

Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) Update

Date: 27th November 2023

Report of: Chief Officer Climate, Energy and Green Spaces

Report to: Climate Emergency Advisory Committee

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) is a global non-profit that runs the world's environmental disclosure system for companies, cities, states and regions. Over 24,000 organizations around the world disclosed data through CDP in 2023 (including listed companies worth two thirds of global market capitalization) and over 1,100 cities, states and regions.

Since 2021, Leeds has submitted a public disclosure to the Carbon Disclosure Project detailing the city's annual emissions, as well as the projects, programmes, and policies relating to climate change. This provides a useful, independent, robust check on the city's climate action—complementing the work of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee.

In 2022, Leeds was one of 121 cities that received an 'A grade' for the first time. The grading used by CDP is updated every year to require more stringent action. On 14th November, it was confirmed that Leeds was one of 119 cities that received an 'A grade' in 2023.

This report notes this achievement and provides an opportunity for members of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee to comment on the update.

Recommendations

- a) To note and provide comments on the recognition of Leeds as one of 119 cities across the globe awarded an 'A grade' by international authority the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), for the second consecutive year.

What is this report about?

- 1 This report notes this achievement and provides an opportunity for members of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee to comment on the update.
- 2 CDP is a global non-profit that runs the world's environmental disclosure system for companies, cities, states and regions. Over 24,000 organizations around the world disclosed data through CDP in 2023 (including listed companies worth two thirds of global market capitalization) and over 1,100 cities, states and regions.
- 3 Since 2021, Leeds has submitted a public disclosure to the Carbon Disclose Project detailing the city's annual emissions, as well as the projects, programmes, and policies relating to climate change. This provides a useful, independent, robust check on the city's climate action— complementing the work of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee. This year's submission is publicly available on the CDP website and, for convenience, is also included as an appendix to this report.
- 4 In 2022, Leeds was one of 121 cities that received an 'A grade' for the first time. The grading used by CDP is updated every year to require more stringent action. On 14th November, CDP confirmed that Leeds was one of 119 cities that received an 'A grade' in 2023.
- 5 To score an A grade, among other actions, a city must publicly disclose their submission, have a city-wide emissions inventory, and have published plans for climate action. It must also complete a climate risk and vulnerability assessment and have a goal for climate adaptation to demonstrate how it will tackle climate hazards. A List cities are also taking a variety of other leadership actions including political commitments to tackle climate change.
- 6 According to CDP, A List cities take four times as many climate mitigation and adaptation measures as non-A List cities.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 7 The council's submission to CDP provides additional public scrutiny of the work of the city to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to future climate change. It improves transparency and complements the role of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee.

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

Health and Wellbeing Inclusive Growth Zero Carbon

- 8 This report highlights independent recognition of the city's progression towards the zero carbon ambition.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

9 Not applicable

What are the resource implications?

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

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

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

What are the legal implications?

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

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

13 Not applicable

How will success be measured?

14 Not applicable

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

15 Not applicable

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Leeds City Council – CDP 2023 submission

Background papers

- Press release November 2023 - [‘Leeds graded ‘A’ for Climate Action by CDP’](#) (also attached as a PDF)