

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
GREEN ECONOMY PANEL  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2021 AS A REMOTE MEETING**

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**Present:**

William Firth	European Metal Recycling (EMR) Ltd
Richard Goodfellow	Addleshaw Goddard
Natasha Luther-Jones	DLA Piper LLC
Leah Stuart	Civic Engineers
Professor Simon Pringle (Chair)	Project Rome
Councillor Andrew Cooper	Kirklees Council
Councillor Sarah Ferriby	Bradford Council
Councillor Scott Patient	Calderdale Council
Rosa Foster (Advisory Representative)	Environment Agency
Nevil Muncaster (Advisory Representative)	Yorkshire Water

**In attendance:**

Antonia Mattos	Element Energy
Katherine Orchard	Element Energy
Noel Collings	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Alan Reiss	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Mathew Page	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Ian Smyth	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Ambrose White	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Janette Woodcock	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Aaliyah Younis	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

**18. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence was received from Councillor Neil Walshaw, Jim Cardwell, Dr Alice Owen and Ben Tongue.

**19. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

There were no pecuniary interests declared by members at the meeting.

**20. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

There were no items on the Agenda requiring exclusion of the press and public.

**21. Minutes of the Meeting of the Green Economy Panel held on 18 November 2020.**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Green Economy Panel held on 18 November 2020 be approved.

**22. Chair's Update**

Element Energy

The Chair welcomed external guests Katherine Orchard and Antonia Mattos from Element Energy, the independent consultants assisting with the work, who will set out the measures, policy considerations and actions required in West Yorkshire to reach net zero carbon by 2028 and said there would be a change in the running order of the meeting so that this presentation would be the first item on the Agenda.

LEP Board

Feedback to the Panel was given following the meeting of the LEP Board on 24 February 2021.

Head of Energy and Sustainability

Daniel Barrett will be joining West Yorkshire Combined Authority in April 2021. Daniel was formerly Energy Systems and Innovation lead at the Greater London Authority.

Energy Hub

Nadia Macpherson joined the team to manage the Energy Hub.

The Chair was keen to pause briefly to reflect on the decision to go ahead with the expansion of Leeds Bradford Airport and to also to reflect back to June 2020 when the LEP Board approached the Panel in order to obtain the consensus of the Panel in respect of the proposed plans for the expansion of the airport following which the views of the Panel were incorporated in a letter sent by the Chair to the LEP Board.

Following the decision to approve the expansion, the Chair felt that an explanation on how the decision was reached and the role of the Combined Authority in the Planning Process and the mechanics involved would be useful as he was keen to ensure transparency and invited Alan Reiss, Director of Policy, Strategy and Communications, West Yorkshire Combined Authority, to speak to the Panel and provide a factual narrative. The Chair invited members to add their views, as this was a deeply personal issue, which have been noted.

## **23. Carbon Emissions Reduction Pathways**

The Panel considered a report to introduce a presentation given at the meeting by Element Energy, the independent consultants assisting with the work setting out the measures, policy considerations and actions that are required for West Yorkshire to reach net-zero carbon by 2038.

The Panel was asked to note the advice of the consultants and for them to advise the Combined Authority to approve the use of the findings of the CERP work in wider engagement.

The proposed next steps are to report to the Combined Authority on 9 March seeking approval to start wider engagement with stakeholders in March / April.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the advice of the consultants be noted.
- (iii) That the Panel agreed to recommend that the consultants advise the Combined Authority to approve the use of the findings of the CERP work in wider engagement.

## **24. Carbon Impact Assessments**

The Panel considered a report and a verbal update on the work commissioned by the Combined Authority to develop a carbon impact assessment tool and incorporate this into the Assurance Framework. This work will ensure that the impact of proposals on the Climate Emergency are more explicitly taken account in decision making. The Panel had been made aware of this work in previous reports on Major Projects.

There have been briefings with district council chief highways officers, directors of development and Leaders/Portfolio Holders. A list of existing projects has been developed and agreed with Directors of Development to be assessed through the project – including transport and non-transport schemes.

The outcomes of the assessments will be considered with partners to develop recommendations for the Combined Authority meeting in June 2021.

Feedback from members was noted and It was felt that the methodology should be as robust as can be. Mathew will come back to the Panel to show how the methodology is being developed.

**Resolved:** That the contents of the report on the ongoing work be noted.

## **25. Green Infrastructure Standards Trial**

The Panel considered a report to give an update on the national Green Infrastructure Standards Trial (GIST), led by Natural England. Leeds City Region is one of 10 trial areas, and participation was confirmed as part of the West Yorkshire Devolution Deal.

The report was an updated version of the one planned to go the Panel in January and follows on from the update in November which provided background to the trial, with details of how the West Yorkshire trial has been undertaken, the scope of the local project and the feedback to be submitted to Natural England.

**Resolved:**

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the progress made on the GIST and feedback received be noted.

**26. Flooding Update**

The Panel considered a report and verbal update to summarise the work of partners to address flood risk issues and deliver Natural Flood Management (NFM).and was asked to note the work undertaken in relation to Flood Risk Management activities.

Panel members Rosa Foster, Environment Agency and Neville Muncaster, Yorkshire Water also gave a verbal update on the details of the report and the key messages. Panel members provided further feedback and said that jobs, skills, forestry and maintenance of peat land needs a transparent and co-ordinated best practice approach.

**Resolved:** That the contents of the report and the work in relation to Flood Risk Management activities be noted.

**27. Major Projects Update**

The Panel considered a report to update on the progress against the Green Economy Panel's major projects and programmes, all of which form part of the City Region's approach to tackling the Climate Emergency and was asked to note the work undertaken.

**Resolved:** That the contents of the report be noted.