

**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE
CLIMATE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD
REMOTELY ON 11 JANUARY 2022**

Present:

Councillor Tim Swift MBE (Chair)	Calderdale Council
Councillor Andrew Cooper	Kirklees Council
Councillor Sarah Ferriby	Bradford Council
Councillor Jack Hemingway	Wakefield Council
Councillor Scott Patient	Calderdale Council
Councillor Neil Walshaw	Leeds City Council
Councillor Andrew Waller	City of York Council
William Firth	European Metal Recycling (EMR) Ltd
Natasha Luther-Jones	DLA Piper LLC
Leah Stuart	Civic Engineers
Jim Cardwell (Advisory Representative)	Northern Powergrid
Ben Tongue	NHS Digital

In attendance:

Rachael Bice	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Paul Duncan	Natural England
Liam O'Reilly	Natural England
Ben Still	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
James Brass	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Sara Brook	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Alison Gillespie	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Liz Hunter	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Alan Reiss	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Craig Taylor	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Janette Woodcock	West Yorkshire Combined Authority

12. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence received from Melanie Taylor, Simon Pringle, Richard Goodfellow and Adrian Gill.

13. Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests

There were no items of disclosable pecuniary interests declared at the meeting.

14. Exempt information- possible exclusion of the press and public

There were no items on the agenda which required the exclusion of the press and public

15. Minutes from the meeting held on 19 October 2021

As this meeting was held remotely as an informal consultative meeting, the 11 October 2021 minutes will be approved at the next formal meeting of the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee.

16. Chair's Update

The Chair welcomed members to the informal consultative meeting and read out the following statement

Due to the recent rise in COVID-19 cases in the UK and the current uncertainty this brings, the decision has been taken not to hold any in person committee meetings in January 2022. Unfortunately, we are not permitted to hold virtual formal committee meetings at this time (regulations permitting this earlier in the pandemic expired in May 2021 and have not been renewed by government). The meeting today is therefore an informal consultative meeting of the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee/ However it is being live streamed to enable the public and stakeholders to observe and hear the debate and discussion and papers have been published in the usual way. Where there is a need for a formal decision on an item, it will be necessary for the Managing Director to exercise his delegated authority and subsequently take those decisions having regard to the recommendations of this meeting.

Matters Arising

Cllr Swift said that The Combined Authority is in receipt of correspondence sent on behalf of the West Yorkshire network of climate and social justice organizations which includes the Friends of the Earth local groups in each district amongst others with respect to the urgent need to decarbonise transport in our region.

There is a clear intention to discuss decarbonisation of transport in our region at Transport Committee and members asked how this would be brought to the Climate Agenda in order for this to be discussed at this Committee as it is really important that the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee has the opportunity to look at Transport issues.

17. Forward Agenda for 2022

The Committee considered a report and verbal update to recommend the

business agenda for this Committee during 2022. The eight themes of the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan provide a logical framework for the Committee's business agenda.

The eight themes of the West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan are as follows:

Winter 2022

Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund
Climate Adaptation & Resilience
Energy Network Operator Business Plans and Investments

Spring 2022

Climate & Environment Plan – Strategic Outline Case
Carbon Impact Toolkit Project
Better Homes Hub
Green skills and jobs

Summer 2022

Business Sustainability
Yorkshire Water Business Plan and Investments
Communications & Behaviour Change Programme
Community Renewal Fund

Autumn 2022

Climate & Environment Plan – Outline & Full Business Cases & Update on Progress
Climate Ready – Flooding & Resilience
Nature Recovery Strategy
Net Zero Region Accelerator

Members discussed the proposed business agenda for the year 2022 and provided feedback. It was noted that members felt that Transport required the involvement of the Climate Committee in addition to Transport Committee as there were major implications for transport projects. It was felt that the impact of carbon needs wider conversations around transport and should be brought to the Spring meeting.

The Forward Plan is to be amended following discussion and feedback from the Committee and the revised version will be circulated to members.

18. Capital Spending and Project Approvals

The Committee considered a report and verbal update by the Head of Portfolio Management and Appraisal and Social Housing Decarbonisation scheme Project Manager on proposals for the progression of, and funding for, a West Yorkshire Combined Authority supported project that has been considered at

stages 1, 2 or 3 of the Combined Authority's assurance process.

Social Housing Decarbonisation Scheme

The Climate, Energy and Environment Committee noted the recommendations below:

(i) The Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund programme proceeds through decision point 2 (Strategic outline case) and decision point 4 (Full business case) and work commences on activity 5 (Delivery) subject to the conditions set by PAT.

(ii) Approval to the Combined Authority's contribution of up to £5,062,000 is given. The total scheme value is £10,381,000 subject to the conditions set by PAT.

(iii) That development costs of up to £600,000 are approved in order to progress individual schemes to decision point 5 (Delivery).

(iv) The Combined Authority enters into a Funding Agreement with the following providers, subject to the conditions set by PAT, for expenditure of up to:

Provider RP Funding Total	Combined Authority	Grand
Accent £546,258	£339,451	£885,710
Hartford £59,267	£114,933	£174,200
Connect £216,691	£410,615	£627,306
Incommunities £2,288,496	£1,241,592	£3,530,088
Kirklees £163,220	£105,000	£268,220
Stonewater £361,830	£352,933	£714,763
Together £724,325	£774,650	£1,498,975
WDH £648,333	£1,296,667	£1,945,000
Yorkshire £310,696	£183,392	£494,089

(v) That Funding Agreements are entered into with each provider in advance of the Approval to Proceed (ATP) submissions, for development costs, to provide surety to the providers and allow access to development funds to develop ATPs.

(vi) That delegated authority be granted:

To the Head of Economic Implementation:

To accept receipt of the funding from BEIS for the SHDF.

To reallocate funding and / or outputs in consultation with PAT but without the need to submit a formal Change Request to PAT if the funding from BEIS for the SHDF changes and / or one Housing Association is unable to use their funding allocation, but another is.
To the Head of Economic Implementation and the Head of Legal and Governance Services respectively in consultation with each other to finalise the Funding Agreements/letter between the Combined Authority

and the Housing Associations (Wakefield District Housing Connect Housing, Incommunities, Together Housing, Accent Housing, Yorkshire Housing, Kirklees City Council, Chartford (Horton) Housing, Stonewater Housing) and all other related legal documents that may be required.

To the Section 73 officer so they can sign the Memorandum of Understanding and Data Sharing Agreement with BEIS as required by 31 January 2022 including any reasonable variation in terms

(vii) Future approvals are made in accordance with the assurance pathway and approval route outlined in this report. This will be subject to the scheme remaining within the tolerances outlined in this report.

The Committee discussed and the Managing Director of West Yorkshire Combined Authority who was present at the meeting will exercise his delegated authority and subsequently take decisions having regard to the recommendations of this meeting.

19. Climate Adaption and Resilience

Apologies were received from the Environment Agency as they were unable to attend to give their presentation at the meeting.

20. Distributed Network Operator Business Plans and Programmes

The Committee was provided with a presentation by Northern Powergrid on their business plans and investments to decarbonise distributed energy networks and support local government, businesses, and residents to transition to a clean, smart, and flexible energy system across West Yorkshire.

The Committee noted the presentation.

21. Nature Recovery

The Committee was provided with a presentation by Yorkshire Wildlife and Natural England on their priorities, investments and programmes for nature recovery, enhancement, and protection across the region. Highlighting opportunities to partner and areas that require a collaborative approach, for example a Nature Recovery Strategy for West Yorkshire starting production in 2022.

The Committee noted the presentation