

Agenda

Meeting: Climate Change Scrutiny Joint

Sub-Committee

Venue: Brierley Room, County Hall,

Northallerton DL7 8AD

Date: Wednesday 24 July 2019 at 2 pm

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Business

- 1. Welcome and Introductions
- 2. Any Declarations of Interest
- 3. Public Questions or Statements.

Members of the public may ask questions or make statements at this meeting if they have given notice to Melanie Carr of Democratic and Scrutiny Services and supplied the text *(contact details below)* by midday on 19 July 2019, three working days before the day of the meeting. Each speaker should limit themselves to 3 minutes on any item. Members of the public who have given notice will be invited to speak:-

- at this point in the meeting if their questions/statements relate to matters which are not otherwise on the Agenda (subject to an overall time limit of 30 minutes);
- when the relevant Agenda item is being considered if they wish to speak on a matter which is on the Agenda for this meeting.

Enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Melanie Carr Tel: 01609 533849

or e-mail melanie.carr1@northyorks.gov.uk

Website: www.northyorks.gov.uk

If you are exercising your right to speak at this meeting, but do not wish to be recorded, please inform the Chairman who will instruct anyone who may be taking a recording to cease while you speak.

4. Context for and Approach to the Work of the Sub-Committee - Report of the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

(Page 5 to 9)

5. Scope of Work of Executive Member Climate Change Task and Finish Group - Report of Assistant Director - Policy, Partnerships and Communities

(Pages 10 to 22)

6. Other business which the Chairman agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances

Barry Khan Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)

County Hall Northallerton

Date: 16 July2019

Notes:

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Climate Change Scrutiny Joint Sub-Committee - 24 July 2019

Scrutiny of Health

Cllr John Ennis Cllr Zoe Metcalfe

Transport Economy and Environment

Cllr Stanley Lumley (Chair) Cllr Paul Haslam Cllr Clive Pearson Cllr David Goode

Young People

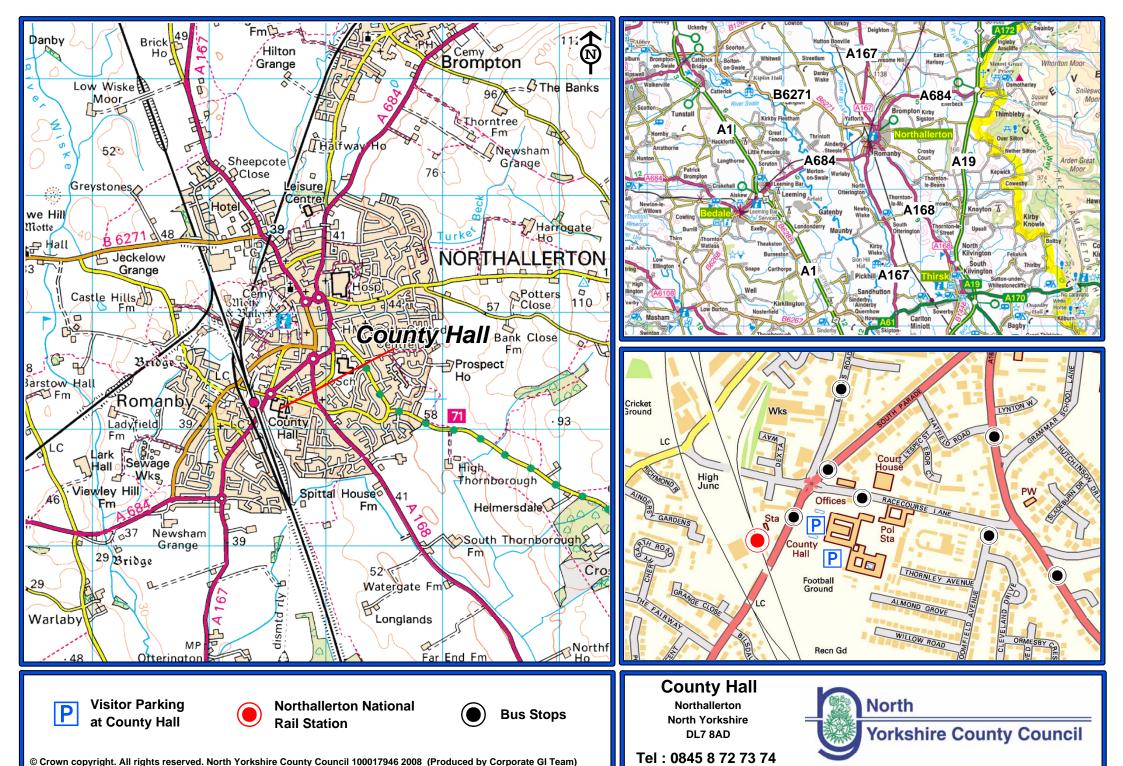
Cllr Janet Jefferson Cllr Stuart Martin Cllr Lindsay Burr Cllr Annabel Wilkinson

Care and Independence

Cllr David Jeffels Cllr Helen Grant

Corporate and Partnerships

Cllr Andy Paraskos Cllr Bryn Griffiths





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

Context for and approach to the work of the sub-committee

Report of the Democratic Services & Scrutiny Manager

Purpose of Report

1. This report presents introductory information in support of the agreed scrutiny review on climate change, and presents proposals for the way forward together with a suggested review timetable.

Introduction to Climate Change

- 2. Climate Change is the defining issue of our time. Our planet is warmer now than at any point in the past 800,000 years, and heating fast. This warming is caused by a build-up of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, mainly due to the burning of fossil fuels coal, oil and gas and by cutting down forests.
- 3. Atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations are higher today than at any time in at least the past 650,000 years, and about 35% higher than before the industrial revolution.
- 4. There is over 95% certainty that human influence is the dominant factor in warming since the mid-20th century. To put this into perspective scientists are as certain that humans are warming the planet as they are that smoking causes cancer.
- 5. Internationally, world leaders of governments, the private sector and civil society will come together in September 2019 to support the multilateral process of increasing and accelerating climate action and ambition. The Summit will focus on key sector where action can make the most difference—heavy industry, nature-based solutions, cities, energy, resilience, and climate finance. World leaders will report on what they are doing, and what more they intend to do when they convene in 2020 for the UN climate conference, where commitments will be renewed and may be increased.
- 6. Nationally, the UK's legally binding 2008 Climate Change Act (CCA) sets a legal framework for the UK to cut greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 and obliges the government to set out policies to adapt to climate change.

- 7. Adaptation policies are largely covered by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), which is tasked with managing increasing risks in areas such as flooding, drought, heat, sea level rise and extreme weather see https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/climate-change-second-national-adaptation-programme-2018-to-2023
- 8. Mitigation policy, falls under the responsibility of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), which last year released its "Clean Growth Strategy", setting out policies aimed at cutting the UK's emissions see https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment data/file/700496/clean-growth-strategy-correction-april-2018.pdf
- 9. In voting the UK's Climate Change Act into law, the government's judgment was that it was worth investing considerable sums to avoid dangerous climate change. The costs of meeting the Act, which were discussed from the outset and consistently estimated at around 1% of GDP, were to be offset by reduced climate impacts and other environmental benefits.
- 10. In 2016 the government reaffirmed its commitment to the Act by legislating the fifth carbon budget for 2028-2032. It also ratified the Paris Agreement, drawn up among nearly 200 countries with the goal of keeping warming 'well below 2C' by cutting emissions to net zero later this century. This meant that, far from weakening its climate efforts, the UK would have to raise its ambition. However, reaching net-zero emissions will be a huge challenge. Even the most ambitious application of all known options to reduce UK emissions would fail to reduce them to zero, the government's Committee on Climate Change (CCC) says. That's why it thinks the UK will need greenhouse gas removal options, often referred to as negative emissions, to balance the residual. The CCC already includes negative emissions in some of its scenarios towards the 2050 target. Now it is saying that these options "will be required" by the UK, and the world.
- 11. Most recently, across the country there have been an unprecedented number of Emergency Motions on climate change raised at local government level, acknowledging rising levels of concern and seeking greater action.
- 12. Regionally, the county of North Yorkshire is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change with, low-lying areas prone to flooding and a coast that is eroding. The impacts of climate change are predicted to result in the loss of critical infrastructure such as water, gas and electricity; communications including transport; buildings; and land productivity. These impacts are already happening with, for example, an increase in frequency of significant flood events in recent years.
- 13. In December 2009 the County Council issued a Statement of Intent to play its part in contributing to the national target of an 80% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050, with at least a 34% reduction by 2018-22. To do this the County Council set itself three objectives that it would:
 - i. Play a leading role in supporting a reduction in the contribution which North Yorkshire makes to climate change.

- ii. Work with the people, communities and other organisations in North Yorkshire to develop an effective response to the current and predicted future changes in climate resulting from greenhouse gas emissions.
- iii. Seek to ensure maximum value for money and efficiency savings from actions taken in response to climate change.

Background to Review

14. The objectives set in 2009 are just as relevant today. Most recently the Leader of the Council has tasked Executive Members and Scrutiny Members with examining what more the County Council could do to further those objectives and to ensure that organisationally the County Council is doing all it can to contribute to cutting emissions.

Purpose of this Meeting

15. This climate change sub-committee has been formed from the Council's 5 thematic overview and scrutiny committees. It has 14 members, who have volunteered to take on this scrutiny work, and includes county councillors with a broad range of scrutiny experience. It is non-partisan, and the sub-committee is not a standing committee of the Council. As such, there is an expectation that the work being done through the sub-committee is time limited.

Review Remit

- The remit of the sub-committee is to:
 - Review existing work by the Council to reduce carbon dioxide emissions that result from its own activities and service provision
 - Identify possible actions that could be taken to further reduce carbon dioxide emissions that result from the Council's own activities and service provision.
 - Refer the findings and resulting recommendation(s) from this scrutiny review to the Executive.
- 17. The scrutiny of work that is done by the Council to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions is a large task. As previously referred to, it is not the intention to undertake an open-ended piece of scrutiny. As such, there are a number of factors that members may wish to consider that may help focus the scrutiny work, as below:
 - What can the Council directly influence through the way that it provides or commissions services either extending existing practices or adopting new ones?
 - What could be done in the short, medium and long term?
 - What actions could be taken that are cost neutral?
 - What actions could be taken that enable full cost recovery in the short to medium term?

- What local or regional groups or bodies could the Council work with?
- What action could be taken across all local authorities or public sector agencies in North Yorkshire?
- 18. This is not an exhaustive list but seeks to emphasise practical things that could be done in the short term at no cost to the Council.
- 19. Recognising that tackling some of the bigger issues does not sit well with local politics, the Democratic Society has suggested taking decision making to the public through the introduction of Citizen's Assemblies. This would ensure an a-political approach to decision making on the difficult issues associated with climate change adaptation.

Risks & Implications

- 20. This review and the work of the Executive members provides an opportunity for the Council to establish itself at the forefront of carbon dioxide emissions work in rural areas, and to encourage the growth of the green economy locally.
- 21. Any risks associated with the recommended actions coming out of this review will need to be considered against the longer term wider risk to the council of doing nothing. There is also likely to be some financial and/or other implications associated with any recommended actions. These would need to be fully understood and weighed against any future costs to the County Council associated with the impacts of global warming, on a case by case basis.

Options

- 22. Dependent upon the outcome of the discussions at this meeting, there are a number of options available to the members, as summarised below:
 - a) Complete the scrutiny review at the meeting on 24 July 2019 and make a series of recommendations to the Executive. The sub-committee no longer meets
 - b) Progress the scrutiny review at the meeting on 24 July 2019, make some preliminary recommendations to Executive and identify a number of lines of enquiry for further scrutiny either by the sub-committee or through one or more of the 5 thematic overview and scrutiny committees
 - c) Progress the scrutiny review at the meeting on 24 July 2019 and identify a number of lines of enquiry for further scrutiny through one or more of the 5 thematic overview and scrutiny committees. The sub-committee no longer meets.

Timetable for Review

23. If the sub-committee choose to proceed with options b or c above, members are asked to identify an appropriate timeframe for completion of the review work, so that the findings may feed in to future report to the Executive.

Recommendation

- 24. It is recommended that the sub-committee reviews existing work by the Council to reduce carbon dioxide emissions that result from its own activities and service provision
- 25. If possible actions are identified that could further reduce carbon dioxide emissions resulting from the county council's own activities and service provision, the subcommittee is asked to consider the options outlined in paragraph 22 above, and agree the most appropriate way forward.

Report Authors:

Daniel Harry
Democratic Services & Scrutiny Manager

Melanie Carr Principal Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer 10 July 2019

Background Papers:

Climate Change Briefing Note dated 9 July 2019



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 data¹ 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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¹ 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 ₂ e)	Financial cost (£)	How will action be funded / resourced?
Energy including carbon reduction Increasing the council's energy efficiency and using the council's wider influence to reduce energy usage in schools etc.	Internal	Council investment in clean funds including renewable energy	Medium	Greenhouse gas emission reduction in CO2e	How much in £ will this cost to implement	
	External	Consider viability of Communal Heating in North Yorkshire	Long			
Waste Measures to reduce waste generation and making best use of existing assets (AWRP).	Internal	Proceed with setting up a Single Use Plastics task force to explore opportunities for NYCC to minimise waste	Short			
	External	Explore potential for grants for projects to support reduction of household waste	Long			
Environmental assets Fully consider the economic value of natural assets through the natural capital investment framework being	Internal	Support further community action to realise the economic potential of the county's assets	Short			
developed by the Local Nature Partnership.	External	Continue to consider implementation of Solar Panel farms in the county to reduce reliance on fossil fuel generated electricity	Long			

Sustainable commissioning 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		
Transport 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		
Low carbon economy 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	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		
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.	External	Working with the LEP to support businesses, especially SMEs, to become more sustainable	Long		

Adaptation Adapting to a changing climate and supporting community and business resilience	Internal	Refreshing the PH Winter Health Strategy and renaming it Seasonal Health to take into account the impacts of hot weather (underway)	Short		
	External	Management of flood risk sites	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 thi	ment?	,	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).

1 - Reducing our CO2 emissions, energy and water consumption

• Energy Efficient NYCC buildings

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.

Biomass Biodiversity (feasibility study)

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.

Further examples

- YNYER LEP Energy Strategy and emerging Local Industrial Strategy (link)
- Street lighting energy reduction programme (link)
- Communal Heating pre-planning (link)
- Input into power station conversions from coal to gas (Eggborough and DRAX)

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)

4 - Procuring in a way which
balances economic, social and
environmental factors, and
seeks to increase social value

- Procurement & Contract Management Social Value work stream
- Purchasing of food for school meals (eg where possible sourced from the region)
 (link)

5 - Ceasing unnecessary travel and reduce the impact and cost of necessary travel

• Liftshare scheme

The council's Liftshare scheme has 232 members and has resulted in in a saving of 285k miles or 56 tonnes of CO2.

• EV charging infrastructure in North Yorkshire – pre-planning
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).

Further examples

- Green the County Council's fleet
- North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan 2016-2045 (<u>link</u>) and forthcoming NYCC Air Quality Strategy
- Video conferencing

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 (<u>link</u>)

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 (<u>link</u>)
- Travel plans for new developments
- North Yorkshire Warm and well programme (<u>link</u>)
- Discoveries on your doorstep (link)
- Open North Yorkshire Access Fund Project (link)

	 Business Landscape Enterprise Networks (<u>link</u>) Grow Yorkshire – Local Enterprise Partnership (<u>link</u>)
7 - Ensuring we stay resilient to environmental changes	 Regional coastal monitoring program (link) 'Slowing the Flow' (reforestation to prevent flooding) - completed (link) Management of flood risk sites - Highways & Transportation Service (BES) River Foss Catchment Project River Leven Catchment Project (in development) Skell Valley Project Flamborough / Filey - Yorkshire Coast Project Refreshing the Winter Health Strategy and renaming it Seasonal Health to take into account the impacts of extreme hot weather