



Report to:	Climate, Energy and Environment Committee
Date:	24 October 2023
Subject:	Committee Governance
Director:	Liz Hunter, Director Policing, Environment and Place
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Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1. To note the appointment by the Combined Authority of a representative of the National Health Service (NHS) West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board onto the Committee as an advisory (non-voting) member.
- 1.2. To update the Committee on the new individuals who will be representing the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water at future meetings.
- 1.3. To seek feedback on the ways in which the views of young people could be sought and integrated into the work of the Committee.

2. Information

NHS Representation

- 2.1. The NHS is a significant source, both directly and indirectly, of emissions in West Yorkshire. As such the reduction of NHS related emissions will have a large bearing on whether West Yorkshire is able to meet its net zero target.

- 2.2. To date the NHS has only previously been represented on this Committee through NHS Digital. However, there has been an absence of a representative from NHS Digital attending the Committee since 2022.
- 2.3. In the meantime, relationships between the Combined Authority and NHS have been strengthened through the [signing of a Partnership Agreement](#) in September 2023 between the Combined Authority and NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB). The Partnership Agreement sets out both organisations' shared commitment to working together on the factors that affect population health – fair economic growth, climate, and tackling inequality. The Partnership Agreement commits both organisations to collectively mitigate the health impacts of the climate emergency and to maximise the regional contribution to tackling climate change.
- 2.4. As a result of the Partnership Agreement, the Mayor and the Chief Executive were co-opted onto the ICB Partnership Board and in turn it was agreed that a member of the ICB be co-opted onto the Combined Authority's Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee. This reflects the overlap between the ICB, NHS and Combined Authority's work in this area. It was proposed that a similar arrangement be implemented for this Committee. The involvement of the NHS/ICB would be twofold:
- To provide an overview of activity being undertaken by the NHS to address the climate change and to understand any synergies between its work and that of the Combined Authority; and
 - To ensure the health implications of activity overseen by this Committee are fully considered.
- 2.5. At its meeting on the 12th October 2023, the Combined Authority considered the above and approved the co-option of a representative of the NHS WY Integrated Care Board onto this Committee as an advisory (non-voting) member.

Advisory (Non-Voting) Member Changes

- 2.6. Both the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water are represented on the Committee as advisory (non-voting) members. Their presence reflects their importance as regional stakeholders delivering against the climate emergency agenda.
- 2.7. Due to personnel changes within both organisations, it is necessary to confirm a change of their representatives on the Committee. As such, the Environment Agency will now be represented by Jenny Cooke, Area Flood Risk Manager – West Yorkshire, and Yorkshire Water will now be represented by Adam Ashman, Head of Strategic Planning.

Engagement With Young People

- 2.8. It is of paramount importance that the views of young people are considered in the work of this Committee. It is these individuals who stand to be impacted the most by a changing climate and therefore schemes and activity need to be designed with this in mind.
- 2.9. The Combined Authority is committed to investigate as part of its future work ways of involving young people more in all its decisions through more formal engagement mechanisms, such as panels, assemblies etc. However, the implementation of such engagement mechanisms requires significant investment and impact on Combined Authority governance arrangements. Before such mechanisms can be implemented, the Combined Authority is committed to ensure that young people's voices are heard in all its projects through a range of engagement exercises tailored to the needs of each project.
- 2.10. The Community Engagement Team is currently leading work to develop an Inclusive Engagement Strategy for the Combined Authority, which will be informed by those people that undertake engagement activity as part of their role. It is expected that the Strategy will be drafted by the end of the year. Research is being carried out into a range of possible future engagement methods such as panels, assemblies, citizen's juries, Young Person Mayor etc. though some of these would require significant investment and impact on Combined Authority governance arrangements.
- 2.11. The following information sets out some shorter-term ways that this Committee could involve young people in its work going forward.
- 2.12. There is a proposal to work with the Youth Work Unit as part of the Mayor's Big Climate Chat (expected to launch in late October 2023) to develop a climate survey for young people and to help design the behaviour change campaign.
- 2.13. Some of the young people from Youth Work Unit also sit on the Regional Youth Climate Assembly, therefore, another element of engagement could be to form a task and finish group, whereby nominated representatives from the Committee could work with young people, over a defined period, to get their views on particular areas of policy development within the Committee's remit. An example of where this could be implemented would be on the refresh of the Climate and Environment Plan.
- 2.14. In addition to the more strategic approach there are existing programmes and approaches that have been deployed which could provide additional insights into the views of young people if utilised.
- 2.15. For example, the Employment and Skills Team undertake schools' partnership work and would be open to utilising this mechanism to receive feedback or undertake engagement with young people. The partnership work extends to over 180 secondary schools across West Yorkshire.

- 2.16. The team are also launching a programme in early 2024 to engage with primary schools on future green careers. This could be utilised as a means to receive feedback and undertake engagement with younger age groups.
- 2.17. And finally, the Green Jobs Taskforce commissioned research with over 200 young people to understand their perceptions of green jobs and careers which fed into the final recommendations of the Taskforce. This approach could be replicated in other areas as an effective means to receive feedback.
- 2.18. In considering how the Committee engages with young people members are asked to review the above information, provide feedback on potential engagement methods, and suggest additional engagement methods if appropriate.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1. In seeking to enable a greater variety of voices to be heard on climate change, this report will help to ensure the work of the Combined Authority and this Committee considers a wider range of perspectives when designing policies and schemes which seek to address the climate emergency.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1. The report has a positive effect on inclusive growth as it seeks to provide an understanding of how the views and opinions of young people can be incorporated into the work of this Committee going forward.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1. This report sets out several potential mechanisms for engaging with young people. Where these mechanisms are implemented they will ensure they engage with a wide cross-section of young people from across West Yorkshire, including those with protected characteristics.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. Some of the mechanisms outlined in this report for engaging with young people will necessarily require funding if they are to be implemented. If a decision is taken to progress with any of the mechanisms, conversations will need to be held internally to identify a budget to allow them to be progressed.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1. There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

8. Staffing Implications

- 8.1. As with the financial implications associated with this report, some of the mechanisms identified for engaging with young people will require input (and time) from both the Committee and teams from across the Combined Authority.
- 8.2. Any requirement for input will need to be proportionate to the time that both Committee members and teams from across the Combined Authority are able to provide, especially where the requirement is in addition to their current area of focus.

9. External Consultees

- 9.1. No external consultations have been undertaken.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1. That the Committee note the appointment by the Combined Authority on 12th October, of an advisory representative from the NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board to the Committee.
- 10.2. That the Committee notes the change in members representing the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water on this Committee.
- 10.3. That the Committee reviews and provides feedback on the potential methods for engaging with young people.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

None.