

“Enabling climate action in a can-do city”

STRATEGY GROUP

Monday 9th December 16:30 – 18:30

Merrion House Meeting Suite Room 21 & 22, Merrion Way, Leeds LS2 8PD

NOTES

Present: Andy Gouldson, Chair (University of Leeds), Tom Knowland (Leeds City Council), Andy Scott (Engie), Karen Stafekis (CEG), Polly Cook (Leeds City Council), Mark Goldstone (Leeds Chamber of Commerce), Amelia Duncan (University of Leeds), Helen Thomas (Advisor in Social Finance), Neil Whalley (Northern Gas Network), Rosa Foster (Environment Agency), Jonathan Moxon (Leeds City Council), Richard Knights (ARUP). Neil Evans (Leeds City Council).

Apologies: David Kilduff (Walker Morris), Elizabeth Edgington (Business in the Community), Margo Hanson (University of Leeds), Kate Lock (University of Leeds), Gordon Rogers (Yorkshire Water)

No.	Item	Action
1	Welcome, introductions and apologies	
2	Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda <i>Notes of last meeting attached</i>	
3	<p>City Conversation <i>The City Conversation online survey has now concluded, reaching c7,000 respondents, supplemented by attendance at a number of events and focus groups</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Polly Cook gave an update – on the 20th December there will be a public announcement then on the 7th of January a full report of actions will be available. Report includes actions that people are taking as well as prepared to do. ➤ Link sent to the commission asap ➤ Priorities for the city that came out of this were that the Local Authority and business have a responsibility to take action. Biodiversity was also noted as a priority. ➤ Comments from Alice Owen on work to come from this – analysis of the reality of actions people are prepared to do, ‘I will if you will’ focussing on sustainable consumption suggestion of something the council and commission could work on <p>ACTION – Polly to share information/report with Commission when available</p>	PC
4	<p>Citizens Jury <i>The Citizens Jury recommendations were launched on 25 November and will inform future action by the Commission (Item 7)</i></p>	

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	<p>Commission to be guided by the recommendations – feedback if there should be anything more done around these findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Important note that communication across the city was one of the main recommendations ➤ The Council are drafting a response to the recommendations for the 13th of January (Kate Lock involved) ➤ Discussion around the recommendations aligning with what is already being focused upon ➤ The jury want ongoing input ➤ Replicate this process or process and jurors for a climate resilience and biodiversity focus (Rosa). This could be an efficient use of resources with an engaged group of people. There would need to be a discussion around scale – catchments would focus on flooding but city scale would be a larger variety of climate measures. ➤ Further discussion and comments around assembly and structure to present expert evidence in the future. ➤ Discussion around a business assembly/jurors to work out the space for action and priorities. ➤ Potential for this to be tied into the National Climate Assembly - Rachel Reeves contact. ➤ Discussion around co-benefits rather than heavily focused on carbon reduction from experts informing jurors. <p>ACTION – AG to draft a public response to the citizens’ jury recommendations, to either merge or separate to one prepared by the council</p>	<p>AG</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Council Tax / Business Rates</p> <p><i>Leeds City Council have recently secured funding for a research and feasibility study into whether CT / BR can be used to incentivise energy efficiency. Consultants (Alma Economics) have been appointed and their preliminary work has identified the following options for further consultation and modelling.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option A1: set council tax and business rates to be driven mainly (70%) by the current property valuation but also partly (30%) by EPC rating. Apply only to council tax band D upwards to reduce risk of regressive design. • Option B1: give a 1-year council tax or business rates holiday to properties that invest in an energy efficiency incentive from a specified list of options (focused on significant expenditures, e.g. excluding cavity wall insulation, loft insulation and boiler replacements). • Option C1: provide an interest-free “loan” equivalent to 100% of the cost of energy efficiency interventions from a specified list of options, then recoup this via increased council tax or business rates on the property for 15 years. • Option D1: raise council tax and/or business rates to cover grant funding for property owners engaging in net zero compatible retrofit. Focus this particularly on Housing Associations and local authority-owned properties. <p><i>Alma Economics have already been in contact with some members of the Commission and would like to engage with other interested parties.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Alma Economics carried out some workshops that the council will receive feedback in January. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discussion around other methods of encouragement after pure incentives. ➤ Incentivising and behaviour piece of work needed. Comments around cost-effectiveness – example was investing in solar panels has increase in business rates. <p>ACTION - Tom Knowland to check to see if draft report can be circulated with commission members (study to finish in March)</p>	TK
	<p>BEIS: City Decarbonisation Delivery Plan Project Leeds, Arup and University of Leeds / Leeds Climate Commission have been invited to join a project with 5 other cities. Leeds will focus on heat decarbonisation (with a probably emphasis on retrofit and insulation) to achieve the following outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high-level assessment of technical feasibility and financial viability; • Identification of potential funding and delivery options (which will be supported by a separate package of work); • Identification of stakeholder roles and initial stakeholder engagement; • Next steps for taking these interventions forward to practical delivery; • Recommendations for BEIS in relation to the development of a repeatable process for other cities; • Report and recommendations to BEIS on stakeholder engagement; and • Recommendations in relation to national policy measures to support heat decarbonisation projects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Timescale – draft by the end of March/April then finished in May ➤ Similar projects happening in 5 other cities all started in the last 6 weeks (Bristol, Manchester, Newcastle, Birmingham and Nottingham). Opportunity for collaboration - all about heat decarbonisation. 	
6	<p>Aviation Position Paper <i>The Commission's Position Paper on aviation has been completed and circulated for final sign off by the Strategy Group before publication on 17th December</i></p> <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council's position = acceptance that aviation growth and climate emergency is incompatible. Support national call but not local call for various influencing factors. In 2 weeks a report will be complete looking at road plans, specifically creating a rail holt to connect to the airport. - Shows a balanced view that it is a national issue <p>Potentially other people to contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National government contact - Ben Still - Chair of transport panel <p>ACTION – Andy/Kate to share press release with the strategy group before it is sent out</p> <p>ACTION – Andy/Millie to state more clearly the assumptions made around economic data for LBA (scaled down from national)</p>	<p>AG/KL</p> <p>AG/MD</p>

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	<p>ACTION – Mark Goldstone to send Andy email address of communications officer in Department for Transport (as well as typos)</p>	<p>MG</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Climate Readiness Index and Commission refresh <i>An update on how the recently launched Climate Readiness Index can inform the work of the Commission in its role of providing independent advice and oversight on the implementation of the Carbon Roadmap and catalysing enabling actions. Working Groups have been involved in this process and a paper will be presented for discussion</i></p> <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AO comments around social benefits/lifestyle and actions, as well as a technical and financial set of actions. Wider discussion on the importance of social behaviour – even influencing the uptake of new technology by institutions. (communication and confidence building) ➤ Outcome to show areas that are ready for investment and areas that need more investigation to barriers ➤ Clusters of red dots that may link and join together action areas – workshops will work through this idea ➤ Similar work done on topics and engagement format - Rosa suggested 'two Katies' to contact from East Riding LEP (A.G has contacts) ➤ Comments around resilience – Rosa suggested this method would work. To be prioritised in the new year ➤ Alice Owen + wider discussion around cross cutting elements in particular the role of social behaviour and acceptance in relation to uptake of new technologies or institutional capacity <p>ACTION – Tom, Andy and Millie to develop plan for capturing 'actions already happening' data</p>	<p>AG / TK/MD</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Standing Item: Student research projects <i>The process of linking students to potential Commission projects as commenced. In addition, Catherine Graves (Commission Secretariat) would like to invite the strategy group to participate in her PhD research</i></p> <p>Pro-Environmental Behaviour Change research project: <i>Changes to individual and societal behaviour are going to be increasingly necessary to mitigate runaway climate change. Understanding behaviour change mechanisms is a significantly under-researched area in relation to pro-environmental behaviours, and this PhD research aims to increase understanding of the psychological barriers on an individual level, in order to create more effective behavioural interventions (e.g. campaigns, policy etc.). This research examines the use of Virtual Reality as a behavioural intervention specifically. This will be done through a large-scale experiment (phase 1) where 200 participants will each be invited to a 20-30 minute session where they will complete a short questionnaire before and after experiencing climate-focussed visual content, which may be a Virtual Reality experience. The second phase will take a smaller cohort through a similar study every month for 5 months. This research will focus on individuals in Leeds and participant recruitment will start in March 2020, with experiments running in May (second phase running through to October). In the New Year I will be looking for organisations to be involved in this research. This will simply involve sharing with</i></p>	

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	<p><i>colleagues and encouraging participation within your organisation as well as providing space for the sessions. No remuneration is available but organisation recognition will be included in all outputs. If your organisation would like to be involved or for more information, please email Catherine (ee14cg@leeds.ac.uk).</i></p>	
9	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dates & Venues for future workshops and meetings to be confirmed 	