

CLIMATE ACTION PARTNERSHIP

Wednesday 22nd January, 2025 – Warm and Resilient Buildings

PRESENT

Councillor Patient – Chair

Councillors: Brundell, Clarke, Hey

VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

Claire Whiteley, Cordelia Paterson, Pete Keal, Finn Jensen

YOUTH COUNCIL: One member of Youth Council

BUSINESS SECTOR: Alex Christoforou

LOCAL HOUSING: Patrick Berry, Together Housing

OFFICERS: Heidi Waters, Laura Bramley, Emily Farman, Owen Brear

1. SUBSTITUTES NOMINATED FOR THIS MEETING AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Deborah Harkins – Director of Public Health and Lead Officer for Climate Change, Councillor Dot Foster, Andy Bray - Calder Rivers Trust, Stuart Sugarman – Calderdale Cares Partnership Board, Natalie Denby – Just Gaia.

SUBSTITUTES PRESENT

Heidi Waters, Co-chair for Deborah Harkins

2. MINUTES OF THE CABINET CLIMATE CHANGE PARTNERSHIP HELD ON 24TH JULY 2024

Members through the Chair requested minor amendments to the minutes.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate Action Partnership held on 24th March 2024 with minor amendments be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. INTRODUCTION TO NEW PARTNERSHIP REPRESENTATIVES AND ROUNDTABLE OF MEMBERS

It was understood by Members a Recruitment Event for 3 new Climate Action Partnership Representatives occurred on Thursday 12th December 2024 where 1x

Business Rep and 2x Community and Voluntary Sector Reps were nominated and approved to join the Climate Action Partnership.

- Business Rep - Alex Christoforou, Wendy's Fish and Chips
- Voluntary and Community Sector Rep – Cordelia Paterson, Diocese of Huddersfield
- Voluntary and Community Sector Rep – Pete Keal, Trades Council

Thanks were expressed by the Chair and Members of the Partnership to Rachel Johnston - Calderdale Green New Deal, Finn Jensen - Trade Unions and Matt Taylor, South Pennines Farmers Association for their contribution.

Members introduced themselves to the new Representatives, and new Representatives declared their intentions to the group.

Co-chair reiterated this is a Partnership and not a Council body. We recognise the importance of the Influencing Strategy endorsed at the previous meeting.

IT WAS AGREED a meeting will take place for the Partnership to further the actions in the Strategy.

The Chair recommended a forward schedule of Partnership meetings for the Municipal Year. It was resolved the CMCB Climate and Environment Team would provide a schedule. In addition, thanks were expressed by the Chair on the organisation of the Climate Conference on Friday 1st November 2024, which was declared a success.

4. LAEP DISSEMINATION AND ENDORSEMENT

The Members were provided a presentation by Laura Bramley, CMBC Environmental Project Manager.

An overview of Calderdale domestic building characteristics, including a property tenure breakdown and EPC rating distributions were shown, and an introduction to the Calderdale Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP).

The LAEP is a fully costed spatial plan that shows what measures can be installed, where and how much it will cost. It is a key document that underpins the local response to the climate emergency.

Analysis of the LAEP data shows that to meet our net zero targets:

- Over 75,000 homes in Calderdale will require some form of building fabric upgrade.
- Cumulatively, Calderdale's housing stock will need investment of around £300m.
- This investment could unlock financial savings of more than £50 million a year in energy savings cost and help thousands of people to live in warmer, healthier, more affordable homes.

Two zones are selected as high priority for fabric interventions - King Cross, and Todmorden West and Cornholme.

Heat decarbonisation presents the biggest challenge that Calderdale faces to reaching its Net Zero target by 2038. To achieve net zero:

- Almost 100,000 residential and commercial properties will need to replace their fossil fuel heating systems with low carbon alternatives.
- A collective investment of more than £1.3 billion will be required to deliver these upgrades, resulting in an estimated annual carbon saving of 250 ktCO₂e.

To reach net zero, Calderdale will need much more electricity to power all the new electric vehicles and low carbon heating systems. Electricity demand in Calderdale is expected to double, from just less than 800GWh per year to over 1600GWh per year.

Calderdale's net zero transition requires a collective investment of over £2bn across its buildings and energy system which could support over 3,000 jobs

The LAEP shows the work needed to get the Borough to net zero. It helps inform:

- Conversations on investment priorities in the Borough to retrofit our buildings.
- Where skills and training development is needed now and in the future.
- Where partners need to invest to enable a net zero transition.

We have started feasibility work for the two priority areas for retrofit.

- We are working on how we might want to take all these projects forward; what partners should be involved; resource, funding & investment to deliver at scale
- As council we do not have the resource to do this on our own. Business partnering, co investment, sponsoring and partnering arrangements will need to be investigated to support and drive forward the development of this work.
- Endorsement of LAEP Report via Partnership, Cabinet & Leaders Briefing
- Presentations to the Town Boards on local priorities and data in the LAEP
- National Wealth Fund workshop (Dec '24)
- Carbon Co-op Citizens Jury Recommendations
- Leveraging Investment – scope of work
- Priority Retrofit Projects (King Cross and Tod West & Cornholme)
- Area Based Schemes – business case development work
- Warm and Resilient Buildings Theme Group - Fair Retrofit Strategy

Members expressed concern regarding the level of investment required - £2bn required for the extent of the work.

The Co-Chair expressed funds have already been leveraged for retrofit projects in Calderdale and further bids have been applied for.

Finding suppliers with the technical experience to deliver projects in Calderdale can be a challenge. Training, teaching and creating employment opportunities in Calderdale through this programme is a key component.

It was suggested a pack of resources and an easy guide to retrofit be created for property owners. Citizen's Jury may be able to supply.

Co-Chair identified Together Housing is already having an impact on retrofit in the social housing sector. An area-based approach can be adopted in the Fair Retrofit Strategy.

IT WAS RESOLVED the Partnership endorsed the LAEP Report and agreed to support the challenges represented in delivery of the recommendations in the report.

5. Fair Retrofit Strategy

Patrick Berry, Together Housing and Chair of the Warm and Resilient Buildings theme group outlined the work of the group on this key action in the Climate Action Plan.

The Fair Retrofit Strategy (FRS) is the first in Yorkshire and Humber. The digital tool provided in the LAEP is a real advantage to providing an objective view of the needs of Calderdale. It is a robust way of understanding the issues in relation to retrofit.

Patrick Berry discussed the Fair Retrofit Strategy Guidance document, and the purpose being to provide a document that can be shown to potential private investors and the Combined Authority to leverage funds to mobilise the outcomes presented in the LAEP.

Domestic retrofit is a primary focus – the strategy has 4 key sectors (domestic, commercial, community energy and public sector infrastructure).

Chair commented the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission is looking at similar issues regarding focus on domestic retrofit. It begins and ends in Planning and influencing change at Government-level. Patrick Berry less concerned with new builds due to Future Homes Standard.

Co-chair reiterated the FRS will put Calderdale in a strong position over 5/10 years and is a priority of the Partnership. Warm Homes Scheme can be factored in.

Councillor Hey requested the purpose of retrofitting be made explicit in the document.

Councillor Brundell expressed concern regarding static caravan communities and a climate justice approach to all communities. A FRS will need to incorporate all communities.

IT WAS AGREED the Chair of the Warm and Resilient Buildings theme group will provide updates on the development of the strategy. Drafts may be circulated.

6. Citizens Jury Recommendations

Emily Farman, CMBC Environmental Project Officer presented to Members the outcomes of the Citizens Jury Retrofit Challenge.

Citizens Jury programme already doing engagement work on retrofit in Calderdale.

A Citizens Jury is an important public engagement method that brings members of the Community together to tackle important issues.

1. **Learning Journey:** Over a series of sessions (in person and virtual) residents received background information and presentations from experts and stakeholders.
2. **Deliberation:** As jurors, they discussed, debated and brainstormed a series of key questions, and develop recommendations through dialogue and voting.
3. **Impact:** The recommendations and solutions will be published and shared with decision makers and the community.

15 recommendations have been identified ranging from financial recommendations such as 0% loans to retrofit products becoming VAT exempt, and supply chain recommendations such as core standards implemented across Calderdale.

The next steps of the programme include:

- Dissemination of Citizen's Jury Recommendations
- End of project report
 - Synthesising projects strands together. What does the research tell us? What does the engagement tell us? How do the two compare?
 - Consolidate the research findings to how we can tackle the non-technical barriers to retrofit

A celebration event was also held on Thursday 30th January in Halifax Town Hall thanking the jurors for their contribution to the project.

Members were encouraged by the project, and the Chair supported it as a thorough piece of engagement work.

Patrick Berry suggested the recommendations can be integrated into the FRS.

Chair wishes to amplify the recommendations of the Citizens Jury, and suggested the influencing aspect can be incorporated.

Councillor Hey suggested next steps to liaise with CMBC Planning Team as pre-planning approvals was one of the recommendations. The list of recommendations may adjust over time.

7. Any Other Business

New representatives will be invited to the theme groups as part of their introduction to Climate Action Partnership work.

The West Yorkshire Environment Plan Stakeholder Engagement document was circulated among Members. Responses are encouraged by Friday 31st January '25 and Calderdale Council are providing a detailed response to the document to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

The Calderdale Ecological Emergency Action Plan has officially launched. This ambitious initiative outlines a path to protect and restore 30% of the borough's land and water for nature by 2030.

The plan emphasises the regeneration of a diverse range of habitats, including peatlands, grasslands, woodlands, and rivers, while also creating spaces for nature within our communities and conserving our most vulnerable species. This milestone has been made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Wilder Calderdale partnership, with input from an incredible range of organisations across the public, private, community, charitable and academic sectors.

More details on the media release can be found here:

<https://news.calderdale.gov.uk/launch-of-plan-to-protect-and-restore-calderdales-natural-environment/>

And the full Ecological Emergency Action Plan is available to view here:

<https://new.calderdale.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-01/Calderdale-ecological-emergency-action-plan-2024.pdf>

The Partnership are keen to learn more about the EEAP and the schedule of Climate Action Partnership meetings will provide the opportunity to do so given the availability of the CMBC Ecological Emergency Officer.