

North Yorkshire Council

Environment Executive Members

22 August 2025

North Yorkshire Council's Submission to Carbon Disclosure Project

Report of the Assistant Director – Environment and Transport

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Corporate Director Environment and Executive Member for Managing our Environment with a briefing on North Yorkshire Council's submission to the Carbon Disclosure Project; and to delegate authority to the Assistant Director - Environment and Transport to approve the 2025 submission, and future submissions, in consultation with the Executive Member for Managing our Environment

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 CDP (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project) is a global non-profit organisation that assists companies, investors, local authorities, cities, states and regions to assess their environmental impact. Disclosing through this project is voluntary however it supports the council by:
- Improving transparency by reporting climate data publicly
 - Benchmarking performance across Local Authorities
 - Providing insights and resources to set and meet climate targets whilst identifying existing gaps
 - Providing relevant mitigation and adaptation tools and services
 - Providing an opportunity to develop targets year-on-year
- 2.2 The Environment Directorate's climate change action plan includes the action (6.2.1) to participate in CDP under the strategic aim to measure and report our carbon footprint and proactively engage wider community. The 2025 CDP submission deadline is 17 September 2025.

3.0 REVIEW OF 2024 AND OUTLINE 2025 CDP SUBMISSION

- 3.1 The council's first submission to CDP was in 2024. The result was a 'B' grade which is the highest outcome the council could obtain as an 'A' grade requires a climate adaptation strategy to be in place - which is a piece of work currently in progress. As such we anticipate achieving the same grade in this year's submission.
- 3.2 A briefing note on the 2025 disclosure, is attached as Appendix A.

4.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Not disclosing to CDP and not briefing the Corporate Director and Executive Member is rejected, because a commitment to participate is included in the council's Climate Change Delivery Pathway. The briefing (Appendix A) allows the Corporate Director and Executive Member to be kept informed of key developments and outcomes from this process.

4.2 Not delegating authority to Assistant Director - Environment and Transport to approve the final version of this and future submissions is rejected because it is more effective and efficient for final sign off to sit with the Assistant Director, due to the length and nature of the information in the submission. As per 9.3 below, the Corporate Director and Executive Member will be kept informed of the process via briefings where required.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications as a result of responding to CDP. Disclosing does not incur the council any cost apart from officer time to complete the submission.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There is no legal obligation imposed on Local Authorities to publicly report this information. The sharing of the data will be in line with UK GDPR requirements. Much of the data included in the submission is already in the public domain and where necessary, permission to disclose will be obtained from data owners.

7.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has been carried out and is attached as Appendix B. Approving and submitting this consultation response will not have an impact on people with protected characteristics, so a full EIA is not required.

7.2 There are instances in the disclosure where inequalities are highlighted. A description of the council's efforts to quantify and ensure equitable and inclusive distribution of climate action is referenced within the submission. Risks associated with the transition to a low-carbon economy are identified within section 1.3.5.

7.3 There is also a requirement to report on the most significant climate hazards identified to impact North Yorkshire. Included in this section is the need to identify vulnerable population groups exposed to these threats.

8.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 A Climate Change Impact Assessment (CCIA) screening has been carried out and is attached as Appendix C. Participating in CDP does not have a direct significant climate change impact, so a full CCIA is not required. The submission will improve the council's understanding and monitoring of performance in strategic and operational climate leadership.

9.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Officers are preparing a response to the CDP disclosure platform in advance of the 2025 deadline. The disclosure allows progress on the council's decarbonisation efforts to be monitored and independently assessed in a consistent way, enabling benchmarking with similar organisations.

9.2 The attached briefing (Appendix A) gives an outline of the council's proposed submission for information and comment. This covers the key headings in the submission and a discussion of the previous 2024 score and other points for information.

9.3 The CDP disclosure is a detailed survey – the 2024 submission was 245 pages long – so to enable efficient and effective completion, it is recommended that authority is delegated to the Assistant Director, Environment and Transport to approve the final submission in advance of the September deadline.

- 9.4 The Corporate Director and Executive Member will be informed of key developments via informal briefings where required. The same process will be carried out for any future submissions.

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To note the attached briefing on North Yorkshire Council's submission to the Carbon Disclosure Project (Appendix A).
- 10.2 That the Corporate Director for Environment delegates authority to the Assistant Director - Environment and Transport to approve the submission for 2025, as well as any future submissions, in consultation with the Executive Member for Managing our Environment.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – Briefing Note: CDP Submission 2025

Appendix B – Equalities Impact Assessment screening

Appendix C – Climate Change Impact Assessment screening

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

Michael Leah
Assistant Director – Environment and Transport
County Hall
Northallerton
22.08.25

Report Author – John Ward-Campbell, Climate Change Business Partner
Presenter of Report – Shaun Berry, Head of Sustainability and Environment

Briefing Note: CDP Submission 2025 - August 2025

1.0 Introduction

CDP (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project) is a global non-profit organisation that assists companies, investors, local authorities, cities, states and regions to assess their environmental impact.

In 2024 the council participated for the first time, scoring a 'B' grade, and a further submission is planned in 2025. This briefing gives an overview of the CDP disclosure topics and the projected score for 2025.

The CDP website is cdp.net/en/disclosure-2025

2.0 Disclosure summary

2.1 Overview of modules

The CDP disclosure is based on five modules:

- i. **Governance:** The council's oversight of climate issues, ensuring equitable access to climate action benefits, and collaboration with other government levels.
- ii. **Assessment:** Development of climate risk and vulnerability assessments, identification of major climate hazards, and the council's capacity to adapt. It also includes greenhouse gas emissions inventories and sector-specific data.
- iii. **Targets:** Addresses the council's climate goals, including emissions reduction and sector-specific targets (e.g. energy, transport).
- iv. **Planning:** Involves the council's climate strategies and policies, including environmental plans and emissions from procurement and consumption.
- v. **Actions:** Details current and planned adaptation and mitigation efforts, including financial planning and climate-related investments.

2.2 Module 1: Governance

- Climate Change has been identified as the most significant risk on the council's corporate risk register since November 2022.
- The risk register recognises that failure to deliver the council's aim to achieve carbon neutrality would contribute towards damaging events e.g. floods, heat waves, unmet public expectation and missed opportunities for energy spend reduction.
- The council's most significant engagement with other levels of government on climate action is with the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority, Yorkshire and Humber Climate Coalition, White Rose Forest and the North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub.

2.3 Module 2: Assessment

- The most significant climate-related hazards considered in the council's response include coastal and river flooding, extreme weather, biodiversity loss and coastal erosion.
- The most significant factors impacting the council's ability to adapt to climate change include among others, housing, access to mobility and transport and other services, budgetary capacity and infrastructure conditions.
- Community-wide emissions inventory reporting is provided by the online SCATTER tool which is recommended for use by CDP and DNZES.

2.4 Module 3: Targets

The council's emission reduction (mitigation) targets are taken from the climate change strategy, namely for the council's own operations to be carbon neutral by 2030, and to support the ambition to achieve a region-wide ambition to be net zero by 2034 and carbon negative by 2040.

Under climate adaptation, no target is reported yet as the council is currently developing the climate adaptation strategy (this limits the maximum potential CDP grade to 'B').

Other energy-related and environment- related targets are included, based on the York & North Yorkshire Routemap to Carbon Negative, as follows:

- Increase installed anaerobic digestion (AD) generation capacity by 14MW by 2030 and 16MW by 2038.
- Retrofit 180,000 homes to at least EPC C rating by 2030, and 250,000 homes by 2038.
- Deploy rooftop solar PV on 70,000 homes by 2030 and 101,000 by 2038.
- Install 3,161 public EVCP's by 2030 – The council are responsible for 50% of these installations the others are to be privately funded.
- Plant 37,000 hectares of new woodland by 2038.

2.5 Module 4: Planning

Various environmental plans, policies, and strategies will be disclosed in the Planning module, including: Air Quality Action Plan, Local Flood Risk Strategy, National Landscapes' and National Parks' management plans, North Yorkshire Council Health and Adult Services Climate Action Plan, Emergency planning and the Local Nature Recovery Strategies, Local Transport Plan and Waste Management Strategies.

2.6 Module 5: Actions

Several adaptation actions currently being undertaken are included:

- Local Flood Risk Strategy Action Plan
- A59 Kex Gill project – adaptation made for land instability.
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Shoreside Power feasibility study
- White Rose Forest and other woodland creation projects
- York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority Adaptation Plan (this ongoing study will identify the specific vulnerabilities of York and North Yorkshire and will enable effective measures to be implemented that enhance the region's resilience.)
- The most significant mitigation actions currently being undertaken include:
- Social Housing Fund (£21.9m) and warm Homes Local Grant (£5.9m) funding for housing decarbonisation projects
- Investigating options for a Strategy Energy Partnership to accelerate the move towards net zero at a local level by leveraging in commercial investment at scale
- Various transport decarbonisation initiatives such as the development of council's fleet decarbonisation strategy (feasibility study), grey fleet reduction study; North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan & Local Walking and Cycling Plans; Bus Service Improvement Plan and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy
- Delivery of over £3m in Shared Prosperity Fund for community and business-based decarbonisation projects
- Various corporate property initiatives including decarbonisation audits for energy intensive sites and energy efficiency and renewable energy installations on key properties such as leisure centres.

3.0 2024 Grade

The 2024 'B' grade places the council in the second-highest category, indicating that we gather data on the main risks and impacts of climate change and take action to adapt to and reduce these effects. 'B' graded jurisdictions are deemed to work collaboratively with key stakeholders to understand risks and impacts and have plans in place to mitigate and/or adapt to climate change.

CDP have been unable yet to give a more detailed analysis of participants' scores from 2024, but we are on a waiting list to gain further feedback if their resources allow. CDP have confirmed that feedback reports will be available to 2025 participants.

4.0 Projected 2025 Score

Key elements of our submission will remain the same as 2024, with greater emphasis on progress with the adaptation work to date, so it is reasonable to assume we will again achieve a 'B' grade in this round of disclosure.

The deadline for submissions is 17 September 2025.

Briefing note prepared by John Ward-Campbell, Climate Change Business Partner

Initial equality impact assessment screening form This form records an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to a proposal, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.			
Directorate	Environment		
Service area	Climate Change		
Proposal being screened	Agreement to delegate authority to the Assistant Director Environment and Transport to approval the final submission to CDP in 2025 and future years.		
Officer(s) carrying out screening	John Ward-Campbell		
What are you proposing to do?	Disclose North Yorkshire's carbon reduction efforts through the CDP platform.		
Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?	To enable external monitoring and assessment of the council's climate change related activity.		
Does the proposal involve a significant commitment or removal of resources? Please give details.	No		
<p>Impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYC's additional agreed characteristics As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics? Does the proposal relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important? Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the proposal relates to? <p>If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be an adverse impact or you have ticked 'Don't know/no info available', then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate. You are advised to speak to your directorate representative for advice if you are in any doubt.</p>			
Protected characteristic	Potential for adverse impact		Don't know/No info available
	Yes	No	
Age		x	
Disability		x	
Sex		x	
Race		x	
Sexual orientation		x	
Gender reassignment		x	
Religion or belief		x	
Pregnancy or maternity		x	
Marriage or civil partnership		x	
People in rural areas		x	

People on a low income		x		
Carer (unpaid family or friend)		x		
Are from the Armed Forces Community		x		
Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities/probable impacts (for example, disabled people's access to public transport)? Please give details.	No			
Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate? (for example, partners, funding criteria, etc.). Do any of these organisations support people with protected characteristics? Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.	No			
Decision (Please tick one option)	EIA not relevant or proportionate:	x	Continue to full EIA:	No
Reason for decision	Submitting a disclosure to CDP will not have an impact on people with protected characteristics			
Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)	Michael Leah			
Date	07/08/2025			

OFFICIAL

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Initial Climate Change Impact Assessment (Form created August 2021)

The intention of this document is to help the council to gain an initial understanding of the impact of a project or decision on the environment. This document should be completed in consultation with the supporting guidance. Dependent on this initial assessment you may need to go on to complete a full Climate Change Impact Assessment. The final document will be published as part of the decision-making process.

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

Title of proposal	North Yorkshire Council’s Submission to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP)
Brief description of proposal	Delegation of authority to the Assistant Director Environment and Transport to approve the final submission to CDP in 2025 and future years.
Directorate	Environment
Service area	Climate Change
Lead officer	John Ward-Campbell
Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment	

The chart below contains the main environmental factors to consider in your initial assessment – choose the appropriate option from the dropdown list for each one.

Remember to think about the following.

- Travel
- Construction
- Data storage
- Use of buildings
- Change of land use
- Opportunities for recycling and reuse

Appendix C

Environmental factor to consider	For the council	For the county	Overall
Greenhouse gas emissions	No effect on emissions	No Effect on emissions	No effect on emissions
Waste	No effect on waste	No effect on waste	No effect on waste
Water use	No effect on water usage	No effect on water usage	No effect on water usage
Pollution (air, land, water, noise, light)	No effect on pollution	No effect on pollution	No effect on pollution
Resilience to adverse weather/climate events (flooding, drought etc)	No effect on resilience	No effect on resilience	No effect on resilience
Ecological effects (biodiversity, loss of habitat etc)	No effect on ecology	No effect on ecology	No effect on ecology
Heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape

If any of these factors are likely to result in a negative or positive environmental impact then a full climate change impact assessment will be required. It is important that we capture information about both positive and negative impacts to aid the council in calculating its carbon footprint and environmental impact.

Decision (Please tick one option)	Full CCIA not relevant or proportionate:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Continue to full CCIA:	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reason for decision	Approving and submitting the CDP response will help the council assess and understand its current climate related activities but it will not have a direct climate impact.					
Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)	Michael Leah					
Date	07/08/2025					