into account implications of climate change) and which explicitly sets out a need for flood risk assessments</li> <li>• ensuring that flooding on-site and / or elsewhere is not increased by new development</li> <li>• preventing development in the functional flood plain unless it replaces existing development in a suitable construction manner</li> <li>• taking account of water on site, have no increase in surface water run-off and to favour Sustainable Drainage Systems</li> <li>• securing on-site water management measures in perpetuity so that homeowners do not “pave over” gardens etc</li> </ul>
Green & Blue Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clarifying the role of strategic Green Infrastructure for Leeds, its protection, enhancement, and extension</li> <li>• protecting trees for their carbon value as well as their amenity and increase their carbon value and number if unavoidably lost to development</li> <li>• encouraging developers to front load considerations of the environment (“natural capital”) on development sites including but not limited to biodiversity and nature conservation, trees, and opportunities for green infrastructure connections</li> </ul>

Topic Area	Policy Areas Considered
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• strengthening the quality of new green space delivered in association with new developments</li> <li>• recognising the need for more open spaces in the inner city to assist with climate change adaptation</li> <li>• encouraging local food growing in both urban and rural areas</li> </ul>
Place-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• directing development in accordance with 20-minute neighbourhood principles</li> <li>• setting local place making standards inc. encouraging higher density developments that are built to higher urban design and place making principles and align with the Connecting Leeds Strategy</li> <li>• clarifying the approach required to overall design quality in Leeds</li> <li>• facilitating active travel</li> <li>• requiring health impact assessments with all developments</li> </ul>
Sustainable Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• setting out the ambition and expectation of the redevelopment of Leeds Station including design principles and integration with the wider area through green infrastructure</li> <li>• supporting Mass Transit and establish requirements to ensure that it stimulates investment, regenerates, and maximises positive place making</li> <li>• requiring new developments to provide digital connectivity from the outset</li> <li>• considering the need to update the policy on Leeds Bradford airport</li> </ul>

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