



Report of Chief Officer of Sustainable Energy and Air Quality

Report to Climate Emergency Advisory Committee

Date: 10 March 2020

Subject: Climate Emergency Business Engagement

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary

1. Main issues

- Representatives from the West and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce have been invited to attend the meeting and provide a presentation highlighting some key facts on business engagement with the climate emergency in the region.

2. Best Council Plan Implications (click [here](#) for the latest version of the Best Council Plan)

- One of the key priorities for the council is the climate emergency and therefore this item focuses on the business contribution to achieving net zero.

3. Resource Implications

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

Recommendations

- a) To note the contents of the report and presentation;
- b) To identify any further action for the Committee.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to introduce a presentation from representatives from the West and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce, providing some key facts on business engagement with the climate emergency in the region.

2. Background information

- 2.1 There is a growing drive from businesses and organisations to help tackle the climate emergency.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES - OUR BUSINESS STOCK



- 2.2 Findings from our Big Leeds Climate Conversation showed that 96.7% of respondents think that businesses and public sector organisations have a responsibility to reduce their carbon footprint and make it easier for individuals to make more environmentally-friendly choices.
- 2.3 Globally, 81% of consumers believe it is important that organisations should help improve the environment (Nielsen, 2018).
- 2.4 The council's business engagement to date includes:
- A digital letter from the chief executive officer sent to 628 local businesses asking for input to tackle the climate emergency;
 - A climate emergency business breakfast hosted by the chief executive officer and the leader attended by 24 local business representatives;
 - Meetings with local businesses to discuss net zero targets;
 - Climate emergency presentation to the insurance and retail sectors;
 - Targeted digital and social media communications.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 Representatives from the West and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce will be in attendance at the meeting to provide a presentation to members on the business perspective in the region in relation to the climate emergency.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

4.1.1 There has been no specific consultation in relation to this report.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

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

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

4.3.1 One of the key priorities for the council is the climate emergency and therefore this item focuses on the business contribution to achieving net zero.

Climate Emergency

4.3.2 To achieve the ambitious target of net zero by 2030, it is critical that businesses are fully engaged as they have a key role to play.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

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

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

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

4.6 Risk management

4.6.1 There are no risk implications as a result of this report.

5. Conclusions

5.1 Engaging and fully mobilising the business sector in the city is key to the city achieving its net zero ambition. The presentation from the chamber of commerce will provide vital insight into the barriers to change and suggestions on how to drive activity in this area.

6. Recommendations

- a) To note the contents of the report and presentation;
- b) To identify any further action for the Committee.

7. Background documents¹

7.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.