

Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee

10 March 2022

Report of the Assistant Director - Policy, Partnerships and Communities, NYCC

Carbon Reduction Plan Implementation Update

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide a progress report on the NYCC Carbon Reduction Plan and examples of activity from the Skipton and Ripon area.

2.0 Key Background Information

- 2.1 The Council committed to an aspiration to achieve net carbon neutrality by, or as close to, 2030 in July 2019 and its Carbon Reduction Plan was agreed in July 2021.
- 2.2 An officer group - the Beyond Carbon Board - meets regularly to review the Plan and to develop proposals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across its own estate and operations. This focusses on:
- Reducing our CO₂e emissions, energy and water consumption.
 - Minimising waste - reduce, re-use and recycle.
 - Rationalising our property and managing our land sustainably.
 - Procuring in a way which balances economic, social and environmental factors, and seeks to increase social value.
 - Ceasing unnecessary travel and reducing the impact and cost of necessary travel.
 - Supporting and encouraging our staff, schools and residents to take similar actions.
- 2.3 In addition, NYCC is working with partners across the public, private and voluntary sectors to deliver the ambition for York and North Yorkshire to be the UK's first carbon negative region – carbon neutral by 2034 and carbon negative by 2040. These ambitions were endorsed by the leaders of the councils of York and North Yorkshire through the submission of devolution asks in December 2020 aimed at achieving a carbon negative region.
- 2.4 From April 2022 this plan will be integrated into the Council Plan and reviewed annually. Progress will be regularly monitored as part of our corporate performance management framework including quarterly performance reports to Management Board and Executive.

3.0 Delivering carbon reduction ambitions

- 3.1 NYCC has undertaken many initiatives to deliver its carbon reduction ambitions both as specific projects and as a 'business as usual' approach embedding carbon reduction into everyday decisions. The following are examples:
- i. The Beyond Carbon Board continues to develop our approach to climate change and deliver low carbon projects for our operational activity. To support co-

ordination of this essential work, NYCC has recently appointed a Climate Change Policy Officer, within the Strategy and Performance team.

- ii. Property upgrades are essential to decarbonising heat and buildings:
 - SmartCampus proposals for County Hall to integrate energy generation and storage and low/zero carbon heat options are being worked into the County Hall master plan.
 - Over £500K has been secured from Central Government to support decarbonisation of NYCC Property. Window replacement works have been funded by the Public Sector Heat Decarbonisation Scheme as well as funding to install air source heat pumps in three corporate properties. Schools in the area to benefit include:
 - Christ Church CE VE Primary School, Skipton
 - Ingleton Primary School
 - Settle College
 - Sutton in Craven CPS
 - Ripon Grammar
- iii. Fleet: More recently, the Beyond Carbon Board recommended NYCC Carbon Reduction pump priming funding be awarded to two EV pilot programmes – to support home charging installation for domiciliary care workers to charge NYCC provided EVs as part of their job roles and secondly, to start to replace the ‘pool car’ fleet with EVs and to encourage services to trial the use of EVs to overcome ‘range anxiety’ in everyday use. Plans are being developed for EV Charging facilities at County Hall, Northallerton.
- iv. Reducing emissions from our consumption of goods, works and services:
 - A West, York and North Yorkshire Sustainable Procurement Toolkit has been completed to help commissioners and procurement officers utilise low carbon and circular economy procurement techniques.
 - North Yorkshire Highways have produced a carbon management plan setting out an approach to manage and minimise whole life carbon, to align with the County Council’s aspiration net zero date of 2030.
- v. Staff training: NYCC has worked in partnership with the Y&NY LEP and Local Authorities to develop a climate change awareness module for the Learning Zone platform to ensure all staff can understand the implications of their everyday decisions on greenhouse gas emissions.
- vi. In supporting residents and businesses to decarbonise, we have also ensured a focus on the ‘just transition’ – to ensure that all members of society are able to participate and benefit from activities.
 - The EV Infrastructure Rollout Strategy is currently in development and we are working with partners across the County. It is expected to be complete in June 2022 and deliver a 10 year plan. This highlights rural areas where commercial provision of public access chargers is less likely.
 - Through the Government’s Sustainable Warmth Programme NYCC has been successful, with three district councils; Scarborough, Ryedale and Hambleton, in bidding for nearly £4m to support low-income households heated by mains gas. For the Skipton and Ripon areas, this process was led by City of York and Leeds City Region and is delivered through the

Better Homes Yorkshire partnership. [Better Homes Yorkshire - Insulation, Heating, Renewables](#)

- Encouraging a greater number of public transport trips, NYCC has piloted the 'Yorbus' scheme around Ripon, Masham and Bedale. The YorBus project won the 'Improving Customer Experience' award at the Innovation Awards ceremony. [YorBus - Connecting North Yorkshire | North Yorkshire County Council](#). Following the positive reception of the pilot and the higher than expected take up, the project board are now in the early stages of considering rolling the service out more widely to other parts of North Yorkshire. This is subject to securing sufficient funding and an amount has been requested from the Department for Transport via the Council's Bus Service Improvement Plan.
 - To enable 'active travel' (cycling and walking), Local Cycling and Walking Implementation Plans are in development phase for Ripon and Skipton.
 - Officers from a range of NYCC services have been working closely with partners to support Ripon Renewal Town Masterplanning exercise (led by Harrogate Borough Council) which has included climate change mitigation and adaptation at the heart of its proposals.
 - The County Council's Energy Team were successful in winning the 'Best Climate Action Initiative' award at the National Association for Public Service Excellence in September 2021 for their work with schools.
- vii. Carbon capture and storage: Carbon sequestration (locking away greenhouse gases in trees and soils) is promoted through our partnerships work with White Rose Forest and Yorkshire Peat Partnerships. NYCC is in the final bid stage for £30K for a Treeplanting Supply Chain study which will look at the all the elements required to reach carbon sequestration targets (land, tree supply, forest management) and how these can benefit the NY economy.

4.0 County and region wide activities

- 4.1 Working with our neighbouring authorities and wider regional networks is an essential part of the climate change agenda, to collaborate at scale and avoid duplication.
- 4.2 We are engaged on County and region wide activities such as the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission and with the York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership on the York and North Yorkshire Routemap to Carbon Negative, Local Area Energy Plan and 'Greener Fairer Stronger Economic Plan' which are in development stages. These documents will be instrumental in investment decisions for low carbon infrastructure and devolution plans, highlighting areas for economic opportunity and investment. We continue to work closely with the National Parks and City of York on this agenda.
- 4.3 We are also working collaboratively with the 7 District Councils on ensuring that Local Government Reorganisation workstreams have climate change agenda considerations included in their 'business as usual' as well as transformational services plans. Through this partnership activity we will be developing climate change policy for the new Authority to consider.

5.0 Human Resources

- 5.1 There are no human resources implications of this report.

6.0 Legal

6.1 There are no legal implications of this report.

7.0 Equalities

7.1 There are no equality impacts of this report.

8.0 Environmental Impacts/Benefits including Climate Change Impact Assessment:

8.1 The report is for information and outlines the impact of service delivery on climate change implications.

9.0 Conclusion

9.1 NYCC is making progress towards its carbon reduction ambitions. The area of Skipton and Ripon presents both strengths and weaknesses in terms of climate change.

- a. The area is essential to climate change mitigation and adaptation locally and nationally through its capacity for carbon sequestration and flood alleviation.
- b. Its rurality is reflected in its high carbon emitting housing stock, distance to services and facilities (thereby dis-incentivising active travel), energy grid capacity and challenging access to public transport.

9.2 It is critical then that that the 'just climate transition' is delivered in this area, so that economic and community opportunities that are available across the climate change agenda are exploited and delivered effectively.

10.0 Recommendation

10.1 To note the contents of this report.

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Background papers relied upon in the preparation of this report: - None

For further information contact the author of the report

Key Implications

Local Member

If any particular Ward(s) are affected, state these. If none, say none.
It could be that it is an issue that affects all Wards. In which case tick box

All