



Wakefield and Five Towns Trades Council

Registered with TUC

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Introduction

Wakefield Trades Council represents over 15,000 trade union members in Wakefield and the Five Towns. Previously at the heart of the Yorkshire mining industry, we have seen significant change across the District when well-paid, highly regarded jobs were lost, pushing families and whole communities, into insecure futures and unemployment, and poverty wages. In Wakefield we fully understand what an Unjust Transition looks like; we have felt the impact already and fear for the future and further job losses, as digitalisation changes the ways we work. Since 2015, the 30th anniversary of the end of the Great Strike, we have been assisting the Regional TUC to create the With Banners Held High festival of Trade Unionism, and have had many excellent speakers discussing the issues arising from the end of Coal mining and the injustice done to the Miners and their communities. We welcome the chance to contribute to this Consultation as we felt we have something to stay on these issues.

Trades Council discusses issues brought by delegates of our affiliated branches - issues that they have been campaigning about and discussing in their workplaces. We have passed anti-fracking motions, and in December 2018 we passed a motion, *Protect our Futures – Climate Change and Jobs*, calling for Just Transition training and Eco reps in all workplaces. In April 2019 we passed a Climate Emergency Motion calling for Carbon Zero across the District by 2030, and ever since have been worked very hard on this issue.

In May we persuaded the Council to adopt our motion, and we established a new joint partnership with Wakefield Friends of the Earth: Just Transition Wakefield. This brings together trade unions, other organisations, businesses and individuals into a network with meetings and social media, campaigning to make Wakefield get as close as we can to Carbon Zero.

In this, the Council have demonstrated real commitment and have fully engaged with the agenda. Trades Council has been invited to join the Council's Climate Emergency Scrutiny Committee meetings. We have met several times with the Leader of the Council Peter Box CBE and now Denise Jeffreys, and the portfolio holder Jack Hemmingway. The officers have been willing to listen to our concerns and we have been keen to contribute.

Wakefield Trades Council brings together the joint concerns of our members seeking to find consensus between them. Across the unions, there is major concern about Climate Change and the impact of the measures necessary to ameliorate the effects, and what repercussions that will mean for members. But in the City and District we have also suffered substantial flooding, we know the imperative for our members and their homes if we do not act.

We also see ourselves as part of the solution: Trade Unions play a key role as social partners in both safeguarding members during times of economic transition and as health, safety and environmental advocates in most workplaces. Their representatives within the workplace could be enabled as key conduits of revising workplace practices to lower carbon usage and inform members

and their families about the changes necessary to make at home as well. We proposed a further motion in Dec 2019, which was adopted by West Yorkshire County Association of Trade Unions as their motion to National Trades Council Conference 2020 (attached with this submission) again calling for Workplace Eco Reps amongst other measures Educating and Organising for the Climate Emergency.

This response comes from papers shared by the West Yorkshire County Association of TUCs and we fully agree with the response submitted on behalf of the West Yorkshire County Association. To consider that paper, we convened a zoom meeting of the Trades Council and to look at the single issue of the consultation and this response is the result of the wide-ranging discussion we had in light of experiences during the COVID Lock down. The attached paper has been drafted and redrafted several times to include further comments.

Lessons to learn from the COVID Crisis to the Existential threat of the Climate Emergency.

The COVID Crisis has been an object lesson for the world in Emergency planning. The Climate Emergency that scientists and the UN exhorted international governments to prepare for, as if it were a Health Emergency; had been largely ignored. Instead a real Health Emergency, caused by a single new virus has wreaked havoc, and killed many hundreds of thousands of people, and we have seen how the world responds. We must learn the lessons taught by the COVID crisis, as the Climate Catastrophe would make the world uninhabitable. We have it in our power to avoid the worst effects of catastrophe if we take heed from the lessons laid out for us in the COVID crisis.

The COVID crisis has revealed weaknesses in Emergency Planning: national preparedness; independent science capabilities; resilience of businesses; decision makers understanding of science and statistics; the damage done to savagely cut public services that we need to rely on. This has been most evident in Local Authority Services that should have been the local infrastructure and been the conduit to all local populations; and above all trust in Government.

The National disgrace of being so reliant on other nations' poorly paid workers so far away, for the basics of infection control and even basic PPE teaches us clearly that we must seek to be more resilient and able to withstand market pressures and rebuild manufacturing capacity here at home. In Wakefield (at the heart of the previously huge textile industries of West Yorkshire), it was volunteers who manufactured hundreds of sets of scrubs desperately needed on COVID wards. Many of these were recruited, organised and funded by Trade unions, organised through Trades Council, and charitable donations to assist in the challenge of the getting the basics of infection control - scrubs to the COVID wards in hospitals. Amongst the volunteers were textile factory machinists from local shirt factory who the government supply chains had not yet managed to set to work.

There have been positives to learn from as well.

- I. The population has learnt the joys and benefits of being more connected to the Natural world. They have learnt the names of plants, birds, and awareness of weather and the seasons.

- II. Those of us with a garden have learned just how much we value it and how sorry we are for people without. With political will, this concern could be converted into changes to planning legislation, to insist on planning gains of gardens or allotments or access to community gardens for all new property developments.
- III. People have enjoyed their daily walk and the chance to take exercise without great expense.
- IV. People have learned new routes around their locality and have a greater understanding of where they live. We now have an increased knowledge base to inform planning for additional routes for cycles and walking.
- V. Many, many people have taken to cycling and realised the positive benefits – they will be less reluctant to give up their car journeys with a quicker alternative than walking. The health benefits have been felt, as well as the joy and quality of life. Alongside planning assumptions for gardens, the need for two parking places per house could be revisited to consider secure lockable space for bikes.
- VI. Vast numbers of people have taken up the challenge of gardening and growing vegetables and are now more likely to be able to continue. This has been a very important reconnection of the population with their food and builds understanding of nutrition and the vital role of soil biodiversity, and the interconnectedness of life on Earth.
- VII. The Trade Unions have risen to the challenges of organising to protect their members Health and safety, with Union after Union reporting the massive upswing of calls from members, individual's case work and major negotiations with employers. It was astonishing to hear the Chancellor of the Exchequer thanking the Trade Unions movement for their input to the financial support packages and the detailed knowledge of the gaps. The Trade Unions have proven throughout the COVID crisis that they are able to represent their members concern to Employers and to Government. Trade Unions provide an infrastructure of communication between workers, employers, and businesses, media, local communities and local and national government. Too often characterised as single organisations, they are democratic organisations, linking the various concerns of their membership, and attempting to reflect and develop understanding of all concerned. The Trade Unions structures have shown themselves able to respond to the ever-changing world and despite legislation preventing Trade unions modernising to the digital world, they have demonstrated that they can adapt to the needs of their membership.
- VIII. All organisations have explored new ways of working in the digital world, organising meetings and support systems. All business and organisations have been brought into the Digital world, and discovered where new technology is most helpful and where traditional communications can still help.
- IX. We have all learnt what we really value. They have made new connections with their local communities and learned who are the real essential workers.

X. We have all learned what an Emergency looks like and how to address the issues it throws up. We have had a practice at the small stuff of COVID – now we need to be ready for the big Climate stuff.

1) **Q. What sectors do you believe are the priorities for investment from government, for a green recovery programme to build a stronger, more resilient future economy? How can this investment reduce regional inequalities as well as address the climate crisis and environmental degradation? And what science and technologies do we need to invest in?**

1. **We need to rebuild our skilled workforce** so that we again have the manufacturing base for all the essential within the country, so we are not totally dependent on essentials of modern day life from across the world. This is not born of protectionism but a recognition that we need a skilled resilient workforce and resilient industrial base to be able to withstand global challenges.

Eg., Amongst the volunteers making scrubs for COVID wards were many long-retired textile workers and some textile factory machinists furloughed from local textile factories who the government supply chains had not yet managed to set to work.

2. This should not happen again: **we need to rebuild our manufacturing base for the Green future. People will always need clothes and fabrics for their daily lives;** in the Green future we do not need the excesses of Fast Fashion with its terrible record on polluting and exploitative practices and risking with workers' Health and safety.

Eg. There are examples of a new possible: in an old textile mill in neighbouring Batley, a new product has come to market this year: a new range of Yorkshire designed, Yorkshire woven, died and spun, woollen fabric, **made from fleece from sheep grazed in Yorkshire.** These Heart of Huddersfield fabrics are beautiful demonstrations are possible, these examples must be developed and grown. We may not be able to grow cotton in this country, but we certainly can grow **Hemp and Flax for linen and can create a new domestic, fully sustainable textiles industry producing sustainable fabrics, and recycling yarns made from fabrics and clothes no longer worn.**

3. **The Local Agenda has been much discussed in local government. Councils like Wakefield have been impressed by the impact of Preston Councils** decision to prefer local suppliers for all council procurement and have adopted such policies themselves so that SMEs across the district can again supply the local authority and its partners. They hope this decision will have similar effects, as they did in Preston, of a massive difference to the local economy and had a major effect on local businesses and the carbon footprint of the LA. This is a model that needs exploring fully and implementing wherever possible.
If like Wakefield Council, all decisions were evaluated against a Climate Emergency Impact assessment and Procurement for all council activity and their partners followed this protocol we have real means for change.

4. **To build a more resilient future economy, we may need to look carefully at the manufacturing heritage and look whether some of these existing technologies can be the basis of reskilling people - especially those displaced from fossil fuel dependent industries.** These would not use old heritage industries as tourist sites, but as producers of modern materials and products for the 21 century, **using digital technologies to bring in the efficiencies of demand lead-production, rather than marketing -eased consumerism.** The look to the manufacturing heritage is not a look back to allow reminiscences but in awareness that there were practical, geographical reasons why industries settled where they did – the water, the wind power, the soils, the weather conditions, that should be considered again when re-establishing an Industrial base for the Regions.
5. **The internet gives opportunity to all kinds of new innovative solutions to the challenges of life and will be extremely helpful in responding the Climate Emergency,** if necessity is allowed to lead the way. In fashion, Custom-made is much easier and more efficient when digitalised platforms like Etsy can get products that customers actually want, often produced on a small scale, but capable of expansion and sold directly to the consumer. Contrast this with vastly inefficient factories over-producing mass-made products, the described “efficiencies” of mass production totally undermined by the over-production of many ill-sized inappropriate products brought to the market and undercutting producers of better-quality products. When the Climate Impact of the **unnecessarily transported goods** (especially clothing) that may never be actually be used, is added to the Cost-benefit-Analysis, the sums no longer make any sense.

6.The Transport infrastructure of the nation needs mass expansion but not for fossil fuel petrol vehicles. There can be **no new roads** for fossil fuelled vehicles to drive on when we have just gone through a lockdown period and managed to keep many aspects of day to day living functioning.

6.i. This time instead of roads we need to build cycle paths, and routes in all our villages and towns and cities so that people can travel safely and rebuild the nations’ health at the same time.

As well as cycle ways within towns and cities there needs to be a massive expansion of the national cycle network of pathways to enable people from neighbouring town to travel easily of the main roads. These cycle ways need to be surfaced and lit with solar renewable energy lighting, with electric bike charging points and rest points, and rain shelters, while safe cycle storage and locking must be available as a part of a national cycle network.

A new cycle network will cost money but nothing against the massively expensive road building programme and with the well understood range of health and local economic benefits. The money needs to be found:

Eg. Between two nearby West Yorkshire town **Bradford and Halifax cyclists and climate activists are trying to protect the Queensbury Rail Tunnel rail tunnel to develop it as a 11 mile tunnel** through the Pennines which would shorten very long bike rides between the two towns to a manageable cycle commute. National Rail however, doesn’t see this wider picture, and proposes to fill in the tunnel with rubble rather than repair and maintain. This is essential cycle infrastructure, and to repair and restore is much the best option.

<http://www.queensburytunnel.org.uk>

<https://www.facebook.com/queensburytunnel/photos/a.262603093906826/1625546584279130/?type=3>

6. ii. HS2 must be cancelled.

In addition to the cycle networks there needs to be much better rail network.

The previous (entirely dubious) cost benefit analysis no longer has any rational application in a post COVID Britain. Fewer meetings will be held in person. Fewer people each day will travel to work, many on blended employment patterns will spend some time each week at home working.

COVID has shown that there are alternatives to many of the previously deemed essential journeys.

Instead, a new network of local trains between towns and villages is necessary. The pre-Beeching rail infrastructure needs to be reconsidered and extended, so that people can travel between towns easily without owning a car.

Transport for the North, Midlands, South-west, Scotland, and Wales needs to be as extensive as transport for London the South East.

Post-COVID public transport poses more challenge, if it is to be run at fullest capacity as it was pre-COVID. However, if the expectation was that **everybody travelling had a seat and more trains were put on to allow for this, public transport would no longer be so squashed**, simply to make it financially viable work. We need to travel safely, and we need to keep the air clean and not massively polluted, we need to spend on public transport not on roads.

It may be that **train carriages need further redesigns : compartment trains** abandoned before the days of easy CCTV may provide an answer; or transparent screens and additional cleaning in redesigned carriages - **family/ groups/ bubbles can travel together more closely with more spaced-out seating for individual travellers.**

Smart technologies can do more than charge fares, with **seat reservations on tickets sold this should be totally doable.**

Rail freight must be re-emphasized and planned for. Rail can be electrified and carry heavy goods using renewable energy, lorries cause much more of a challenge and so as little freight as possible should travel on the roads.

There should be Smart solutions possible with digital technology to ensure that part loads are recombined wherever efficient. This may need some central planning to incentivise innovation.

Intercontinental rail ways across national borders need to be planned for so that air travel becomes ever more irrelevant, as it becomes easier and more pleasant to travel by train.

7. Post-carbon jobs , which address the urgent need to increase the quality of the domestic building stock could be to establish factories to create pre-fabricated well insulated homes. Skilled employment in a location, not the travelling and construction site working conditions not favoured by many workers with homes and commitments in communities. In addition, for the more flexible workers, there are skilled installation engineers and builders to construct these prefabricated Passiv haus homes on the designated sites

8. **The exciting and developing technologies of heat pumps, geo-thermal and air, amongst other engineered solutions, must be exploited. Collecting heat from the earth or the air or the mine water below our feet is particularly exciting, reducing the costs for all linked into heat pumps. District heating schemes, solar farms will all present skilled expert people with employment possibilities.**

Much has been written elsewhere about the massive value of renewable energy technologies of solar and wind energy efficiency, energy storage through gravity pumping, and battery development, with which we would concur, and have not forgotten about, but will not describe here.

9. **Waste Management and Recycling** - there has been much progress on recycling over recent years, but the concerns about single-use plastic, now including much disposable PPE ,has highlighted that Central Government's lack of leadership and other local councils could learn much from Wakefield Council. The work of Waste Management partners and local Council leadership means that vast proportions **96+% of Wakefield's waste is now recycled and no longer ends up in landfill** (even though we have the largest landfill site in Europe at Welbeck.)

<http://mg.wakefield.gov.uk/documents/g14011/Public%20reports%20pack%20Monday%2027-Jan-2020%2010.00%20Climate%20Change%20and%20Environmental%20Wellbeing%20Overview%20.pdf?T=10>

What is even more impressive is **that no waste is exported – all waste is dealt with in the District. None of the Councils waste is exported overseas** to end up in dumps and oceans in far off lands. Other councils could learn from this, and start dealing with their own waste rather than expecting developing nations to solve intractable issues on behalf of others.

10. To enable people to work from more efficiently, households need to have spare space for the activity, for this new reality. This needs to be recognised across all sections of society and so both an easing of the Bedroom Tax restrictions on spare rooms, and building new homes with both adequate storage and potential workspaces will be necessary. (It's not just putting a laptop in a drawer, but even just using a dining table having somewhere to put a proper office chair, otherwise we'll end up with another epidemic - of musculoskeletal-skeletal problems).

2. ***Q. How do we support people who have lost employment during this crisis to move into environmental growth sectors? How can we ensure that such jobs are decently paid, with quality training, and offer representation by trade unions? What lessons can be learned from past programmes current support and international examples?***

- i. **A National Climate Service with training and apprenticeships, that works with all the industries and identifies gaps to transition UKs Homes, Heating, Transport Farming and industries to the new post carbon world.**

- ii. In previous downturns there have been government agencies established to plan, recruit, and train. The Manpower Services Commission in the 1980s delivered a wide range of programmes, focused and targeted for different groups of workers. The young need particular attention, as they need to build life and work experience the most. Amongst the schemes, the **Community Programme then** provided, and something similar could again would be an exciting opportunity for jobs to be created in sectors that could not offer previous experience of employment practice.
- iii. Support for the unemployed needs to be provided with local centres with support and staff able to offer support. What the unemployed need most is work, but in times of mass unemployment that takes time to find, and all should recognise the challenges if there are no jobs. Post COVID one suspects there may be even more jobs lost to technology as digitisation is introduced to protect staff and public from each other. Realistic expectations to protect job hunters' sanity and self-esteem must be achieved.
- iv. **Trade unions and trade union representatives have an essential role to play in the transition to the new Zero Carbon economy** post-COVID; we know they are up to the job. Government local and national and businesses and public service need to involve trade unions to help them get their messages across to the communities of workers in their organisations, to make the necessary changes within those organisations. For some this will be asking for the Trade Unions support in **educating workers about developing and revising new working practices**, for others it will be listening to and working with trade unions as they seek to find the most equitable ways of closing down carbon intensive industries, and moving employees on to new employment and new horizons.
- v. Universal Credit and Job Seekers Allowances should not be tied to arbitrary regulations of completing 35 job application a day. It may indeed be the time to consider again if the mentioned Universal Basic Income proposals with all income taxed, as a Transition Basic income measure. Treasury may like to look more carefully if it is possible to pitch the income level, and tax allowances at a level that does not have the unintended consequences of pushing up childcare costs, or first home starter prices costs up and out of the range of many. If this was regarded as a Transition Period to enable the workforce to transition to a zero Carbon future over the next 10 years, it could be re-evaluated after then.
- vi. There are some exciting initiatives in Leeds - in one project, SURE a Not for profit organisation train workers and householders how to retrofit Insulation and energy efficiency measures to their own homes, and with further practice and training to establish SME's focussed entirely on retrofitting homes to new standards.
(UK community group **SURE - SUsustainable and REnewable Energy**. <https://sureinsulation.co.uk/andy-walker/index.shtml>)
- vii. There would need to be advice and quality assurance for the householder. **With additional funding, employees, and powers, the Local Authorities could provide the infrastructure for quality assurance. This would avoid** the inherent risks and challenges that were experienced

when we have left the market to install double glazing, and other energy saving programmes etc.

- viii. If unemployment seems to be the only option for individuals or communities the offer of an allocated allotment to each worker, would offer space on which to grow food, maintain fitness, keep active and outdoors and join in a distanced community of gardeners. An ideal way to move into 'environmental growth'.

3. Q. How should sector-specific support for business during this crisis be used to both protect and promote employment and to pursue our climate and nature objectives?

The Treasury during the COVID crisis has provided a number of support packages and collected significant additional data on the nature and viability of businesses. This will inform the Treasury's understanding of the possible.

Certainly, the information gained will enable targeting of programmes to those in sectors unlikely to recover. Without central planning and supervision, we know that market forces left with open opportunities for additional cash, will always describe their schemes in whatever terms are needed to benefit from the additional funding whether or not they will carry through on their promises.

As Kier Starmer said in his manifesto, the principle of Common ownership is essential for Public utilities. Common ownership takes profit motive out of the provision of public services and Utilities.

Q4. What is the scope for redeploying people from industries which are facing crisis? What are the models of retraining and support which should be examined? Do you know of examples of programmes which have been effective in enabling redeployment; and what can we learn from programmes that have not been effective?

Petrol based, Fossil fuel workers need to have priority alongside the Young, at opportunities to move into National Climate Service jobs.

- i. for some this may be engineering new renewable technologies
- ii. for others building transport infrastructure cycle, rail, pathways etc
- iii. retrofitting home insulation or redesigning buildings to be more energy efficient and well ventilated.

In Castleford, in the Heritage Mill, unemployed and retired ex tradesmen and engineers are supporting the local community charity in rebuilding the mill to convert it to as tourist asset. They are there to provide mentors and support for younger less skilled volunteers seeking work experience Working with support of a Community Charitable Trust. The volunteers work together to build the necessary renovations under the guidance and architects and engineers plans.

<http://castlefordheritagetrust.org.uk/News.php>

The ITUC push that all trade unions appoint a workplace ECO rep. Such a strategy would involve all workplaces and allow the people in each workplace to examine each and every workplace climate impacts and how to ameliorate those effects.

Mobilising the combined skills and will and their members to this herculean task will bring the power of the unions to educate inform, mobilise and negotiate in the interests of us all.

Biodiversity is the twin challenge of climate Emergency. We need to develop as many natural world, food and open space projects to create increased food resilience in the population

Post-COVID, we should include in planning for Climate Change and COVID, to develop gardens for all, there will be additional jobs in this too, in ground and gardens maintenance Parks and gardens have been the saviour of many people's mental health; the imperative to provide **more gardens for city dwellers and more open spaces and allotments will have four additional interrelated advantages**

- i. increase our resilience against infections**
- ii. and increase Biodiversity**
- iii. and naturally cool**
- iv. and improve air quality in cities.**

It is a challenge but in Wakefield Incredible Edible have opened roof-top carpark mini plots providing spaces that interested town centre apartment dwellers can call their own. If the Car is no longer King, all kinds of places, eg. Edges of parking spaces, can be widened to create planting and garden spaces. <https://www.incredible-edible-wakefield.co.uk/index.php/edible-gardening-clubs/>
City centre gardens and gardens for city dwellers need to be planned for within cities and there needs to be a presumption within the planning system to require developers to include them in their plans. Local authorities need to be given the funds to acquire and develop new allotments and garden plots for all city dwellers.

4. *Given the regional and area-based impacts of this crisis, what role can a green recovery play in mitigating these impacts? What are the lessons of past environmental interventions in terms of local and regional impacts?*

- Disadvantaged communities have come off worst in the COVID crisis - particularly those living in high density housing and doing essential worker jobs. BAME Communities especially have suffered.
- The initiatives discussed in points above relating to creating new gardens and parks, allotments and growing spaces seems to be especially needed now.

We have, in Wakefield, one of the first garden villages, the necessity to redesigning housing developments to include green spaces for families to enjoy and have as safe fresh air space has never been so clearly defined.

For BAME communities it would be good if fine words about Black Lives Matter and our abhorrence at the legacy of slavery could lead to initiatives to improve the health and life chances of people from BAME communities.

- **Plots of Land from large estates could be turned over to low density housing with community gardens and allotment plots to build in resilience for BAME families living previously in overcrowded inner-cities, as a form of reparations in response to centuries of injustice.**

5. How can we help existing businesses, including SMEs, to adapt as a result of the crisis, including through measures for a green recovery? How can these measures be allied to the improvement of productivity and viability for these companies?

- i.** Support for Cycle to work schemes; business incentives to provide bike racks; safe cycle storage and additional showering facilities.
Employers used to run Works' Buses to their main factories and offices, and whilst many SMEs still make arrangements for their employees, larger employers could be encouraged to again arrange collective transport to the workplace. This would also avoid the need for as many cars and carparks, and could count towards savings in an Employers Carbon budget; and instead of wider public transport in the COVID era give fewer opportunities for introducing virus to the work force.
- ii.** Employers could encourage workers to use public transport, by understanding the challenges of passenger employees on delayed services.
- iii.** All employers need to be encouraged to accept blended employment options wherever possible, to allow work from home and visiting the offices for meetings, thus cutting the need for additional road transport.
- iv.** Employers are already installing electric vehicle charging points in response to employee demands.
- v.** Businesses and Local Authorities need to be reminded and incentivised (not penalised, as penalties are generally inefficient) to give opportunities to employ outdoor ground maintenance staff to increase biodiversity and air quality.
- vi.** If there are to be less need for car parks, wild-life or additional food growing spaces can be created to take up the spaces.
- vii.** The emphasis for public expenditure must be on Public ownership and within the public sector. The public must feel the benefits, without profit-driven companies.

6. How can measures you are proposing in this recovery and renewal period improve quality of life—for example around walking, cycling and public transport, and improving access to nature? What habitats are you especially concerned about and want to see more support for and focus on?

- i.** Allotments and community gardens and growing plots
- ii.** National Cycle Networks –
- iii.** Employment of footpath and cycle path maintenance teams
- iv.** National Footpath networks and often in addition to road/Pavement network
- v.** Network of footpath and cycle officers
- vi.** Quieter roads with fewer traffic jams and less congestion
- vii.** More flexible working patterns
- viii.** Improved air quality
- ix.** Cheaper heating and energy costs less expense for householders
- x.** Cheaper food costs through growing proportions of own food.

7. In providing responses to 1-7, please can you indicate to us what considerations of cost-benefit analysis are relevant (and, if such analysis has not been undertaken, what sources of information would be necessary to understand costs and benefits); and which institutions would be required to enable effective delivery? In particular what is the role of public and private investment and different ownership models?

- 1) If we don't do it, the world will be uninhabitable.
- 2) The Green New Deal, is Fundamental Labour Party policy; we are very glad to see the new leaders Kier Starmer's own election Manifesto restated his commitment to Acting on the Climate Emergency and Common Ownership and Public investment; it is essential to all public infrastructure to build the green new deal. If businesses want to make their own operations have less impact on the Planet that is welcome and should be encouraged, but public services and initiatives on behalf of the public need to be independent of market pressures.
- 3) Regional inequalities mean that areas with wealthier people are already feeling the economic gain of the business case for private investment in renewable technologies and insulation. Private business and individuals will invest where they have the finance to their own advantage, which is now clearly on the side of renewables and sustainability in an era of Climate Emergency. The same cannot be said in areas with greater proportions of disadvantaged communities. I.e., the North.
Public Finance must be the means to finance the Green New Deal, or Private Finance will take profit wherever it can.
We have learnt enough from the disasters of the PFI initiatives that previous Labour Government brought in, to know how much they have destroyed services and local accountability. The Mid Yorkshire Hospital Trust is now in Special Measures because of its consistent deficit caused by the extremely high PFI payments being taken from their budget.
Public spending and Common ownership are the only ways that Government should consider acting. If businesses want to go further and do more it is for them to do so, they will because it is in their interests.
The unintended consequences of market interventions with subsidies to private companies paying dividends, means that rain and temperate forests are shredded for wood pellets to fuel for huge power stations so called Green Electricity. We can afford no more of these mistakes – **the Climate Emergency demands drastic public action and zero carbon targets need to be achieved by 2030. We cannot wait for the market.**
- 4) If we can convert as many as possible **to active transport of walking and cycling** the wider Health benefits for all the population are massive. This reduces the requirements expensive medical interventions and delivers better qualities of life for all.
- 5) **Cancel the new road building programme** as being incompatible with the commitments made under the UK Climate Act. Use the money saved to:
 1. To build cycle and footpath networks.

2. Extend and expand rail services
 3. Invest in other public transport and in bus design
 4. Improve the surface of existing roads, through road maintenance programmes
 5. Employ footpath officers to maintain the footpaths
- 6) **Scrap HS2.** The cost benefit analysis included a number of **underlying assumptions used in the planning of HS2 were always questionable and are now entirely wrong.** Throughout COVID lockdown services have been delivered and businesses have functioned with meetings conducted by Zoom. Travel to a meeting now has to be considered extremely carefully.
- i) The predicted number of rail journeys for office-based workers has now been proven to be unnecessarily high. Even if they do travel into work on some days, they will also choose to work from home on other days, thus cutting travel expense for the businesses, traffic on roads and rail passengers. HS2 must be cancelled with its further costs avoided.
 - ii) **The destruction of Biodiversity through construction of HS2** completely undermines any other biodiversity agenda and is ongoing, as the rail on the tracks will continue to kill wildlife along its corridor.
 - iii) **The Money saved to be used to build rail infrastructure in the North and outside of London and the South-West.**
- 7) **The apparent economic imperative of Growth to be reconsidered and reappraised**
- 8) **Growth in the Green Recovery to be measured in terms of Biodiversity, and quantities of Grown Food, Fuel Crops and organic building and textile materials. (GDP Grown Domestic Product!)**
8. *What are the key institutions including business, local government, trade unions who should play a role in delivering a green recovery? Are there particular lessons that should be learnt about effective delivery? Local people know their communities better than Westminster. What steps do we need to introduce to empower local communities to be able to tailor the provision to suit their needs?*
- a) **Recognition of the role of Local Government** is essential, and Local Government needs the funding and powers to act on the behalf of communities
 - b) **Universities and independent research** – whilst businesses have Research and Development departments to do research, they need to show profit. The best solutions for the Climate may not demonstrate profit and will skew the research and report.
 - c) **Trade unions have many roles to play in communicating** with members and provide a conduit for their concerns to local and national government. And as seen in COVID crisis, digital tech provides new ranges of communication strategies to use. (20,000 people in a single meeting and asking questionsand hearing responses)
 - d) **The ITUC push that all trade unions appoint a workplace ECO rep. Such a strategy would involve all workplaces and allow the people in each work-place to examine each and every workplaces climate impacts and how to ameliorate those effects.**
Mobilising the combined skills and will and their members to this herculean task will bring the power of the unions to educate inform, mobilise and negotiate in the interests of us all.
 - e). Local community WhatsApp groups

It really is possible to ask people what they really think and canvas opinion if an effort is put in to inform and gather them into groups.

9. What other issues/points do you think are important? What are the Covid-19 challenges of delivering such a programme and how might they be overcome?

COVID Challenges – see introduction

Single use plastic – COVID precautions have required vast amounts of PPE and most items are single use. Disposable products have a huge environmental impact.

Regulations around PPE are extremely proscribed for obvious and necessary safety purposes, but present a real challenge when the real effort of recent years was to reduce plastic waste to save the oceans, and reduce the need for plastic derived from oil so that it could stay in the ground.

Public transport has been the presumed answer for longer journeys around and between towns. Social distancing is not possible on busy buses or packed trains. This presents real issues for those of us concerned on Climate issues hence the need for additional bike routes and more bikes electric and traditional, and redesign of rail and bus travel, with expectations of seats for all passengers

Chemical disinfectants have suddenly become essential against the COVID virus with risks to biodiversity, where it is used and made.

Organising COP26 with people needing to build trust around the world, with the recriminations about the outbreak of Covid.

Post COVID we know what is possible to do – now we need to plan to achieve Carbon zero in the next 9 years.

Wakefield Trades Council June 2020