

Climate Emergency Advisory Committee

Monday, 4th November, 2024

PRESENT: Councillor K Dye in the Chair

Councillors B Anderson, E Bromley,
N Harrington, A Rae, M Rafique,
A Rontree, M Shahzad, P Stables and
E Thomson

23 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against the inspection of documents.

24 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

The agenda contained no exempt information.

25 Late Items

No late items of business were added to the agenda, however, supplementary information was circulated to Members prior to the start of the meeting. This related to Item 6 – Minutes of the previous meeting, Item 8 – Strategy & Resources Directorate Update and Item 10 – Climate Action Leads.

26 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

27 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Downes, Councillor O Newton, Councillor J Tudor and Councillor P Carlill, with Councillor E Thomson deputising for P Carlill.

28 Open Forum

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

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

Pudsey Community Project (PCP)

The Director for PCP outlined that the organisation was charity based and part of the Leeds Community Anchor Network, operating out of West Leeds and provided a range of services, including, a food bank, youth, employment and bereavement support, a repair café and reduce, reuse kid's clothes. The repair café created carbon reduction and financial benefits and the reduce, reuse kids' clothes was based on a charity shop model, with some free provision or a pay as you feel options for families experiencing financial constraints, as well as reducing the negative impact on the climate the textile industry posed, with the CO₂ impact noted to be equivalent to the shipping and aviation industries combined. Microfibres contributed

to 9% of water pollution into oceans and 20% of clean water pollution globally, so reusing clothes rather than purchasing new items was environmentally and financially sensible. The clothes rooms, as part of the reuse offer was based in Pudsey and open six days a week, which supported a number of climate and financial focussed charities and organisations. Emerging data for 2024 outlined that the reduce, reuse kid's clothes had provided for approximately 2,500 families equating to 4,000+ children, with over 7 tonnes of fabric reused, equating to a saving of 127 tonnes of CO₂, including 900,000 litres of water which would have been required to produce the amount of fabric that had been reused. The service had gained traction, and it was hoped that increased carbon savings would occur year on year. there were some part time staff but, PCP was reliant on volunteers.

The Chair thanked Director for PCP and outlined that the Committee was supportive and were to promote the services offered by the organisation.

Horsforth Climate Action

A Hub Worker from Horsforth Climate Action outlined that the Horsforth Climate Action Hub was one of eight across the city, which had been opened following receipt of National Lottery funding in 2020; the funding had been agreed for four years and expired in 2024. The funding was used to support a variety of community events and paid Hub Workers who worked around 15 hours per week. The aim of the group was to encourage more climate action, contribute to zero carbon initiatives and to be more friendly to nature. Activities included a repair café, a library of things, nature maps alongside nature friendly walks and gardens, relaxed mowing sites, food groups, composting and education. A holistic approach, including audits of high footfall areas, for Horsforth being climate friendly as well as having good green space and amenity provision was in place, with data to be shared with the Council, Connecting Leeds and Horsforth Town Council. Specific events were held on Saturdays to consider and inform approaches to plastics, pollution, technology and various donations for people in need. The group engaged with other relevant organisations in the area and across Leeds, including local libraries, Breeze and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

The Chair thanked Horsforth Climate Action for their wealth of work to address climate change and support a range of services and work across Leeds.

29 Strategy & Resources Directorate Update

A verbal update/presentation from the Strategy & Resources Directorate, was to be provided to update Members on recent work of the department.

Following agreement from the Chair, this item was removed from the agenda due to other Officer work commitments, in light of the agenda order being revised prior to the start of the meeting. It was noted that this item was likely to be considered at the next meeting cycle on the 16th of December 2024.

30 Climate Action Leeds

The report of the Chief Officer Climate, Energy and Green Spaces, provided and update on Climate Action Leeds (CAL) who were working for a zero carbon, nature friendly, socially just Leeds by the 2030s. Their aim was to support this by mobilising communities, campaign groups and different sectors to plan and act together. They

had been supported through National Lottery grant funding and work in partnership across the city with a range of groups, such as Voluntary Action Leeds, Leeds Tidal, Our Future Leeds, Together for Peace and CAG Consultants amongst others

Andy Hickford, Senior Project Manager, Climate, Energy & Green Spaces introduced the item, noting that, the Council had been engaged with CAL for a number of years and had supported the National Lottery funding bids. CAL worked across the community and were involved with a variety of climate focused initiatives within Leeds. Work was ongoing to embed the CAL ethos and continue their work, with some challenges faced, given the pending expiration of the National Lottery funding.

Paul Chatterton, Professor of Urban Futures, University of Leeds, provided the following information:

- CAL had been established in October 2020 following the approval of £2.5million of funding granted by the National Lottery and involved seven main delivery partners. The funding was to last until September 2025.
- CAL had been comprised of a test and learn study to develop practises to engage with and prepare communities for the impact of climate change.
- The Council's Climate Emergency Declaration in 2019 had been the starting point for the development of CAL. The Covid-19 pandemic had impacted the initial work conducted by CAL.
- Work was divided between 8 Transition Partners providing expertise and developing climate action models, 8 Community Hubs providing information to communities and adding momentum to the cause, and the City Movement Building which was a central hub creating a legacy for future work, where many events and training programmes were held.
- CAL worked with the Council and Leeds Climate Commission and had developed work programmes in response to 12 recommendations from the Leeds Climate Change Citizens' Jury. A 13th recommendation had been incorporated, for a socially just approach to climate action, following the development of a report by the Racial Justice Network.
- Transition partners had selected key focus areas to implement a sustainable approach to, energy, housing, food, nature, work and economy, youth/education and transport. Organisations were engaged with the transition model across a multitude of sectors.
- Significant work on the transition model was highlighted as, a community wealth building strategy, a Leeds climate curriculum, a community retrofit show home, a community nature recovery network, Leeds community energy and a big climate justice conversation.
- The locations for the Community Hubs were selected in diverse, cross representative sites, with 8 local organisations in place who had applied for further funding and had sought legal status to continue their work. The hubs were able to act as ambassadors as a next step. Examples of the dedicated work conducted at the hubs were provided.
- A carbon calculator was used to measure the effects of projects, with the example of Alwoodley Walk to School Week having a direct carbon saving of 0.310 tonnes and then scaled up to 130 tonnes per annum if implemented as a lasting behaviour change for all 227 primary school in Leeds.

- Imagine Leeds was the dedicated Climate Action Hub within the city centre, with a new venue at Blenheim Terrace, funded by the University of Leeds until May 2025 and was to act as a civic open space for climate action and information. Members were encouraged to attend the new venue.
- The Doughnut economic model was used as a guide to balance the diverse communities across Leeds, in order to enhance nature, local economies, community safety and social justice. Community Doughnut trials were being run in Gipton and Roundhay.
- The highlights and the impacts of CAL, in its fourth year, were noted as, over 8,700 people taking part in activities, 1000 volunteers, 5,000 people attending the Imagine Leeds hub, the Social Climate Summit and funding bids, which as a collective, contributed to promotion of climate initiatives and significant carbon savings.
- The 5 year plan from 2025 to 2030 was to expand work to develop Leeds into a more socially just and nature friendly city, with plans developed to fill gaps in provision and engage with less heard communities, using a megaphone approach, to enhance work as it progressed. Considerations to make the shift to carbon neutrality by 2030 were beginning to come to fruition but required significant promotion and action.
- The offer from CAL was outlined as use of Imagine Leeds facilities, networking and joint planning, training programmes, inspiring and mobilising communities, further development of the Leeds Doughnut framework and use of the carbon calculator and case studies.
- It was requested that the Council and the Committee held an active partnership with CAL and Imagine Leeds, joining up key transition work, use of the Doughnut framework, closer strategic relations, greater connection to the community hubs and involvement as an active partner in future funding bids.

During the discussions the following matters were considered:

- Members offered their support for the education strand of the transition focus areas, noting positive long term effects when information on climate change and initiatives were taught at schools. A detailed longitudinal study of how school education led to future climate action would be useful information. Further discussions were to take place with relevant partners and Executive Member.
- Community energy was a key topic to focus on to reach carbon neutrality targets and Members requested further discussions on this programme.
- Expanding on doughnut economics, it was outlined that 39 internationally recognised indicators had been tracked, with Leeds being outside of safe levels for 36 of the indicators. This was sound, granular data to utilise to inform future action and reassess approaches. It was proposed that a Working Group meeting would be a good arena for future discussion, including the community trials in Gipton and Roundhay.
- The models to engage with diverse communities was queried, in response more work was needed in terms of governance and communications to be well calibrated. Increased efforts were needed to identify people's priorities and barriers to them engaging with CAL. Better practice was to ensure all

communities were listened to, including work with partners and the third sector to allocate resources.

- At a local level, the Community Hubs assisted with climate justice improvements, with people from diverse backgrounds employed as well as accessibility considerations, such as language and digital barriers. Work was ongoing to appoint more climate ambassadors and leadership roles to represent ethnic minorities, requiring improved communications for allyship and partnership approaches. Climate racial justice was integral to the aims and ambitions of CAL.

Andy Hickford, Senior Project Manager, Climate, Energy & Green Spaces, summarised the discussions, noting that next steps were for the Council to continue their engagement with CAL, as well as joining up Council strategies to adopt better net zero practises. Climate action work needed to be representational of all communities which would assist with other areas where social improvements were needed, such as community safety, local economies, active travel, heating and food, which was best actioned through partnership work.

The Chair encouraged engagement with CAL, as well as other community climate action groups as this was integral to meeting targets. Work for the education branch of the transition areas was to be explored to create better links and a Working Group session on Doughnut Economics was agreed to be scheduled.

RESOLVED –

- a) That the presentation, along with Members comments, be noted.
- b) That the requests for support from Climate Action Leeds and the proposal to use their feedback to develop ongoing alignment in Net Zero delivery between CAL and Leeds City Council, be considered.

31 Leeds Anchor Network Update

The report provided the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee with an update on the work of Leeds Anchor Network climate sub-group

Andrew White, Senior Project Manager, Climate Energy and Green Spaces (CEGS), introduced the item noting that the profile of the Anchor network was recently updated and employed over 55,000 individuals, had spend approximately £720million in the Leeds economy and since beginning to measure CO₂ emissions in 2018, had reduced CO₂ output by over 21,000 tonnes. As part of the network a Climate Sub-group was held, including involvement from CEGS and Employment and Skills to develop further green jobs and relevant skills, inclusive growth and net zero initiatives.

Chris Kelly, Associate Director, Estates Compliance & Risk Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT), provided the following information:

- In 2020 the NHS had committed to an ambition to be carbon neutral by 2040 in terms of scope 1 and 2 emissions that were in direct control of the NHS, and then for scope 3 emissions to be carbon neutral by 2045.
- One of the seven commitments for 2024/2025 for LTHT was sustainability, which displayed LTHT's commitment at a leadership level to make much

greater considerations to carbon savings, given that the NHS accounted for approximately 5% of the UK's carbon emissions.

- Carbon impacts within the NHS had been monitored since 2013/2014 and by the end of the 2023/2024 municipal year had reduced its carbon footprint by 37% against data from 10 years prior.
- The strategy to become carbon neutral was to be a staged process across the multiple hospital sites in Leeds, with various needs and outputs. The design for the new hospital planned to be built at Leeds General Infirmary (LGI) was outlined to be a flagship model, with significant progress in terms of improved efficiency and was expected to operate on net zero carbon.
- Other LGI buildings were noted to be heavily reliant on gas and on site power production, with funding, capital and thorough planning required to utilise alternative, sustainable energy sources.
- The Lean 2 Green programme, based on the Leeds improvement method, sought to engage with 22,000 NHS staff members within Leeds, which empowered staff, allowed them to set an example and involved clinical leadership. Initial data showed significant financial and carbon savings and was a blueprint for success.
- The LTHT Green Plan was set for its fourth iteration by April 2025 and was an umbrella document for a sustainable action plan, including travel plans, a decarbonisation strategy and climate adaptations. Success was tracked in order to provide accountability.

Lorraine Williams-Jones. Sustainability Communications and Engagement Officer, University of Leeds, outlined the following information:

- The role at the University of Leeds covered strategy and engagement for the net zero programme and the Leeds Climate Plan, which had been approved in 2021 and devised 7 principles for change and engaged with relevant partners.
- The pathway for delivering net zero utilised data on scopes 1,2 and 3, with baseline data outlining that the University's carbon output was 168,049 tonnes per annum. The aim was to be net zero by 2030, which included scope 1 and 2 emissions and business travel. Measuring and addressing scope 3 emissions posed difficulties but efforts were made to reduce output which were incorporated where possible, with further planning required.
- A pragmatic approach was needed for interventions to reduce carbon reliance with large assets such as the Generating Station Complex, with continual reviews held to bring forward emission savings.
- The scope for delivering net zero was a 90% reduction in scope 1 and 2 emissions, reduction of business travel emissions by 50%, accurate measurement of supply chain emissions to attach reduction targets to and to build on resilience and adaptation plans by 2030, including offsetting models, which were to be based on academic principles. The Leeds Living Lab supported the University's commitment to embed sustainability through engagement, collaboration and innovation, with knowledge shared with other institutions.
- The journey towards a net zero estate was outlined as commitment to the approach in 2019, publication of the Leeds Climate Plan in 2021, feasibility

studies, agreement of the Net Zero Delivery Plan in 2023 and moving to the delivery phase in 2024 and beyond.

- The approach was to decarbonise heating, reduce overall energy reliance and to balance electricity use with renewable energy, whilst considering delivery at scale, the complex nature of the estate, the fixed budget position and rising forecasted costs.
- Feasibility study included surveys and tests of target buildings to develop an approach to make University buildings as efficient as possible. 21 buildings had been identified, where models and scenarios had been tested.
- Costs to make changes to and retrofit buildings varied and a hierarchy of intervention model had been developed to balance costs against effective decarbonisation and the disruption works would cause.
- An interactive map had been produced to highlight and condense the delivery plan, including projects for electricity capacity, drainage, renewable energy, with varied timeframes and monitoring framework in place to inform the knowledge base.
- Important work was highlighted as geothermic test drilling, with results shared with partners, sustainably electrifying the Brownlee Centre and Gair Wood tree planning, as a research woodland.
- Lessons learnt since the 2019 commitment were balancing short and long term changes, utilising regional and national changes, the need for flexibility and an openness to change, planning for adequate resource requirements and investing in communications and engagement to demonstrate work and research.

During discussions the Committee discussed the following:

LTHT

- Ways for medical equipment, such as medication and dressing, to be more sustainable, as it was largely non-reusable, were queried. In response it was noted that clinical leadership required more engagement with the sustainability programme and processes for reusing medication blister packs and recirculating unused medication was under consideration with a £1million saving per annum projected.
- Take up of the Lean 2 Green programme by staff was queried. In response it was outlined there had been enthusiasm and a carbon literacy silver level accreditation was available to further staff understanding and to implement behaviour changes, as well as the appointment of sustainability champions to share and encourage best practise. The need to be realistic was also noted, given the significant number of staff under workload pressures.
- Some plans to retrofit aspects of existing hospital building were planned where possible, including connections to Leeds PIPES, however, the different ages of different buildings created complications, but the new hospital was to contribute to large carbon savings. £22million had been secured through the public sector decarbonisation scheme, which was to be directed towards St. James Hospital buildings and the final decision for the new LGI building was expected in January 2025.
- Heating and powering hospital buildings was currently via electricity generated by the Generating Station Complex, which converted gas into electricity, which had a significant carbon cost but there were benefits to self

sufficient power generation. Methods were needed to decarbonise power generation, such as hydrogen and importing green electricity from the grid; balancing financial and decarbonisation value was a consideration.

- Solar PV had been installed at Chapel Allerton Hospital and Wharfedale Hospital, which had approximately halved power consumption from the grid. Utilising this at other sites was limited due to fault limiting and investment constraints.
- To reduce single plastic use at hospitals, work was ongoing to seek alternative materials and recycling opportunities, as part of the procurement process.
- Collaboration and alignment with public institutions was required to achieve carbon neutrality, including consideration of changes to shared assets, such as the Generating Station Complex with the NHS and University of Leeds, alongside their alternative net zero plans. The Leeds Anchor Networks meetings were a good arena for discussing plans and joining up work.

University of Leeds

- How inhouse research at the University was shared and actioned was explained as, the Priestley Centre delivering climate change research, Geosolutions Leeds informing the decarbonisation methods, research and practise at the Living Lab and geothermic test drilling adding to the knowledge bank, which was shared with other institutions and organisations.
- Partnership working was integral to inform city wide opportunities and connecting infrastructure. Some funding for the geothermic test drilling had been provided by Ofgem innovation challenge project, with further partnership planning needed for its roll out.
- Expertise was shared generally on the principle of wider societal benefits, but there were potentially some commercial benefits noted, which were to be determined by leadership, but partnership working was the priority.
- It was confirmed that Gair Wood was part of the University estate and was proposed to be opened to the public once trees had matured. It was a useful site for woodland and bio-diversity research. How this site could be linked to the Council's Planning and CEGS Departments, in terms of emerging bio-diversity net gain policies was to be followed up, with information agreed to be shared back to Members.
- How information, particularly the 'what we have learnt' piece, was shared across the Anchor institutions was queried, in response it was outlined that discussions had been held as part of the Anchor's Sub-group meeting. Members suggestions for better integration models across the city were welcomed.
- Identifying common ground as net zero plans developed was essential for a joined up approach, with the Committee's comments to be shared at a future Anchor's Climate Sub-Group meeting.

RESOLVED – That the updates from the NHS Trust and University of Leeds, as well as the longer-term ambitions for the Leeds Anchor Network, and for the city, along with Members comments, be noted.

32 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th of June 2024, be approved as a true and correct record.

Minutes approved at the meeting
held on Monday, 16th December, 2024

RESOLVED - That the meeting notes of the meeting held on the 23rd of September 2024, be approved as a true and correct record, subject to the following amendment:

Minute 5 – To include that the Boston Spa Energy Efficiency Trial (BEET), covered the Harewood Ward as well as Wetherby.

33 Matter Arising from the Minutes

The following matters arising were raised:

The minutes of the meeting held on the 17th of June 2024

Minute 18 – The follow up regarding customers on the waiting list for Leeds PIPES had been received which was noted as 47 in total, out of which, 26 were considered high priority. Further information for social worker electrical vehicle trials and schools and other relevant site's sustainability plans were still outstanding.

The meeting notes of the meeting held on the 23rd of September 2024

Minute 5 – The Chair and Councillor Harrington were to visit a site which was relevant to the BEET programme.

The Chair was meeting with the Climate Ambassadors, as part of the Royal Horticultural Society National Education and Nature Park programme and work was ongoing to engage and share information with schools regarding their participation and eligibility.

34 Working Groups Update

The next Working Group was proposed on the 3rd of December 2024 at 1:00pm, with the invite to be extended to all Elected Ward Members. Members input on topic proposals were sought, with suggestions including Doughnut Economics, as discussed during the Climate Action Leeds item, public communication and engagement, myth busting as well seeking to invite speakers and organisations to present to the Working Group. It was proposed to be held remotely and was to consist of approximately a 2 hour session.

35 Date and Time of Next Meeting

RESOLVED – To note the date and time of the next meeting as Monday the 16th of December 2024 at 10:00am.