

Leeds Anchors Network - report on progress

Date: 4 November 2024

Report of: Chief Officer, Climate, Energy & 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

This report provides the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee with an update on the work of Leeds Anchor Network climate sub-group.

The Associate Director - Estates Compliance & Risk at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Sustainability Communications and Engagement Officer at The University of Leeds will attend the meeting to provide a presentation to members on their organisations' work undertaken.

Recommendations

- a) To note 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.

What is this report about?

- 1 The Leeds Anchor Network was formed in 2018 and brings together 14 of the city's largest employers- including the council, NHS trusts, higher and further education, culture, and utilities. They come together and focus on areas where they can make a difference for people as an employer, through procurement, through service delivery or as a civic partner.
- 2 'Anchors' are usually defined as large organisations that are rooted in a place, and are invested in the development of their local areas. Since 2018, large public sector organisations and utility companies in Leeds have been working together as Anchors to deliver inclusive growth and make a positive difference for people in Leeds. Given their scale and influence, the decisions that these organisations make about how they operate can make a significant contribution to local employment, business growth, skills, incomes, health and wellbeing.
- 3 Collectively, the Leeds Anchor Network employ over 55,000 people, including nearly 2,000 apprentices. They spent over £720m in the Leeds economy in 2020/21 and reduced their CO2 emissions by over 21,000 tonnes in 2020/2021.
- 4 There are lots of ways in which anchors institutions can act. These will vary in emphasis and over time for different organisations. However, there are five areas of activity where all anchors can make a difference and themselves gain benefits:
 - As an employer – policies on recruitment, pay & conditions, progression and health can support inclusion goals and lower paid workers – and help organisations to recruit and retain staff and fully tap the talents of their workforce.
 - Through procurement of goods, services and infrastructure – which can be designed to support local business and job opportunities, recirculate wealth and bring community benefits – while still getting buyers the right price and quality, and often improved supply chain resilience, responsiveness and relationships.
 - Through environment and assets – by adopting targets, policies and actions to respond to the climate emergency, reduce energy, waste and pollution, and create better built and natural environments; and collaborating in place making and using assets to support local communities – all of which can also reduce inequalities.
 - Through products and service delivery – public sector and community anchors can deliver services in ways designed to help those facing poverty and disadvantage.
 - Through corporate and civic behaviours – organisations can embed 'anchors thinking' across their own ethos, planning and actions, and work with other anchors to systematically share good practice, help each other succeed, and deliver enhanced positive impacts for their people and places.
- 5 The focus of the update and subsequent discussion, is expected to be on the third activity theme, of environment and assets, which is expected to be of most interest to Climate Emergency Advisory Committee members.

Appendices

- None

Background papers

- None