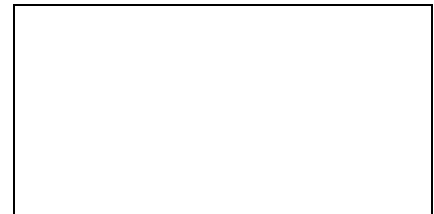


Calderdale MBC

Wards Affected ALL

Cabinet



Establishing a Calderdale Climate Change Partnership

Report of the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Resilience

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Calderdale Council declared a Climate Emergency on 30 January 2019. Cabinet subsequently established a Climate Change Cabinet Working Party to provide leadership of action to achieve the net zero goal. The Working Party officially met for the first time on 10 July 2019.
- 1.2 Following the publication of an Emissions Reduction Pathway (ERP) setting out the scale of the carbon reduction challenge, the Climate Change Working Party decided to begin a process of developing and consulting on a Climate Action Plan, and as part of this process, to undertake a review of the Working Party.
- 1.3 The aim was to review the role, membership, operation of Calderdale Climate Change Working Party (CCCWP) to enable it to provide leadership to the delivery of strategic action and policy to achieve Calderdale's carbon reduction target.
- 1.4 This report summarises the outcome of the review and sets out the recommendations made by the Working Party to develop a Climate Change Partnership and multi-agency task groups to ensure the delivery of Calderdale's developing Climate Action Plan

2. Need for a decision

- 2.1 Calderdale Council's Climate Change Cabinet Working Party reports to Calderdale Cabinet and changes to the terms of reference, role and membership of the Working Party must be approved by Calderdale Council Cabinet

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That Cabinet approves the recommendations of the Review of the Climate Change Cabinet Working Party, specifically:
- 3.2 That the status of the group changes from a Calderdale Council Cabinet working party to a multi-agency Climate Action Partnership.
- 3.3 That the overall role of the multi-agency Partnership will be to provide oversight of the development and delivery of Calderdale's place based multi-agency Climate Action Plan. A draft terms of reference for the Partnership is set out in Appendix 1

- 3.4 That the partnership will formally report on progress with the delivery of Calderdale Climate Action Plan to Calderdale Council Cabinet, through an annual report
- 3.5 That members of the Calderdale Climate Action Partnership have full membership status and voting rights. Options for the balance of voting members which have been considered are set out in section 5 below.
- 3.6 That Calderdale Council Cabinet and political groups, appoint elected members to the Climate Action Partnership each municipal year to reflect the political balance of the Council, with 4 councillors from the leading group and 3 councillors from opposition groups.
- 3.6 That membership of the Climate Action Partnership is reflective of Calderdale's climate action stakeholders including communities and businesses (proposed membership is shown in the Terms of Reference in Appendix 1)
- 3.7 That a programme of formal meetings open to the public to take place every three months will be scheduled at the beginning of each municipal year. In between the formal meetings, informal meetings of the group (which may not be in public) will take place, with the dates set out in advance. These will include face-to-face and hybrid meetings in locations across the borough.
- 3.8 That thematic task groups are established, reporting to the Calderdale Climate Action Partnership to lead and co-ordinate the delivery of elements of the Climate Action Plan

4. Background and/or details

Background

- 4.1 Calderdale Council declared a Climate Emergency on 30 January 2019. Cabinet subsequently established a Climate Change Cabinet Working Party, which met for the first time on 10 July 2019. The role of the Climate Change Cabinet Working Party (CCCWP) was to respond to the climate emergency and the terms of reference including roles for the working party to build knowledge, create strategy and enable delivery, show leadership and secure and deploy resources.
- 4.2 It was agreed that the working party would include Calderdale Council elected members as well as co-optees to provide important perspectives and expertise from youth, business, community and academic organisations.
- 4.3 To inform the specific policy actions required to achieve Calderdale's carbon reduction target, Element Energy were commissioned to produce an Emissions Reduction Pathway (ERP). This pathway sets out the scale of the challenge to deliver net zero by 2038 with significant progress by 2030.
- 4.3 In response to the evidence provided by the ERP, CCCWP has been working on the development of a Climate Action Plan for Calderdale to achieve the net zero carbon goal.
- 4.4 It was agreed that this is an ideal time to review the purpose, role and membership of the CCCWP

Aims and objectives of the review

- 4.5 The aim was to review the role, membership and operation of Calderdale Climate Change Working Party (CCCWP) to enable it to provide leadership to the delivery of strategic action and policy to achieve Calderdale's carbon reduction target.

The objectives were:

- 4.6 To hear from members of the working party about their experiences of the working party to date and their ideas about how it can be improved in future, in order to oversee delivery of the ERP
- 4.7 To make recommendations about the role, membership, operation and ways of working of the Climate Change Cabinet Working Party to Cabinet
- 4.8 To develop an action plan to implement the recommendations, including a review of the Terms of Reference of the Working Party
- 4.9 To consider whether a programme of partnership development is needed to implement the action plan, involving all members of the working party

Review Process

4.10 Councillor Scott Patient, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Resilience and Deborah Harkins, Lead Director for Climate Change held conversations with Members and co-optees of CCCWP in Autumn 2021.

4.11 In total, 13 elected members and co-optees from the CCCWP were interviewed to inform the review

Review findings

4.12 Members of the Working Party were asked why they got involved. All members mentioned that they got involved due to a long-standing passion to tackle climate change. For some of the members it was a broad interest in the agenda, and others had significant expertise, often in a specific area of the climate change agenda

4.13 Some members of the Working Party mentioned that they represent and bring a perspective from a particular group or sector. These include political groups, environmental interest groups, the youth council and faith communities.

4.14 Members of the CCCWP reflected on what had been good about their involvement so far and examples included the following:

- The Emissions Reduction Pathway and its quantification of the scale of the challenge to achieve the net zero carbon goal, using science and evidence
- The formal request to Calderdale Council Cabinet to write to the West Yorkshire Pension scheme to request divestment from fossil fuel businesses and investment in green businesses
- The development and implementation of specific carbon reduction projects
- Alignment of priorities across partner organisations (e.g. NHS, housing)
- Learning more about climate change and climate action. Hearing about what others are doing to tackle climate change; sharing and learning from people with different roles, perspectives and expertise about tackling climate change
- Prior to the pandemic, holding meetings in public, in communities impacted by climate change
- The ability for different voices to be heard and for members of the CCCWP to be critical friends to Calderdale Council.

4.15 Members of the CCCWP also reflected on how being involved in the group had not met their expectations, and there were five themes that emerged in responses to this question:

- A desire for a greater focus on the rapid action needed to tackle the climate emergency
- A greater ability to contribute knowledge, skills and passion to local climate action
- More of a focus on multi-agency partnership working and collaboration for climate action
- A need to focus on the issues that will make the biggest difference to carbon reduction

- The operation of the CCCWP could be improved to enable collaboration

How CCCWP can be improved?

- 4.17 Members of the CCCWP made suggestions about how they would like to see the membership, role and operation of the group be improved to increase the effectiveness of the group. The following themes were identified:
- 4.18 Development and Delivery of a Climate Action Plan provides an opportunity to focus the role of the group on leadership, oversight and governance of the delivery of the plan.
- 4.19 Developing and strengthening the role of a multi-agency group in strategic and system leadership of climate action in Calderdale: specific examples included:
- Develop the role of the group as enabler and forming partnerships across sectors, advocating for and supporting the actions that can have the biggest impacts on achieving net zero.
 - Ensuring that synergies and connections are made between the different systems that influence climate change
 - Work with neighbouring local authorities to explore the development of alternative financial models for investment in climate action that cannot be achieved by Calderdale alone
 - Capitalising on Calderdale's role in West Yorkshire Combined Authority
 - Learning from and sharing real life examples of quick wins to inform rapid action, and communicating and engaging with partners and the public about what is possible, to inspire others to play their part
 - Developing a climate action communication strategy to inform the public about the CCCWP's work, the Climate Action Plan and the progress being made
- 4.20 Understanding and utilising CCCWP members' experience, knowledge, skills and commitment to climate action, and fully harness them to support Calderdale's work on climate change.
- 4.21 Establish thematic task groups to co-ordinate action to deliver the Climate Action Plan and enable CCCWP members to focus on their own areas of expertise or interest and provide opportunities for those who want to get involved in practical action, to do so. This could also be an important way to broaden engagement in the partnership.

Membership of CCCWP

- 4.22 Most members of CCCWP were of the view that the size of the group was appropriate. Although some felt that the group should have a more diverse membership, reflective of Calderdale's communities. It was suggested that additional representation from businesses, agricultural landowners, farmers and trade unions would bring a useful perspective.
- 4.23 Rather than increase the size of the CCCWP, it was suggested that additional perspectives, reach and expertise could contribute through thematic working groups. For example, a housing thematic group would benefit from the

involvement of developers and builders. A community climate action group could benefit from local community anchors and community engagement workers.

Operation of the CCCWG

4.24 Some members felt that meetings of the CCCWP were not frequent enough to sustain enough momentum for climate action. More frequent meetings with a mix of formal and informal sessions along with thematic task groups and communications between formal meetings, would also help maintain pace.

4.25 There were different preferences for face-to-face, hybrid and remote meetings, and a combination of ways of holding meetings would be needed to accommodate the difference preferences and needs of members of the CCCWP.

5. Options considered

5.1 The CCCWP received a report of the findings of the review at its meeting in March 2022 and discussed the recommendations made through the review.

5.2 The option of continuing with a Cabinet Working Party was considered and ruled out. Calderdale Council does have a key role to play in climate action, but the ERP and recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports, make it clear that the scale of change needed to achieve the net zero goal for the borough, means that it cannot be achieved by the Council alone. A multi-agency partnership approach is essential.

5.3 Options for the composition of voting members of the proposed new partnership were considered and reviewed against the outcome of the review. The option selected was that elected representatives from Calderdale Council and Calderdale Youth Council have the majority of votes in the partnership, as shown in the terms of reference in appendix 1.

6. Financial implications

6.1 Action on climate change is one of Calderdale Council's three corporate priorities and some of the support requires to develop, support and administer the proposed Climate Action Partnership and thematic task groups will come from existing resources from within the Council and partners. It is proposed that a time limited additional business support post is recruited funded from public health grant reserves to support the administration of the task groups in the first year.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 None

8. Human Resources and Organisation Development Implications

8.1 None

9. Consultation

- 9.1 The review of the CCCWP has been informed by conversations with CCCWP members and co-optees and further discussion of the recommendations took place at the March meeting of the CCCWP
- 9.2 A formal consultation on the draft Climate Action Plan is planned in the summer

10. Environment, Health and Economic Implications

- 10.1 This paper proposes establishing a Climate Action Partnership comprising representatives from across key organisations to oversee the delivery of a Climate Action Plan for the borough. It also recommends establishing task groups focusing on the action that will have the biggest impact on reducing carbon emissions. Achieving our net zero goal will have significant impacts on the quality of the local environment, air quality, active travel and sustainable food. It will also require the development of green skills in the local economy.

11. Equality and Diversity

- 11.1 The review of the CCCWP identified a desire for greater diversity in the membership of the proposed Calderdale Climate Action Partnership and the delivery system of thematic task groups. Engagement of people with protected characteristics in the development, consultation and delivery of the climate action plan will be monitored and reviewed
- 11.2 The CCCWP is committed to ensure that a just transition to a low carbon Calderdale will be integrated into the developing climate action plan

12. Summary and Recommendations

- 12.1 The outcome of the review of the CCCWP has informed the recommendations in section 3 for the development of a multi-agency system to lead the delivery of Calderdale Climate Action Plan.
 - 12.2 Cabinet is asked to approve the establishment of a Calderdale Climate Action Partnership, with draft terms of reference summarised in Appendix 1.
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The documents used in the preparation of this report are:

1. Review of Calderdale Climate Change Cabinet Working Party
2. Notes of the meeting of Calderdale Climate Change Working party 15th March 2022
- 3.

The documents are available for inspection at:

<https://calderdale.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g2733/Public%20reports%20pack%2015th-Mar-2022%2018.00%20Cabinet%20Climate%20Change%20Working%20Party.pdf?T=10>

Appendix 1

Calderdale Climate Action Partnership

Draft terms of Reference (May 2022)

Purpose:

To provide overall oversight of the development and delivery of Calderdale's place based multi-agency Climate Action Plan, informed by the Calderdale Emissions Reduction pathway.

Responsibilities

- Oversee the development, review and updating of Calderdale's Climate Action Plan setting out how Calderdale will achieve the goal of net zero by 2038 with significant progress by 2030
- Oversee and enable the delivery of Calderdale's Climate Action Plan, addressing key challenges and identifying how to overcome barriers to progress
- Monitor progress towards Calderdale's net zero goal and identify and agree additional action to be taken to ensure that progress remains on trajectory
- Provide visible leadership to the climate change agenda, inspiring the public and partners to contribute to climate action
- Support, challenge and scrutinise the contribution that each partner and wider sector is making to the delivery of the Climate Action Plan, to maximise the impact of that partners make to tackling climate change
- Influence and lobby partners within and beyond Calderdale including West Yorkshire Combined Authority and central Government for investment, resource and policy support to reduction of greenhouse gases in Calderdale
- Deliver and monitor actions from the Shared Voice domain of the Climate Action Plan which encompasses the strands of governance, influencing, leading by example, visibility and working cross-regionally.

Chair

- The partnership will be chaired by Calderdale Council Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Resilience
- The Partnership will elect a deputy chair

Membership

Organisation/ Sector	Role	Appointed by	Voting
Calderdale Council 6 Councillors (3 from the administration's group; 3 from opposition groups)	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Resilience	Leader of the Council	Voting
	Councillor nominated by the Leader of the Council	Leader of the Council	
	Councillor nominated by the Leader of the Council	Leader of the Council	
	Councillor nominated by the Leader of the Opposition	Leader of the opposition	
	Councillor nominated additional opposition group	Additional opposition groups	
	Councillor nominated additional opposition group	Additional opposition groups	
2 x Members of the Calderdale Youth council	Members of the Youth Parliament / Youth Council	Calderdale Youth Council	Voting
2 x Business Sector representative	TBC	Calderdale Businesses	Voting
2 x Voluntary and Community Sector Representatives	TBC	Calderdale local voluntary and community sector groups (e.g. Friends of the Earth, local environmental action groups, Calderdale Green New Deal, Slow the Flow, Calderdale Interfaith Forum)	Voting
2 x Additional Voluntary Sector Representatives	TBC	Calderdale local voluntary and community sector groups (e.g. Friends of the Earth, local environmental action groups, Calderdale Green New Deal, Slow the Flow, Calderdale Interfaith Forum)	Non Voting
Local NHS representative	TBC	Calderdale Cares Partnership Board	Voting
Local Housing Representative	TBC	Together Housing	Voting

Calderdale Council	Director of Public Health / Lead Officer for Climate Change	Calderdale Council Chief Executive	Non-voting
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Reporting

- The Partnership will report to Calderdale Council on progress with the delivery of the Climate Action Plan, including through an annual Climate Action Report to Calderdale Cabinet.
- The Partnership's relationship with Calderdale Council will be advisory and any decisions requiring a budgetary commitment of the Council will be referred to Calderdale Council Cabinet for decision
- Likewise, any decisions with budgetary implications for partner organisations will be referred to their own governance mechanisms e.g. governing bodies, boards of directors, boards of trustees

Tenure

- Calderdale Council elected members will be nominated to serve as members of the partnership at the beginning of each municipal year
- The tenure for other members of the partnership will be 2 years, with a maximum of 2 terms (4 years)

Meeting frequency

- Formal meetings of the partnership will take every three months
- A programme of formal meetings will be scheduled at the beginning of each municipal year.
- In between the formal meetings, informal meetings of the partnership will take place, with the dates set out in advance.
- Meetings will include a combination of face-to-face and hybrid meetings in locations across the borough.

Quoracy

- The meeting will be quorate when at least 3 councillors and 2 other voting members are in attendance

Task Groups

- In order to enable focused collaborative action to achieve the outcomes in the Climate Action Plan, task groups will be established for each Climate Action Plan theme. Their role will be to co-ordinate the themes of the Climate Action Plan.

- Task groups will report to and be directed by the Calderdale Climate Action Partnership. They are not intended to be decision making groups.
- The following task groups will be established:
 - Transport
 - Green Economy / Sustainable Businesses
 - Land & Nature
 - Warm and Resilient Buildings
 - Community Climate Action
- Each task group will be chaired by a member of the Climate Action Partnership and will have a Calderdale Council Officer in support
- Task groups will include relevant partners with influence and expertise in the specific area
- The shared voice domain of the Climate Action Plan will be led by the Climate Action Partnership and these roles are reflected in the responsibilities of the Climate Action Partnership above

Agenda

- The agenda of the meetings of the Climate Action Plan will focus on development, delivery and review of Calderdale's Climate Action Plan
- Members of the Partnership will be encouraged to put items on the agenda of formal and informal meetings
- Formal meetings will include reports of progress with specific elements of the Climate Action Plan through reports from task groups, giving the opportunity for the Partnership to consider each element in detail at least once a year.

Review:

- These draft terms of reference of Calderdale Climate Action Partnership will be reviewed by at the first meeting of the partnership and then annually. Annual reviews will consider frequency, membership, remit, voting rights, location/ virtual and role of task groups