



**North Yorkshire County Council  
Climate Change Scrutiny Joint Sub-Committee  
24 July 2019**

**Scope of work of Executive Member Climate Change Task and Finish Group**

**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1. To outline the work that is being undertaken by the Executive Member Climate Change Task and Finish Group and to seek comments on this from the Climate Change Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

**2. Introduction**

- 2.1. The County Council recognises the important role it plays in protecting and enhancing the county's environment and economy. The council already has a very broad programme of projects, programmes, work streams, policies and strategies which reflect the value placed on protecting and enhancing the county's environment and growing the county's economy in a sustainable way.
- 2.2. An informal task and finish group of Executive Members was established by the Council Leader in June 2019 to review what the council is currently doing and opportunities for further action on climate change, including proposing a framework for prioritising current and future activities. The group comprises Cllr David Chance, Cllr Patrick Mulligan and Cllr Greg White. The group has identified four work streams, summarised below, and progress on these will be reported to the Executive later in 2019.
- 2.3. These work streams should be looked at in terms of how internally we as a large organisation can make an impact, but also how we can utilise our wider influence across North Yorkshire, for example schools, residents and businesses.

### **3. Workstreams**

#### **3.1. Understanding the council's and county's carbon footprint**

Undertake a baseline review of the council's energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, and establish an assessment tool to monitor progress to reduce energy consumption and emissions. This will build on existing carbon emissions data<sup>1</sup> and consider how best to capture the wider emissions relating to county council activities.

#### **3.2. Climate change action plan setting short/medium/long term priorities**

Current and future actions based on seven key areas (see Appendix A) will be identified with the aim of having a tangible and measurable impact on mitigation (reducing greenhouse gas emissions which will cause increased climate change in the future) and adaptation (planning for impacts of climate change that are occurring or will happen due to climate system changes). The action plan will consider how each measure will be funded and/or resourced with potential for smaller scale and local measures to be funded by Members' Locality Budgets.

#### **3.3. Develop an impact assessment tool to ensure climate change priorities are integrated into all council functions and policies.**

This tool could be used alongside the existing equality impact assessment process to ensure that climate impacts are fully considered in council decision making. The intention would be to support officers and Members to consider climate change from the very earliest stage of the decision making process, and it would be important to pilot the use of the tool before rolling out more widely. The tool would not replace situations where more detailed statutory environmental assessments are required, eg Environmental Impact Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment or where planning permission is sought. Appendix B sets out a working example of the tool.

#### **3.4. Governance and policy**

Alongside the above work streams there is a need to identify an appropriate level of governance to ensure leadership and oversee the necessary changes in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Climate

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/reducing-carbon-emissions>

change needs to be considered at all levels of the council with a corporate level overview to ensure there is a consistent and continuing message, and clear accountability in relation to delivery of the action plan and impact assessment tool.

#### **4. The Council's existing work on Climate Change**

4.1. It is important to note that the council's current work programme already includes a number of relevant actions; examples of these are summarised in Appendix C.

#### **5. Recommendation**

5.1. It is recommended that the Climate Change Scrutiny Sub-Committee considers and comments on the work that is being undertaken by the Executive Member Climate Change Task and Finish Group.

Neil Irving  
Assistant Director – Policy, Partnerships and Communities  
12 July 2019

#### **Appendices:**

Appendix A – Draft Climate Change Action Plan template

Appendix B – Developing a Climate Change Impact Assessment Tool

Appendix C – Relevant actions in Council's current work programme

## Appendix A – Draft Climate Change Action Plan template

Area Actions within the council - Internal Actions outside the council - External		Actions (a few potential actions are included as examples)	Timescale Short < 5 yrs Medium 5-10 yrs Long > 10 yrs	Carbon offset (in CO <sub>2</sub> e)	Financial cost (£)	How will action be funded / resourced?
<b>Energy including carbon reduction</b> Increasing the council's energy efficiency and using the council's wider influence to reduce energy usage in schools etc.	Internal	<i>Council investment in clean funds including renewable energy</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Greenhouse gas emission reduction in CO<sub>2</sub>e</i>	<i>How much in £ will this cost to implement</i>	
	External	<i>Consider viability of Communal Heating in North Yorkshire</i>	<i>Long</i>			
<b>Waste</b> Measures to reduce waste generation and making best use of existing assets (AWRP).	Internal	<i>Proceed with setting up a Single Use Plastics task force to explore opportunities for NYCC to minimise waste</i>	<i>Short</i>			
	External	<i>Explore potential for grants for projects to support reduction of household waste</i>	<i>Long</i>			
<b>Environmental assets</b> Fully consider the economic value of natural assets through the natural capital investment framework being developed by the Local Nature Partnership.	Internal	<i>Support further community action to realise the economic potential of the county's assets</i>	<i>Short</i>			
	External	<i>Continue to consider implementation of Solar Panel farms in the county to reduce reliance on fossil fuel generated electricity</i>	<i>Long</i>			

<b>Sustainable commissioning</b> Ensuring suppliers demonstrate a commitment to climate change mitigation	Internal	Consider action of ISO 14001, a family of standards providing practical tools for companies and organizations of all kinds looking to manage their environmental responsibilities.	Short			
	External	Establish criteria for the Council's suppliers to meet regarding their reduction of greenhouse gas emissions	Medium			
<b>Transport</b> Influencing travel behaviour of both council staff and residents	Internal	Replacement of NYCC fleet with highest emission standards, subject to best value and safety standards	Short			
	External	Implement a county-wide electric vehicle charge point network – air quality strategy – viability of electric buses	Medium			
<b>Low carbon economy</b> There is potential to grow the low carbon economy and provide new opportunities for local people, including supporting the private sector to introduce the skills, technology and infrastructure. The emerging Local Industrial Strategy focuses on 'good growth in distinctive places' which encompasses inclusive and clean growth as drivers of productivity. This is reflected in the Local Energy Strategy.	Internal	Working towards a circular economy model which can help tackle climate change and develop a more competitive economy that provides benefits for businesses, society and the environment.	Long			
	External	Working with the LEP to support businesses, especially SMEs, to become more sustainable	Long			

<b>Adaptation</b> Adapting to a changing climate and supporting community and business resilience	<i>Internal</i>	<i>Refreshing the PH Winter Health Strategy and renaming it Seasonal Health to take into account the impacts of hot weather (underway)</i>	<i>Short</i>			
	<i>External</i>	<i>Management of flood risk sites</i>	Medium			

## Appendix B – Developing a Climate Change Impact Assessment Tool

Aim: To help ensure we consider Climate Change and our contribution towards the Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended). The assessment should give due regard to the following elements to make certain that we meet a range of environmental legal duties:

[If the function or policy is subject to Planning Permission / Environmental Impact Assessment / Strategic Environmental Assessment this table is not required as separate processes exist.]

	How will this proposal impact on the environment?			Why will it have this effect? Provide evidence where possible.
	No impact	Make things better	Make things worse	Detail any plans to mitigate against negative impacts or improve positive outcomes as far as possible.
Minimise greenhouse gas emissions				
Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost				
Contribute to reducing water consumption				
Minimise pollution (including air, land, water, light and noise)				
Ensure resilience to the effects of climate change (eg increased flood events; drier, hotter summers; rising sea levels)				

Conserve and enhance wildlife				
Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of North Yorkshire's landscape				
Other (please state)				



## Appendix C – Relevant actions in Council’s current work programme

The council’s current work programme already includes a number of relevant actions; examples of which are summarised below. These range from large scale developments such as the Allerton Waste Recovery Park (which has a positive effect on the county’s carbon footprint by reducing the amount of methane created by waste left to rot in landfill and generating enough energy for 40,000 homes) to smaller schemes such as the council’s Liftshare scheme (which has 232 members and has resulted in a saving of 285k miles or 56 tonnes of CO2).

<b>1 - Reducing our CO2 emissions, energy and water consumption</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Energy Efficient NYCC buildings</b> As part of the property rationalisation process and operational work of the council’s property service we will ensure that NYCC buildings are energy efficient and meet all building compliance concerning indoor air quality. Since 2011/12 there has been a carbon reduction of 17.2%, with a further 15% being targeted by 2023/24.</li><li>• <b>Biomass Biodiversity (feasibility study)</b> The North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Partnership (LNP) has worked in partnership with the Hull and East Yorkshire LNP and Natural England to explore the opportunities of using cut vegetation from semi-natural habitats (eg road verges, meadows, wetlands) as biomass for anaerobic digestion.</li></ul> <p><u>Further examples</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• YNYER LEP Energy Strategy and emerging Local Industrial Strategy (<a href="#">link</a>)</li><li>• Street lighting energy reduction programme (<a href="#">link</a>)</li><li>• Communal Heating – pre-planning (<a href="#">link</a>)</li><li>• Input into power station conversions from coal to gas (Eggborough and DRAX)</li></ul>
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**2 - Minimising waste: reduce, reuse and recycle**

- **Allerton Waste Recovery Park (AWRP) ([link](#))**

A positive effect on the county's carbon footprint by reducing the amount of methane created by waste left to rot in landfill and generating enough energy for 40,000 homes. The carbon benefit of AWRP is equivalent to taking 12,000 cars permanently off the road.

Further examples

- North Yorkshire Rotters – ongoing ([link](#))
- Single Use Plastics – future Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee task group

**3 - Rationalising our property and manage our land sustainably**

- **Solar panel farms County Council land – ongoing investigation**

Investigate implementation of projects to generate electricity using solar PV panels on all council properties (buildings, farm land and landfill sites). These may also incorporate battery storage and electric vehicle charging points. Outline business cases have been produced and reviewed annually to establish good business case. Target: for business cases to reach grid parity (when the cost per kWh to generate via solar installation matches the cost of grid electricity).

- **Natural Capital Investment Framework**

The LNP is working with our neighbouring Hull and East Yorkshire LNP, the YNYER Local Enterprise Partnership and the local authorities across York, North Yorkshire, East Riding and Hull to develop a natural capital investment framework. This will identify and present the quantity and quality of our natural assets across the region.

Further examples

- Energy Certificates
- Joint Minerals and Waste Plan ([link](#))
- NYCC Growth Plan ([link](#))

<p><b>4 - Procuring in a way which balances economic, social and environmental factors, and seeks to increase social value</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement &amp; Contract Management – Social Value work stream</li> <li>• Purchasing of food for school meals (eg where possible sourced from the region) (<a href="#">link</a>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>5 - Ceasing unnecessary travel and reduce the impact and cost of necessary travel</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Liftshare scheme</b> The council's Liftshare scheme has 232 members and has resulted in in a saving of 285k miles or 56 tonnes of CO2.</li> <li>• <b>EV charging infrastructure in North Yorkshire – pre-planning</b> Officers are currently scoping the business case for provision of electric vehicle charge points at on-street parking locations in market towns including the potential for Government funding via OLEV or alternatively a North Yorkshire wide EV infrastructure scheme through European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).</li> </ul> <p><u>Further examples</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green the County Council's fleet</li> <li>• North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2016-2045 (<a href="#">link</a>) and forthcoming NYCC Air Quality Strategy</li> <li>• Video conferencing</li> </ul>

**6 - Supporting and encouraging our staff, schools, residents and business' (including agricultural sector) to take similar actions**

**Staff**

- **2020 Modern Council**

Reducing the need for staff to travel. Remote working for Council staff through modern council roll out and video conferencing etc. This is also supported by expanding provision of broadband in rural areas.

Further Examples

- Green travel loans
- Green car scheme ([link](#))
- NYCC Cycle to work
- E-vouchers available through 'Everybody Benefits Scheme'
- NYCC Office Closedown at Christmas
- County Hall travel plan

**School**

- **Scope for continued carbon reductions via schools in County ([link](#))**

The Energy & Sustainability Traded Service that NYCC offers to schools and academies in the county has been working with schools to reduce their carbon emissions since 2009. The service helps school ensure they pay the best price for their energy, only pay for what they use and use as little as possible.

Further examples

- School travel plans

**Residents**

- Information provision - Ways to reduce and reuse on the Council website ([link](#))
- Travel plans for new developments
- North Yorkshire - Warm and well programme ([link](#))
- Discoveries on your doorstep ([link](#))
- Open North Yorkshire Access Fund Project ([link](#))

	<b>Business</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Landscape Enterprise Networks (<a href="#">link</a>)</li><li>• Grow Yorkshire – Local Enterprise Partnership (<a href="#">link</a>)</li></ul>
<b>7 - Ensuring we stay resilient to environmental changes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regional coastal monitoring program (<a href="#">link</a>)</li><li>• ‘Slowing the Flow’ (reforestation to prevent flooding) - completed (<a href="#">link</a>)</li><li>• Management of flood risk sites - Highways &amp; Transportation Service (BES)</li><li>• River Foss Catchment Project</li><li>• River Leven Catchment Project (in development)</li><li>• Skell Valley Project</li><li>• Flamborough / Filey - Yorkshire Coast Project</li><li>• Refreshing the Winter Health Strategy and renaming it Seasonal Health to take into account the impacts of extreme hot weather</li></ul>