

Open forum submission	Key discussion points	Council response
<p>13 January, 2020: Drusilla Long, member of the public</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns regarding the council's plans to build a Parkway Station and link road to Leeds Bradford Airport and the impact of increased air travel on climate change • Suggested the council defers the decision to build a rail station and highway linkages until air travel becomes carbon neutral 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explained the council's position that aviation growth and meeting zero carbon targets are fundamentally incompatible until new technologies are developed. It is only at the point at which emissions from aircrafts have been adequately resolved that national and international aviation growth can be supported • Explained that the council have written to the government lobbying for aviation emissions to be included in the national carbon budget and calling on the government to then use its resources to invest in research and design technology to develop cleaner aviation for the future • Highlighted that the council has withdrawn its previous proposals for surface access, reducing the direct impact on green belt and that revised surface access plans will concentrate on links which improve rail access
<p>13 January, 2020: Keith Whittaker, member of the public</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned that the Leeds Bradford Airport expansion is incompatible with achieving zero carbon targets until new technologies can make aviation carbon neutral • Suggested the council should not facilitate additional surface access plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explained the council's position that aviation growth and meeting zero carbon targets are fundamentally incompatible until new technologies are developed. It is only at the point at which emissions from aircrafts have been adequately resolved that national and international aviation growth can be supported

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urged the committee to lobby for a frequent flyer levy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlighted that the council has withdrawn its previous proposals for surface access, reducing the direct impact on green belt and that revised surface access plans will concentrate on links which improve rail access • Outlined the council's asks to Government where aviation is concerned, which includes the introduction of a frequent flyer levy to reduce demand
<p>13 January 2020: David Bars, Our Future Leeds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanked the council for the steps taken so far to address the climate emergency. However, did not consider the actions adequate in reducing emissions at the rate required to meet 2030 targets • Concerned that tree planting initiatives are not enough to offset aviation emissions alone and are only valuable in addition to other actions and measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explained the ambition of our transport plans and how national lobbying is a key part of our action plan for more funding and powers at a local level • Highlighted that we'll soon be publishing our White Rose Forest Strategy and looking at land ownership opportunities across the city. Also noted that the council is not reliant on tree planting to solve the climate emergency alone and made reference to the additional benefits of tree planting: natural flood management, biodiversity gains, greater accessibility to green space
<p>10 March: Elliot Kilbride, Yorkshire Building Society</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed the committee that YBS has reduced its internal carbon emissions by 48% since 2012 and the actions that have taken place to achieve this 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congratulated Yorkshire Building society on their work and dedication so far

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated how YBS is already a carbon-neutral organisation and report scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions • Acknowledged the challenges of also mapping the indirect emissions that occur across the organisation • Invited further opportunities for partnership working with the council around the climate emergency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledged that YBS has been invited to join the Leeds Climate Commission • Invitation to contact officers in the Sustainable Energy and Air Quality team about upcoming opportunities
<p>10 March: Paul Ellison, Yorkshire Design Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraged projects and campaigns for local businesses to engage with, including Clean Air Day and Car Free Day • Suggested new ways to engage communities, including temporary free bus travel schemes and a pop-up forest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised awareness of how, despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, the council supported Clean Air Day virtually this year and highlighted the impact of the campaign • Highlighted the council's work to improve public transport and active travel, raising awareness of the council's new e-bike trials scheme to encourage residents to try an e-bike free of charge and the pop-up bike hub in Kirkgate Market • Invitation to hold a meeting to discuss opportunities for Clean Air Day in 2021
<p>10 March: Leah Stuart, Civic Engineers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed the committee about a number of projects focused on providing sustainable infrastructure, including the development of a car-free school in the city centre • Highlighted barriers to such projects and the need for policy change. Also highlighted the financial implications for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlined how planning plays an important role across the council's strategic priorities • Raised awareness of the Core Strategy which outlines the council's plans to ensure that new development takes place in locations that are, or will be, accessible by a choice of a

	<p>the construction industry and the need for innovation within the sector that is supported by the council</p>	<p>means of transport, including walking, cycling, and public transport with the majority of growth focussed in urban areas and settlements located within a 15-20 minute walk from local and other services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambition to set standards for buildings to be as sustainable as possible and to improve our policies on green and blue infrastructure • Highlights from the Local Plan Update, including updated policies to deliver more trees and improve access to sustainable housing
<p>17 July: Our Future Leeds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented 10 ideas for Leeds to “build back better”. The 10 ideas include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Changing our roads 2. 15 minute neighbourhoods 3. A network of community action hubs 4. More greenspaces 5. Warm affordable homes for all 6. Neighbourhood assemblies 7. Security for Leeds workers 8. A Leeds COVID Recovery fund 9. A socially useful economy 10. Measuring what matters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgement that the scale of our ambitions will require additional support from central government in terms of policy and resource • Highlighted that many of the ideas mentioned are also incorporated within the climate emergency roadmap report that was approved in January • Raised awareness of the work the council is already doing around the Affordable Warmth strategy, planning, transport and active travel, tree planting and increasing access to green space • Overview of the council’s Inclusive Growth strategy which also has a focus on building useful, sustainable

		<p>and 21st Century infrastructure such as transport, green energy, green infrastructure, housing and flood protection</p>
<p>22nd September: Youth Strike4Climate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned that air pollution has dropped because of the reduction in traffic over the Covid-19 pandemic and that levels will rise again after the lockdown • Suggested the health and climate impacts of air pollution should form the basis of the Clean Air Zone review • Concerned about the money already spent on the Clean Air Zone • Asked the council to provide air pollution levels with the accompanying health risks on a publically available platform • Asked for the committee to publish an independent publically available assessment of what the Leeds Bradford Expansion would mean for the city's climate targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised that, since the meeting, the council has published the conclusions of the joint review and the council's Executive Board has endorsed its recommendations • Explained that the review found that the CAZ has successfully accelerated long term improvements to air quality by encouraging local businesses to switch to cleaner vehicles faster than expected, with the help of £7.5 million of financial support • Explained that the shift to less polluting vehicles has been so unprecedented that if Leeds were to introduce the CAZ tomorrow, only a fraction of traffic would be charged • Advised that the joint review found that air pollution at key points in Leeds is unlikely to exceed legal limits ever again, meaning the CAZ achieved its aim and is no longer required • Outlined the council's own view that whilst our air is cleaner than ever, there are no truly 'safe' levels of air pollution. The council's new targets which are aligned with World Health

		<p>Organisation guidelines will be the goal of a new local air quality strategy that will be published early next year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signposted where to find transparent and simple local air quality data from monitors in Headingley and Leeds City Centre • Explained that, as the Leeds Bradford Airport expansion is current “live” and pending determination, the committee would be unable to comment until a decision has been reached. Also explained that is it important that the Local Planning authority does everything it can to ensure that the Panel’s consideration of the application is robust and unbiased • Outlined the council’s position on the expansion and how the council continues to press the government for an updated aviation strategy and to include the impact of aviation in national carbon reduction targets • Signposted the independent Leeds Climate Commission’s position paper
<p>22nd September: Group for Action on Leeds Bradford Airport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns regarding the climate impact of the proposed Leeds Bradford Airport expansion • Need for support from regional and national government that supports the actions of citizens where the climate emergency is concerned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explained that, as the Leeds Bradford Airport expansion is current “live” and pending determination, the committee would be unable to comment until a decision has been reached. Also explained that is it important that the Local Planning authority does everything it can to ensure that the

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about how the airport expansion would impact the city's carbon budget 	<p>Panel's consideration of the application is robust and unbiased</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlined the council's position on the expansion and how the council continues to press the government for an updated aviation strategy and to include the impact of aviation in national carbon reduction targets • Signposted the independent Leeds Climate Commission's position paper
<p>22nd September: Wildlife Friendly Otley</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about the decline of insects and biodiversity and suggested the council relax mowing across the city to encourage wildlife • Suggested spaces in Otley that could benefit from relaxed mowing and a network of wildlife corridors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlined the council's commitments to adapting parks and green spaces to support biodiversity, including though relaxing mowing, introducing pollinator friendly habitats and focusing on conservation and habitat creation • The council is in dialogue with residents to identify possible changes that would support biodiversity, which includes bring forward additional sites for relaxed mowing. The council has identified a target to increase this by a further 250,000m² from next year • Outlined the importance of maintained grass in certain areas so that pedestrians and motorists and able to use roads and footpaths safely and with full visibility • Invitation for Wildlife Friendly Otley to get involved with tree planting as part of the Woodland Creation Initiative

<p>22nd October: Simon Campbell-Skelling, member of the public</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerns regarding the West Yorkshire Pension Fund's investment in fossil fuels and recommendations for the council to lobby the WYPF to divest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An item has been scheduled for the January 2021 meeting to discuss the West Yorkshire Pension Fund investment in carbon assets in greater detail
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