

**North Yorkshire County Council**  
**Business and Environmental Services**

**Executive Members**

**24 June 2022**

**DEFRA environmental targets consultation – approval for submission of NYCC response (consultation deadline Monday 27 June 2022)**

**Report of the Assistant Director – Growth, Planning and Trading Standards**

**1.0 Purpose Of Report**

- 1.1 To seek approval from Business and Environmental Services (BES) Executive Members for submission of North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) response to DEFRA consultation on long-term environmental targets associated with the Environment Act 2021

**2.0 Background**

- 2.1 DEFRA is currently consulting on proposals for new long term environmental targets that will be key part of delivering the government’s objectives in the Environment Act 2021 and drive action to protect and enhance the natural world. This consultation was originally due to close in early May (at the same time as the Nature Recovery Green Paper consultation to which NYCC has responded already) but that was subsequently extended until late June due to delayed publication of some supporting material.
- 2.2 The targets consultation includes the following proposals:
- Halt the decline in species by 2030 and then bend the curve to increase species abundance by 10% by 2042. We will create or restore in excess of 500,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitat outside protected sites by 2042, compared to 2022 levels;
  - Reduce residual waste (excluding major mineral wastes) kg per capita by 50% by 2042. It is proposed that this will be measured as a reduction from 2019 levels, which are estimated to be approximately 560 kg per capita;
  - A maximum annual mean concentration of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) 10 µg/m<sup>3</sup> across England by 2040 and a 35% reduction in population exposure to PM2.5 by 2040 (compared to a base year of 2018);
  - Reduce nutrient pollution in water by reducing phosphorus loading from treated wastewater by 80% by 2037 and reducing nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment from agriculture to the water environment by 40% by 2037;
  - Improve our marine environment with 70% of designated features in the MPA network to be in favourable condition by 2042, with the remainder in recovering condition, and additional reporting on changes in individual feature condition; and
  - Increase tree canopy and woodland cover from 14.5% to 17.5% of total land area in England by 2050.

- 2.3 Attached is a draft of proposed NYCC response to this consultation – this has been prepared with input from specialists in ecology and waste, and also informed by a number of workshops and other discussions over recent weeks where aspects of the consultation have been considered. This draft response is presented in the form of a spreadsheet with the questions, options and individual draft responses set out. This proposed response has been reviewed and approved by the AD Growth, Planning and Trading Standards and the BES Executive Director.
- 2.4 If approved by BES Executive Members, the NYCC response will be submitted via the online consultation response platform provided by Defra on Monday 27 June 2022.

### **3.0 Finance**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from responding to the consultation. There may be financial implications of resultant actions to comply with the requirements arising from adoption of the targets by the Government but these will be the subject of a further report at the appropriate time.

### **4.0 Equalities**

- 4.1 None

### **5.0 Legal**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from responding to the consultation. There may be legal implications of resultant actions to comply with the requirements arising from adoption of the targets by the Government but these will be the subject of a further report at the appropriate time

### **6.0 Climate Change**

- 6.1 None directly from this consultation – though in the long term, if these targets are adopted many of them will help deliver national climate change objectives.

<h3><b>7.0 Recommendation</b></h3>
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| <p>7.1 It is recommended that Authorisation be granted for submission of the proposed NYCC consultation response as attached</p> |
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DAVID CAULFIELD, Assistant Director – Growth, Planning and Trading Standards

Author of Report: Hugh Clear Hill, Principal Environmental Policy and Project Officer

Background Documents: Defra consultation on environmental targets:  
[Environment Targets Public Consultation.pdf \(defra.gov.uk\)](#)  
Proposed NYCC consultation response