

An independent advisory body to bring actors from the public, private and third sectors together to support and guide ambitious climate actions across all parts of Kirklees.

Minutes

Kirklees Climate Commission Meeting, 17th September 2021, 10am, Textile Centre of Excellence, Huddersfield (and via Teams).

1. Welcome and introductions

Peter Roberts (Chair) welcomed Commissioners, Observers and the Secretariat to the meeting. Thanks given to Bill Macbeth for hosting the meeting at the Textile Centre of Excellence.

A full list of commissioners is appended (see Appendix 1).

Apologies were received from Katherine Armitage, Gideon Richards and Kathy Scott.

Jennifer Hirst sent ahead apologies and arrived later on in the meeting.

Martin Wood (Kirklees Council) attending on behalf of Katherine Armitage.

2. Creating Value from Sustainability

Bill Macbeth delivered a presentation – slides in Appendix 2.

Key points noted were:

- The textiles industry is the most polluting industry in the world, more so than energy. 80 billion garments are made annually, 7,000L of water is needed to make a pair of jeans, and 32kg of clothes are thrown away every year by the average European. 85% of it goes to landfill, and 10% of clothes made are disposed without being worn.
- Businesses are increasingly looking at net zero and environmental commitments. What business opportunities will arise from this, we have to provide tools to assess their market and customers. A practical programme is required.
- There will be a pilot one-day introductory workshop, 13th October at the TCOE (see Appendix for full details).
- Two further possible programmes, online courses from the Institute of Management Development and the University of Oxford
- [Video: 'My Yorkshire Wardrobe'](#)
- Combatting fast fashion through an intelligent app clothing rental service, using local manufacturers. The only challenge is sustainable delivery of the garments to the customer.

- What can the commission do? Help with this practically and tactically. There are over 40 green/digital business start-ups, and there is the Sustainable Enterprise Foundation with Barry Sheerman MP (Huddersfield).

Comments & Discussion:

- Through lockdown, sales of suit jackets and home furnishings increased, while trousers decreased.
- 'My Yorkshire Wardrobe' was very well received by all commissioners
- Great for frequent travellers, no need to transport lots of clothes worldwide, as it can adapt to the appropriate climates

ACTION: Presentation slides to be circulated with Commission members and attached to meeting minutes.

ACTION: Members to contact Bill regarding any suggestions and thoughts.

3. COP26 Regional Green Zone (RGZ)

Martin Wood, Acting Head of Public Protection at Kirklees Council, presented this item on behalf of Katherine Armitage, Service Director for Environmental Strategy & Climate Change.

Key points noted were:

- There will be 'Regional Green Zones' in the run up to COP26, funded by BEIS/Regional Energy Hubs
- There will be an Events Programme to showcase local carbon reduction impacts. Kirklees Council has joined in the WYCA's bid; there will be 5 small events, 1 for each authority – the outcome of the application is expected imminently.
- The Kirklees event will be approx. 1 hour and will showcase the Commission and work of Commission members.
- There will also be a short video curated from the 5 events, which will be available after the events for promotional material.
- Request for 3-5 commissioners to take part – some interest from Commissioners noted.

Comments & Discussion:

- A need to focus on the Commission, working in partnership with the Council.
- Keen to have the involvement of schools/colleges.
- Commission needs clear targets of what we want to achieve to present at the event and these should be ambitious but realistic – agreement that Commission should be about creating added value, not only creating reports/research.
- Discussion around the importance of being positive whilst also telling the truth on how serious the issues are by looking at the evidence.
- Consideration to be given to whether the Commission's actions should be linked to the commitments of our partners. For example, the NHS Calderdale and Huddersfield Trust has a 'green plan' which sets out their commitments over the

next 5 years. The Council have similar plans that the Commission could include in their actions.

- Conversation needed to be beyond this item to discuss about wider communications strategy.

Commission is supportive of the proposal to showcase Kirklees Climate Commission as part of the Council's part of the wider WYCA RGZ event.

ACTION: Kirklees Council to confirm the outcome of the WYCA application for the RGZ.

ACTION: Volunteers to get in touch with Secretariat about involvement.

4. Update on the Net Zero Roadmap

Martin Wood, Acting Head of Public Protection at Kirklees Council, presented this item on behalf of Katherine Armitage, Service Director for Environmental Strategy & Climate Change.

Key points noted were:

- The Council has now received the initial draft of the Net Zero roadmap study that was commissioned from the University of Leeds. This has been reviewed and commented upon by the Council, who are further engaging with the University of Leeds team.
- Council are currently waiting for a revised version.
- Once received, Secretariat team will circulate this document with Commission members for comment.
- These comments will be used to rework for a final version that will be sent to designers for final editing.

Comments & Discussion:

- Queries and comments around the inclusion of new projects and their carbon impact within the roadmap.
- The roadmap is also known as a mini-Stern report - roadmap will focus on the economic impacts of climate change.
- There will be a focus on transport, movement and buildings.
- Roadmaps are a starter for getting towards a readiness assessment.
- Kirklees has manufacturing/distribution background. Commission should engage with this industry.
- Examples such as the Leeds roadmap should give a good idea of what to expect - Link: [A Net-Zero Carbon Roadmap for Leeds \(leedsclimate.org.uk\)](https://leedsclimate.org.uk)

ACTION: Once received, Secretariat to circulate revised roadmap document to Commission members for comment.

5. A629 Halifax Road Phase 5 Project

John Allport presented this item as the chair of the Movement, Innovation and Transport (MIT) sub-group.

This paper is available from the Meeting Papers page on the Commission website:

<https://www.kirkleesclimate.org.uk/meeting-papers>

Key points noted were:

- Members of the MIT sub-group developed and put forward a paper providing comments on the Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) for the A629 Halifax Road project.
- Report was querying specific points within this CIA, to query with relevant Officers within the Council.
- Commission is advisory and is acting in a neutral capacity.
- Consulted with other experts in area from the University to input on this work.

Comments & Discussion:

- Key not to look at the project in isolation, but holistically, on the wider impacts.
- Stephen - the A629 is large scheme, one major route out of many in WY. How does this map out, how else can we put in other measures, and highlight to the public we are making a difference.
- Jimmy - raised concerns regarding the carbon impact of tree loss and mitigation planting. Also raised that transport to Halifax is an issue for Holmfirth: in a medical emergency, the advice here is to go to Barnsley or Oldham hospitals.
 - Will stated that the Forestry Commission's tool for analysing carbon sequestration states that the net benefit of the over 700 trees over the trees that would be lost is over 2000 tonnes of carbon over 30 years. The net carbon benefit will be felt after 3 years.
- John – why are they looking at increasing cars going into town, why not have a park and ride, for example.
- Bill - same figures, but different conclusions being drawn, some contradictory. The world is changing – EVs, working habits, etc. Forecast the future. People are using figures to make a point: say different scales
- Chris – will the Council consult the Commission on all major projects in future?
- Martin - what happens next: everything needs to be taken into consideration, people have made their opinions clear. Nothing is universally good/bad. Things change during the long timescales involved with schemes such as this.
- Tony – there is an important point in the Commission, being a public project: if it is too late, the Commission needs to be accountable, otherwise it will appear it has no influence. The Commission cannot be viewed as just a ‘bashing’ vehicle.
- Peter – Commission is not only concerned with what the Council does, but also other public sector bodies, the private sector and others. We are a forum for providing best evidence and guidance. Need to be critical of what and why. Commission’s position – it is our view, that it is important to have a discussion with the Council. The report has indicated flaws in the CIA.
We are about facilitating positive change, not only talking to the council, but:

- i) A Review was done, indicating flaws,
- ii) We would wish to work with Council as with anyone else to achieve objectives.
- iii) As a commission, we are encouraging people to review what they do and how, to best achieve climate goals.
 - Martin – at meetings in future, there could be representatives from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, who award the funding. For a holistic approach, coming together, moving forward, taking people with you.
 - Bill – we are a group working with the process, informed and educated, but not disruptive.
 - Steve: We accept that one part of the scheme needs work, not about rubbishing the whole proposal.
 - Chris: LA's are constrained by regulation, but some are 'braver' than others. Is it in the public domain that we have commented on this?
 - These minutes and the paper from sub group will be in the public domain.
 - Martin – the document asks a lot of questions that are not able to be answered. Give the project team a chance to answer. It is valid to be reviewed.
 - Peter – we are about transparency, being truthful, open and honest. Providing guidance and telling the truth as we understand it.
 - We will have dialogue with Council, feeding in information, not opposing all council planning, etc.
 - The report is not rubbishing the scheme, not for or against it. The paper is about the data and we need to ensure decision-making is based on the correct data.
 - Jimmy: I see the Commission as a important opportunity of communicating with all public, private and third sector bodies in Kirklees. I've been involved with groups in Holmfirth for a good ten years and am pretty frustrated; and that's even when objective analysis is provided.

ACTION: The report is to be made online for the public alongside the meeting minutes.

ACTION: Consideration of WYCA representatives to be present for discussions around similar schemes.

ACTION: The report has been sent to Council. Discussions are to be held with relevant Officers, on how the lessons learned from the CIA can be applied to this and other issues.

6. Sub-groups

The Chair invited Commission members to give updates on each of their newly established sub-groups.

a. Movement, Innovation & Transport

- Have been focused on paper for A629 – see item 5.

b. Communications & Engagement – Update from Tom, Kiran & Kath

- The group has had its first meeting.

- Need for standardised materials, such as PowerPoint presentations.
- All members will need to communicate with their respective sectors.
- Discussion around creating project/artwork/branding, that reminds people that we are here - 'Blue Peter' concept where many small actions add up
- Need to be clear what KCC's role is and be able to tell a story of what is happening.
- Comms also need to be timely and considerate.
- Highlight good work through success stories.
- Need to understand how group will work with other sub-groups to ensure the correct comms at the right time
- Capacity and resources are limited.

ACTION: Group to consider further how to manage communications going forward.

c. Young People – Update from Lisa

- Looking at setting up a youth panel for the Commission.
- Consideration of whether the Commission should invite 2/3 young people to the full Commission meetings.
 - For school children, it would not be easy to attend meetings if they were during the day. Would have to see if they can be released from lessons.
 - Youth panel could meet separately after school.
- Have been in contact with the Carbon Education Officer at Kirklees Council, as well as contacts at a number of other schools.
- Discussion around including climate change and the Commission into Youth Council training, then roll out at a wider scale. Aims/statements/training materials would be required.
 - Kath highlighted that Fettle Animation is making a series of 3 short animations about democracy and community action with Kirklees Council. This will be a resource that everyone can use to encourage participation and involvement.
- Offer from John - University of Huddersfield, Student Union Community Officer – would be happy to support the Commission. Could they be represented at the meetings?
- Young people are a key focus for the Commission and their engagement is a priority.

ACTION: Volunteers to attend the upcoming young people engagement event to contact Lisa.

ACTION: All members to consider how the Youth Panel will be involved with the full Commission.

ACTION: John to facilitate conversation with the University's Community Officer around their involvement on the Commission.

ACTION: Lisa to continue collating feedback from relevant contacts regarding interest in the Commission.

d. Business and Economic Activity – Update from Bill

- Members joining sub-group: Jennifer and Kathy
- Discussions have started, hope to have first physical meeting by end of October.
- Keen to ensure the group is close to the Sustainable Huddersfield group.
- Aim is to provide every business in Kirklees with free advice and support, including self-help groups and highlighting resources available.

e. Buildings & Homes – Update from Stuart

- Had a first, introductory meeting earlier this month.
- Secretariat support and capacity was discussed.
- There is Teams training that the NHS trust can support with providing, and a central repository.
- Key to look at what we can learn from what is already done in other areas.
- Co-opting and working with others – identified stakeholders: Local housing developers, social landlords, voluntary/private sector, landlords, architects.

ACTION: Add Stephen Moore into future sub-group meetings and correspondence.

f. Natural Environment & Countryside – Update from Karen

- Commissioners identified and discussions have started, with first meeting being arranged.

ACTION: Hold first sub-group meeting.

g. Proposal for Energy Sub-Group – Peter, on behalf of Gideon

- Gideon has written a proposal for the addition of an Energy sub-group.
- Recommendation that this proposal is given the go ahead.

The Commission approved the proposal for the formation of an Energy sub-group, chaired by Gideon.

ACTION: Secretariat to ensure all members have a copy of the sub-group proposal.

ACTION: Members wishing to be part of the sub-group should contact the secretariat or Gideon directly.

h. Methodologies & Co-opting additional group members

- Commission is here to work with people, not to give people a hard time.
- Commission should promote best practise.
- Discussion around additional expertise/contributions via co-optees in sub-groups.
- Agreement that co-optees should be added through an open process.
- Net-zero roadmap should give some insight into what areas to focus on.
- Can co-opt people for an individual project or issue, or on a permanent basis.

ACTION: Groups to consider key areas for co-opting additional members.

7. Discounts for the Community – Peter, on behalf of Gideon

Peter introduced topic raised by Gideon around using the Commission as a way to secure discounts on products, such as EV chargers.

Comments & Discussion:

- For EV chargers, discounts could be for both residents and businesses.
- Various schemes are available – installations specific to a property, kerbside and shared installations.
- Highlight on need for a coordinated, holistic approach across district when it comes to EV charging.
- John provided insight to University – they are working on EV charging that is battery-backed, overnight charging of a battery to relieve strain on the grid during the day. Opportunity to work with the Council on this system. There is a lot of ‘hype’ on rapid charging, we are looking at a more holistic model – e.g. all-day bookable chargers.
- Many challenges with EV charging, such as type of car, dwell time.
- Key to take time to develop a scheme, not rush into an idea.

ACTION: This item will be added to the agenda for the next Commission meeting.

ACTION: Kirklees Council to provide an update to Commission on its EV strategy and projects, for feedback.

8. Administration and Management

a. Secretariat Support

- Request for sub-groups to look into sourcing their own secretariat support due to limited capacity of Council’s secretariat team.
- Consider looking into funding opportunities for resources.

ACTION: Sub-groups to explore options for admin support.

b. Electronic Document Repository System

- Agreement that a place to work on and store documents is needed.
- Access to evidence and reports to be made available to all members and the public through website.

ACTION: Secretariat to explore options for Commission's own external site/system.

9. Membership

- Need for at least 1 representing young people.
- Peter has found someone to cover the gap in expertise on affordable and social housing.
- John to follow up with Student Union representative.
- Tom highlighted need for equality and diversity monitoring for members.

Peter and Will were given delegated authority to recruit additional members onto the Commission.

ACTION: Further suggestions on members to be passed on to secretariat.

10. Any Other Business

- Chris – request for discussion around citizen engagement, citizens assembly.
- Bill – to put to Martin about George Hotel, which is slowly coming back to life. Could it launch as a green, sustainable hotel as an icon for what we want to do in town.
- Martin – Council met Kim Leadbeater MP (Batley & Spen) to update her on climate plans. She is interested in what the commission is doing, can get in touch with Commission. Climate change does come up on the doorsteps.
 - Peter – would be happy to meet her and all MPs for Kirklees.
- Next meeting location – to consider a venue in Batley as first choice.
- Lisa: Contacts for college and university – John for University, Daniel for College.

ACTION: Add citizen engagement/assembly to next meeting agenda.

ACTION: Secretariat to provide Peter's contact details to Kim Leadbeater MP.

ACTION: Secretariat to organise next Commission meeting for November in Batley.

11. Dates of next meeting

- November 2021 – TBC
- January 2022 – TBC

ACTION: Secretariat to send out poll for suitable dates for next Commission meetings.

Appendix 1 – Attendees

1 Commission Members

Chair Professor Peter Roberts.

Vice Chair Cllr Will Simpson (Cabinet Member for Greener Kirklees) (*via Teams*)

Kirklees Council Senior Officer Nominee - Katherine Armitage (Service Director of Environmental Strategy & Climate Change) - Represented by Martin Wood (Acting Head of Public Protection)

Attending Commissioners – In person:

Professor John Allport - Professor of Automotive Engineering, University of Huddersfield

Chris Herring - Founder and Joint MD of Green Building Store, Huddersfield

Karen Hill – Independent (Environmental Engineer)

Bill Macbeth OBE FRSA - MD of Textile Centre of Excellence, Huddersfield

Stephen Moore - CityFibre, Civil Engineer

Tony Newham - Key Commercial Finance Solutions, Huddersfield

Tom Taylor - Former CEO of Northorpe Hall Child and Family Trust

Attending Commissioners - Virtual:

Kiran Bali MBE JP - Global Chair of United Religions Initiative

Daniel Bedford - Head of Estates, Facilities and Security, Kirklees College

Alistair Branch - Partner and Chartered Architect, Stephen George and Partners LLP.

Jimmy Dickinson - Owner of Longley Farm, Holmfirth

Kath Shackleton - Founder of Fettle Animations, Marsden

Stuart Sugarman - Managing Director of Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust

Lisa Woods - Head of Geography at Upper Batley High School

Jennifer Hirst - Senior Facilities Engineer, Cummins Turbo Technologies

Apologies:

Gideon Richards - CEO of Consulting with Purpose, Sustainability and Renewable Energy

Kathy Scott - Deputy Chief Executive of Yorkshire & Humber Academic Health Science Network

2 Secretariat

Riognach Dewhirst, Kirklees Council Officer

Bonni Jee, Kirklees Council Officer

Shaun Berry, Kirklees Council Officer

John Atkinson, Kirklees Council Officer

Kirklees Climate Commission

Friday 17th September 2021

Bill Macbeth
Managing Director
Textile Centre of Excellence

TCoE TEXTILE
CENTRE OF
EXCELLENCE

1

**KIRKLEES
CLIMATE
COMMISSION**

Creating Value from Sustainability

- Sustainability is reaching the top of the agenda for many companies and sectors with net-zero targets being set between 2030 and 2050 by public and private organisations alike.
- Large companies are increasingly requiring compliance from their supply chains and investors are seeking 'climate related financial disclosures'.

TCoE TEXTILE
CENTRE OF
EXCELLENCE

2

**KIRKLEES
CLIMATE
COMMISSION**

Creating Value from Sustainability

- Cost and risk concerns can be outweighed where manufacturers can identify new opportunities arising from the circular economy and lever value from sustainability, moving beyond compliance to generate competitive advantage.
- There is a need for a practical programme to provide manufacturers with the analytical tools to identify where to start to identify and prioritise risks and opportunities, providing support to plan, implement change and develop a company strategy involving all employees, recognising the 'corporate capacity' of SMEs.

Creating Value from Sustainability

- A pilot one-day introductory Workshop will inform the structure of the programme. The Workshop will cover the following areas:
 - What is driving Sustainability?
 - What exactly does 'net-zero' mean for a company?
 - What type of commitments are being made.
 - What are the implications for supply chain partners?
 - What new business opportunities will arise from the 'Circular Economy'?
 - Examples of sustainability strategies

Creating Value from Sustainability

Wednesday October 13th 2021

Textile Centre of Excellence

1. Introduction – Bill Macbeth
2. Integrating Sustainability into Business - Dr. Mark Wade
3. Sustainability in the Fashion and Textile Sector – Steven Parsons
4. A Company Case Study - Claire Burns & Richard Essery Harrison Spinks
5. Sources of Support from the WYCA: - Vincent McCabe

Two possible programmes:

1. Leading Sustainable Business Transformation:
Institute of Management Development, Lusanne
- On Line plus individual Coaching
2. Leading Sustainable Corporations Programme:
University of Oxford
- 7 10 hours on-line x 6 weeks

Other suggestions welcome!