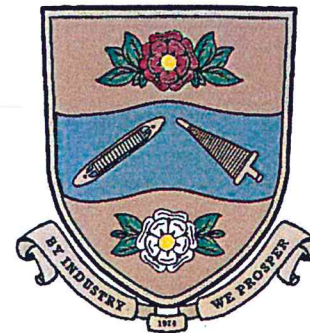


TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

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23 September 2021

Ms Tracy Brabin
Mayor of West Yorkshire
West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Wellington House
40-50 Wellington Street
Leeds
LS1 2DE

Dear Tracy,

First of all, many congratulations on your appointment as Mayor of West Yorkshire. I know that the Mayor of Todmorden, Cllr Pat Taylor and the assistant town clerk, Susan Miles, enjoyed meeting with you at the launch of the South Yorkshire Park recently. I understand from them that you are almost ready to launch the climate emergency plan for West Yorkshire.

The Climate Emergency Committee of Todmorden Town Council has prepared an action plan to alleviate climate change. I attach, for your information, a copy of our climate emergency action plan and draft Moorlands Policy.

I would also like to draw to your attention the potential for generating electricity from the fast flowing streams in the hills above Todmorden and the Upper Calder Valley. This part of West Yorkshire and Lancashire benefitted greatly from the hydroelectric power generated in the 19th and early 20th Centuries which powered the cotton industry.

Fast forward to today, virtually no hydroelectric power is generated locally and yet, with climate change, there is a need for investment in forms of energy that are not based on fossil fuels. A separate issue is that of fuel poverty, which is considerable in a town like Todmorden.

The size of investment required for implementing a strategy for power generation using the fast flowing waters of the area is outside the range of activities that could be considered by a Town Council such as that of Todmorden. However, it could be possible with an organisation the size of West Yorkshire.

I would be very interested in hearing your thoughts about this and whether it fits in with the agenda you have for West Yorkshire.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Ruth Coleman-Taylor
Vice Chair,
Climate Emergency Committee