

North Yorkshire Council

Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee

17 March 2025

Climate Change Activity in the Richmond (Yorks) Area

Report of the Corporate Director Environment

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on recent climate change activities that have taken place in the Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee area.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report presents an update of the climate change activities that have taken place in the Richmond (Yorks) area. It highlights activity that has taken place in 2024 and provides an indication of expected activities in 2025. The following report includes information on support that NYC has provided to local activities to support the delivery of the climate change strategy. The purpose of the report is to provide an update, and there are no recommendations.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 North Yorkshire Council's Climate Change Strategy was approved by Executive in July 2023 in response to the declared climate emergency. The council's Climate Change Delivery Pathway (CCDP) was approved by Executive on 20 August 2024 and sets out how the Strategy will be delivered.
- 3.2 The council's overall progress on the climate change strategy is reported biannually to the Transport, Economy, Environment and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee, alongside an annual progress report direct to Executive. The most recent Overview and Scrutiny report was made on 17 October 2024.

4.0 UPDATE ON RECENT CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVITY

- 4.1 Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee requested this update report to be included in the committee's work programme to provide a local view of climate change activity, for members' information.

4.2 Climate Change Strategy: Governance

4.2.1 Regional greenhouse gas emissions:

As reported at October's Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting, regional greenhouse gas emissions across North Yorkshire were 5,714 ktCO₂e in 2022 (this is the most recently available data). This is an overall 31% decrease since 2005, and 5% lower than 2021.

4.2.2 Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority:

In the Richmond (Yorks) area, NYC proactively work with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and are providing a response to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan. Collaborative working is also underway to support regional climate change targets, such as the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority's Route map to carbon negative refresh.

4.2.3 North Yorkshire Council carbon footprint:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the 2023/24 operational carbon footprint (the first year of North Yorkshire Council’s operations) which was 31,663.98 tCO₂e. This includes fleet fuel consumption, heating, electricity, and certain “Scope 3” emissions which fall outside the direct control of the organisation but are a direct consequence of our operations, in this case business mileage in employee vehicles, and various transmission losses and “well to tank” emissions from supplied energy.

4.2.4 Carbon Disclosure Project:

In September 2024 the council for the first time submitted a response to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP). This internationally recognised scheme is a voluntary reporting and accountability platform for local governments, investors, and companies to help them understand their impact and act. The council’s submission is now being independently assessed, and the results are awaited. It is anticipated that they will provide a benchmark score on our activity, including identifying areas for improvement.

4.2.5 Council Climate Scorecards:

The council has also provided information (principally via freedom of information requests) to the campaign group Climate Emergency UK for the completion of their Council Climate Scorecards process. A score and “league table” of all councils will be published in 2025.

4.2.6 Community engagement:

In the Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee area regular liaison has taken place between council officers and the wider community, for example:

- Richmond Climate Action Partnership (RiCAP) – officer time to support the information distributed through the Eco Fair held at Richmond School. Officers provided information on sustainable travel, air quality, and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The Eco Fair was attended by many organisations, including CPRE (The Countryside Charity), Buglife, North Yorkshire Rotters, Just the Job & Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).
- Officers have also supported community groups to administer funding through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Details on the community groups that have been supported are included in section 3.3.2.

4.3 Mitigation: reducing greenhouse gas emissions

4.3.1 Various placed-based decarbonisation and climate mitigation projects are underway in the Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee area as a result of support and funding facilitated by North Yorkshire Council. Funding from the Devolution Deal Net Zero Fund has supported the following community buildings to decarbonise by funding solar PV:

- Kiplin Hall CIO
- Northdale

4.3.2 UK Shared Prosperity Fund – capital and revenue grants:

11 UKSPF grants have been awarded under the climate change programme within the Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee area, with a value of around £341,000 provided in funding. The businesses and communities that received funding are shown below.

Business

Name of organisation	Project
Rounton Coffee	Roasting Efficiency Project
HECK! Food Ltd	HECK! Food Solar Funding Project for Carbon Reduction
Tea Up Ltd	New Windows & Heat Exchanger
C Milner & Son Ltd	Sustainability Project

Name of organisation	Project
Crathorne Farms	Solar Extension
A R Wholesale Ltd	Solar Panels
Kitchings of Summerfield	Slurry Digestion Electricity Plant
Sayers Property Investments Ltd	Solar Panels
D T Dinsdale & Son	Farm Digester

Community

Name of organisation	Project
Northallerton Town Cricket Club	Insulation & Solar Energy Installation
Carperby Village Institute	Solar Panels Installation

4.3.3 UK Shared Prosperity Fund – community decarbonisation audits:

Specialist audits have been carried out for several community buildings, businesses and elderly people’s care homes under the support element of the UKSPF scheme and an earlier scheme (the Community Renewal Fund). These enabled groups to gain a clear understanding of decarbonisation measures needed for their buildings, some of which have led to successful funding bids. In Richmond (Yorks) area this funding was awarded to the following organisations:

- Gluten Free Kitchen
- Sashless Window Co
- Climate Action Stokesley & Villages
- Great Ayton Methodist Church
- Catterick, Richmond and Colburn Community Libraries
- DL10 4 DOGS
- Northallerton Town Council
- Hambleton Community Action
- Yorkshire Teachers Ltd t/a Principal Teachers

4.3.4 Photovoltaic (PV) panels:

Solar PV arrays have been installed as part of the SPF projects above. There are also solar panels at the following NYC locations:

- Mercury House & Old Lower School
- George Nickling House
- Richmond Pool
- Bedale Leisure Centre

4.3.5 Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCPs):

There is a network of public EVCPs in the Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee area. Chargers managed by NYC in former Hambleton area are offline, but it is expected that these will be brought back online through the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) project. The council will be going out to tender soon to engage a charge point operator for the LEVI project. This will provide charging points across the county, with a focus on delivering in areas where the market otherwise would not, by using public subsidy, while operating under a portfolio approach to ensure that the charge point operator is able to lever in private investment.

Additional EVCPs are scheduled to be installed as part of the Catterick town centre regeneration project.

4.3.6 Housing

Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 2.2

The SHDF wave 2.2 fund has provided a £1,772,000 in grant funding, and NYC have match funded £2,045,107 to retrofit council owned housing stock. This programme will retrofit 150 homes, with 75 completed by March 2025 (6 in Richmond confirmed) and 75 completed by March 2026. Properties for completion before 2026 are currently being identified.

4.3.6.1 NYC have applied for the Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund wave 3 and have a target to retrofit a total of 1406 homes. For Richmond, this includes 55 off gas homes, and 301 on gas homes. It is expected that a confirmation of how much funding will be awarded by DESNZ will be received in March 2025.

4.3.6.2 Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) 2 and Warm Homes Fund.

The Home Upgrade Grant was put in place to help homes without mains gas supply, with poor quality insulation or inefficient heating systems. Applications for the grant scheme closed on 30 September 2024. 94 properties across former Richmondshire (28) and former Hambleton (66) benefitted from measures installed by the programme. This includes insulation, air source heat pumps, electric storage heating and solar PV. Some house received multiple measures.

Yr2 to date (April 2024 to March 2025)	Richmondshire	Hambleton
Properties Complete	28	66
Measures Installed	64	130
Carbon Savings	92.27	209.02
Cost Savings	£24,065	£50,420
Value of works	£616,834.45	£1,246,771.83
Hard to treat	7	11
Number of properties EPC improvements to C or above	16	46

4.3.6.3 The delivery of HUG2 has been successful and the team have exceeded the initial target of delivery. This has allowed NYC to develop a strong pipeline of properties that can benefit from the new funding scheme, the Warm Homes Fund: Local Grant. NYC have requested £9.5million per year for three years across the county to upgrade privately owned homes for low-income households. The target is to upgrade 540 homes a year. NYC are awaiting a decision on the amount of funding allocated.

The Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD) programme

4.3.6.4 The LEAD programme runs until March 2025 and it provides a home survey and a free home energy plan. In Richmond (Yorks), it was open in the following locations:

- Stokesley and villages, including:
 - East Harlsey
 - East Rounton
 - Great and Little Broughton
 - Hutton Rudby
 - Ingleby Arncliffe
 - Ingleby Greenhow
 - Kirkby
 - Middle-on-leven
 - Sexhow
 - Seamer
 - Skutterskelfe
- Great Ayton
- Potto

4.3.6.5 The project has carried out 151 home assessments out of a target of 175, and has provided advice to 274 people, which is over 24 over the target of 250.

4.3.6.6 In the Hambleton area, the LEAD project delivered 43 home reports.

Big Community Switch Scheme

Anyone who pays a household energy bill and who is interested in saving money by switching energy suppliers can register for free to the Collective energy switching. We are provided with countywide reports, that do not reflect localities. On the autumn auction (Oct/Nov) we had 868 residents registered and 108 accepted the offer, which was £129 below the Ofgem Price Cap, fixed for 12 months and based on 100% renewable electricity.

4.3.7 Local active travel improvements:

- Officers have supported active travel initiatives along Darlington Road in Richmond, supported by RiCAP. Air quality monitors are expected to be installed by NYC on 7th March and the climate change business partner for CYPS is working to engage schools along Darlington road to encourage active travel.
- The Catterick Town Centre regeneration project aims to create better links to the new town square, Princes Gate and Gough Road, and a cycle path link to Catterick Integrated Care Campus and Catterick South. The project aims to improve the paths and cycle ways.
- LCWIPs aim to provide a long-term strategic approach to identifying cycling and walking improvements at a local level. LCWIPs have been developed for the following areas:
 - Catterick and Catterick Garrison
 - Northallerton

4.3.8 Schools climate change engagement:

The council's energy team continues to provide learning sessions and teacher training and schools support on energy and climate change.

4.3.8.1 NYC engaged with Richmond Methodist School on clean air day in 2024 to run a poster competition. The prize was donated by Richmondshire Climate Action Partnership and school children illustrated ideas on their posters to increase active travel along Darlington road. Ideas depicted on the posters included walking buses, cycling, public transport and switching off car engines when waiting outside school. The judges were assisted in their decision making by the school's eco group. 65 poster entries were received, and winners were agreed based on their poster.

5.0 ADAPTATION: PREPARING FOR THE CHANGING CLIMATE

5.1 As a result of climate change, the Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee area can expect to see weather changes in line with wider regional projections, specifically, hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters. Extreme weather events such as intense rainfall and heatwaves are likely to become more frequent. That is why it is important to better understand the future impacts of climate change, to identify steps we can take to adapt to, or be better prepared and resilient to the effects of climate change for our communities and Council operations.

5.2 In 2024, there were 47 flood alerts issued for the Richmond (Yorks) AC area, with 20 flood warnings across Richmondshire.

5.3 Work to develop an Adaptation section of the CCDP will be concluded in 2025 and this is now the Climate Change Team's current focus for policy development. The Council is working alongside the Combined Authority who will be commissioning a comprehensive Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment for North Yorkshire. This will identify detailed geographical areas of risk for climate change and will provide an evidence base for developing an Adaptation Strategy.

6.0 SUPPORTING NATURE

6.1 These sections summarise the activities that the Parks and Grounds service have carried out to support biodiversity.

6.2 The Parks and Grounds team have planted perennial beds within the Friary Gardens and over 10,00 daffodils in various locations across the county. Over 20,000 bulbs have been planted at County Hall, but across the county the team have planted over 100,000. The Parks and Grounds service proactively encourage rewilding, where appropriate to support biodiversity. There is a programme of planned tree planting across Parks and Grounds in the Richmond (Yorks) area.

6.3 Additionally, the team are implementing biological control to treat pests and reduce the use of chemicals in glasshouse production for floral bedding displays.

7.0 CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES

7.1 The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and pledged to play its part in tackling the causes and impacts of climate change.

7.2 The activities outlined above contribute towards the council climate change strategy objectives, and deliver the following specific Council Plan ambitions:

- Place and Environment:
 - A clean, environmentally sustainable and attractive place to live, work and visit
 - A well connected and planned place with good transport links and digital connectivity
 - Communities are supported and work together to improve their local area
 - Good quality, affordable and sustainable housing that meets the needs of our communities
- Economy
 - Economically sustainable growth that enables people and places to prosper
 - Culture, heritage, arts and sustainable tourism all play their part in the economic growth of the county
- Health and Wellbeing
 - People are supported to have a good quality of life and enjoy active and healthy lifestyles
 - Reduced variations in health through tackling the root causes of inequality
- People
 - In times of hardship, support is provided to those that need it most
- Organisation
 - A carbon neutral council

8.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 The recommendation is to note the information in this report, alternative options have not been considered.

9.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 As this report is for information only, there are no financial implications.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 As this report is for information only, there are no legal implications.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

12.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

12.1 This report outlines a number of positive carbon reduction and associated initiatives in the Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee area. A Climate Change Impact Assessment is not required as the recommendation is to note this for information only.

13.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 This report outlines some of the local activity being undertaken to address climate change, contributing towards the council's climate change strategy objectives. The activities described above enable the council as an organisation, as well as residents, communities and businesses in the Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee area, to make climate responsible choices.

14.0 RECOMMENDATION

14.1 It is recommended that the Richmond (Yorks) Area Committee notes the recent climate change activities which are outlined in this report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

[North Yorkshire Council Climate Change Strategy](#)

[Transport, Economy, Environment and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee, report on the CCDP, 17 October 2024](#)

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27 February 2025

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Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.