

Climate change impact assessment

The purpose of this assessment is to help us understand the likely impacts of our decisions on the environment of North Yorkshire and on our aspiration to achieve net carbon neutrality by 2030, or as close to that date as possible. The intention is to mitigate negative effects and identify projects which will have positive effects.

This document should be completed in consultation with the supporting guidance. The final document will be published as part of the decision making process and should be written in Plain English.

If you have any additional queries which are not covered by the guidance please email climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk

Please note: You may not need to undertake this assessment if your proposal will be subject to any of the following:

Planning Permission
 Environmental Impact Assessment
 Strategic Environmental Assessment

However, you will still need to summarise your findings in in the summary section of the form below.

Please contact climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk for advice.

Title of proposal	Transfer of grant funding from Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) to North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) to facilitate the delivery of WiFi and Low Powered Wide Area Network (LPWAN) in the Harrogate District
Brief description of proposal	<p>The proposal is for a Key Decision to accept the transfer of £350k of grant funding from HBC to enable NYCC to facilitate the delivery of Public WiFi and LPWAN in the Harrogate District.</p> <p>This will then form part of a wider programme of work to rollout out Public WiFi and LPWAN across the County. (As part of the North Yorkshire Digital Infrastructure Programme.)</p> <p>HBC have already agreed the transfer of funds to NYCC on 3rd February.</p>

	The transfer will be subject to a Grant funding transfer agreement between HBC and NYCC.
Directorate	Central Services
Service area	Technology & Change
Lead officer	Robert Ling
Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment	Nick Leggott, Business Relationship Manager Jon Savage, Project Manager
Date impact assessment started	25.02.21

Options appraisal

Were any other options considered in trying to achieve the aim of this project? If so, please give brief details and explain why alternative options were not progressed.

The other option considered was to commence a full procurement process for these services (in conjunction with HBC). This was recommended for rejection in lieu of recent feedback from suppliers, the financial benefits associated with integrating delivery of Harrogate connectivity into an already established, wider programme of work, and delivery of a consistent technical architecture across the County as a whole.

The aim of the wider programme of work is to deliver a range of digital infrastructure projects as part of the UK Government funding Getting Building Fund.

What impact will this proposal have on council budgets? Will it be cost neutral, have increased cost or reduce costs?

Please explain briefly why this will be the result, detailing estimated savings or costs where this is possible.

The proposal will be cost neutral on the council budget as the funding is coming from grant funding secured by Harrogate Borough Council to facilitate the delivery Public WiFi and LPWAN. This will form part of a wider digital infrastructure programme that NYCC is managing to delivery Public WiFi and LPWAN across the County. (Services and applications which will have the potential to operate on the infrastructure, will have the benefit to reduce cost to the council over the longer term but will be the subject of individual projects and climate change impact assessments.)

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>No impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes over and above business as usual • Evidence or measurement of effect • Figures for CO₂e • Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>	
<p>Minimise greenhouse gas emissions e.g. reducing emissions from travel, increasing energy efficiencies etc.</p>	<p>Emissions from travel</p>	<p>X</p>			<p>Facilitating the rollout of public WiFi and LPWAN will create opportunities to use the Internet of Things (sensors) to deliver positive impacts on any one of these environmental factors.</p>		<p>NYCC will look to maximise the use of the data from the sensors aligned to the IoT network to reduce vehicle movement across the county</p>
	<p>Emissions from construction</p>			<p>X</p>	<p>Some emissions from construction vehicles</p>	<p>Where possible – ensure that vehicle mileage is reduced by planning vehicle movements / diversion routes etc</p>	
	<p>Emissions from</p>		<p>X</p>				

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	running of buildings						
	Other		X				
<p>Minimise waste: Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost e.g. reducing use of single use plastic</p>		X					
<p>Reduce water consumption</p>		X					
<p>Minimise pollution (including air, land, water, light and noise)</p>		X					
<p>Ensure resilience to the effects of climate change e.g. reducing flood risk, mitigating effects of drier, hotter summers</p>		X					

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Enhance conservation and wildlife		X				
Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of North Yorkshire's landscape		X				
Other (please state below)						

Are there any recognised good practice environmental standards in relation to this proposal? If so, please detail how this proposal meets those standards.

When implemented, IoT devices can provide significant energy savings by, for example, turning on streetlights only when they're needed or alerting water processing plants when there is a leak, saving precious natural resources.

There are numerous articles outlining how IoT can support environmental issues and, as part of the Council's strategy to become carbon neutral by 2030, these will be explored alongside using IoT to deliver more efficient, effective and higher quality services.

Examples of informative articles:

<https://www.greenjournal.co.uk/2019/09/iot-devices-helping-the-environment/>

<https://smartwatermagazine.com/news/temboo/why-environmental-monitoring-iot-could-solve-climate-crisis-0>

Summary

The proposal to accept the grant funding transfer will facilitate the delivery of public WiFi and LPWAN in the Harrogate district.

This improved connectivity will enable the development and delivery of other projects utilising IoT that may have a more positive impact on climate change such as the monitoring of highways to ensure the efficient use of scarce resources, or better monitoring of air and light pollution to enable application which will adjust usage to bring down those impacts. Some negative impacts will be created in the build phase of this project but they should be minimal but more than offset by future projects that may utilise these networks.

Sign off section

This climate change impact assessment was completed by:

Name	Jon Savage
Job title	Project Manager
Service area	Technology & Change
Directorate	Central Services
Signature	Jon Savage
Completion date	03.03.21

Authorised by relevant Assistant Director (signature): 

Date: 04th March 2021