

# North Yorkshire Council

## Environment Directorate

### Beyond Carbon Decision

07 August 2025

#### Beyond Carbon Pump Priming Budget

#### Report of the Climate Change Strategy Manager

#### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To note Beyond Carbon (BC) Budget allocation to date
- 1.2 To provide detail on the current bids to the Beyond Carbon Budget
- 1.3 To seek consultee Members' views on the use of the fund

#### 2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members previously allocated £1 million revenue to support delivery of the NYCC Carbon Reduction Plan for Officers to 'bid' to internally. Of this, £162,441 remains currently unallocated. In addition, £275k has been transferred into the Beyond Carbon reserve from legacy reserves. None of this additional funding has been allocated to date.
- 2.2 In line with the terms of reference and governance of the Beyond Carbon funding allocation. Officers make bids to the fund with project proposals which seek to support operational greenhouse gas reduction. To date:
  - 16 projects have already been approved, totalling £837,559.
  - One project is pending approval, totalling £42,000. If approved, the remaining available funding would equate to £395,359

#### 3.0 REPORT

- 3.1 The budget position is set out in Appendix A. As previously detailed, to date, £837,559 has been allocated.
- 3.2 The proposal for consideration is detailed in full in Appendix B.

##### **IT Function Carbon Model:**

The delivery of a carbon modelling tool that will allow exact carbon reductions to be calculated for new or changed IT services when making associated technology choices. The model will forecast the financial and carbon savings from options associated with each service change. This includes 'off site' cloud storage and the increased use of AI in service delivery, which have 'hidden' cash and carbon costs.

Further iterations of this Carbon Toolkit could be developed beyond this primary application for wider financial savings and carbon impact quantification.

## **4.0 CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Feedback and comments on the bids has been sought from the Beyond Carbon Officer Group on 26 June 2025 and the bid was approved.
- 4.2 The decision will be made by the Assistant Director – Environment and Transport Environmental Services, in accordance with the delegation from the Corporate Director of Environment contained within the Scheme of Sub-Delegation (to be exercised in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules).

## **5.0 CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

- 5.1 Council Plan: A carbon neutral council
- 5.2 North Yorkshire Council Climate Change Strategy: As a Council we will seek to become operationally net zero by 2030.

## **6.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 6.1 Bids are submitted to the Beyond Carbon Pump Priming budget following an agreed process. Therefore, no alternative options were considered.

## **7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 £1 million was set aside to establish the Beyond Carbon Pump Priming budget as part of the 2021/22 NYCC budget. Further to this, £275k has been allocated to the reserve from legacy reserves following LGR.
- 7.2 To date, £837,559 has been allocated which leaves £437,359 remaining. If the contents of this report are approved, £42,000 will be allocated, leaving £395,359 remaining.

## **8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The decision is made by the Assistant Director Environment and Transport Environmental Services in accordance with the delegation from the Corporate Director of Environment contained within the Scheme of Sub-Delegation (to be exercised in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules).
- 8.2 All activities are delivered by the Council and will utilise agreed project management protocols.
- 8.3 Any contracts entered into will be prepared or fully reviewed by the Council's Legal Services and will be in accordance with both the Council's Financial Procedure Rules and Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules. If relevant, contracts will also comply with the Procurement Regulations 2024 and any other legislation.

## **9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no anticipated equalities implications. An Equalities Impact Assessment Screening report is attached at Appendix C.

## **10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 The purpose of the Beyond Carbon Pump Priming Budget is to fund activities which reduce greenhouse gas emissions. All activities are therefore designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change. A Climate Change Impact Assessment is at Appendix D.

## **11.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

11.0 The recommendations will contribute towards the Council's ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030.

## **12.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

12.1 That the budget position is noted.

12.2 That the Assistant Director Environment and Transport Environmental Services (under the Scheme of Delegation), in consultation with the Executive Member for Managing our Environment and the Executive Member for Finance and Resources, approves the proposed bid.

### **APPENDICES:**

Appendix A – Budgetary Position

Appendix B – Bids to the Beyond Carbon Pump Priming Budget Assessment Screening

Appendix C – Equalities Impact

Appendix D - Climate Change Impact Assessment

Jos Holmes  
Climate Change Strategy Manager

County Hall  
Northallerton  
27 June 2025

**Budgetary Position**

	Approved	Pending
Original balance allocated to Beyond Carbon reserve by NYCC	£ 1,000,000	
Additional transfers to Beyond Carbon Reserve from legacy funds	£ 275,000	
<b>Bids:</b>		
Climate Change Policy Officer	£ 115,000	
EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy	£ 49,950	
NYCC fleet EV Car and Van for services to trial	£ 45,480	
NYCC fleet 10 EV pool cars	£ 130,280	
EV home charge point for care and support staff	£ 15,000	
County Hall EVCPs	£ 90,000	
NYCC Supply Chain engagement	£ 22,000	
Communications and engagement	£ 14,100	
Landuse Options	£ 50,000	
UK Subsidy Control Regime for DDNZF bids	£ 6,500	
Ryedale Off Road Charging Scheme match funding	£ 39,249	
Leisure Centre Decarbonisation Plans	£ 80,000	
Fleet Decarbonisation review	£ 60,000	
Property decarbonisation surveys pump priming fund	£ 80,000	
County Hall Geothermal heating feasibility	£ 40,000	
IT Function Carbon Model		£ 42,000
<b>Total Allocated / pending</b>	<b>£ 837,559</b>	<b>£ 42,000</b>
<b>Total Remaining</b>	<b>£ 437,441</b>	<b>£395,441</b>

## Beyond Carbon Bid

### Beyond Carbon Funding Proposal – IT Function Carbon Model

Project / Programme overview			
<b>1. Project Name</b>	<i>IT Function Carbon Model</i>	<b>2. Project Sponsor</b>	<i>Madeline Hoskin</i>
<b>3. Directorate/Service Area</b>	Resources – Technology	<b>4. Project Lead</b>	Silas Holland
<b>5. Carbon reduction result area(s) – indicate all that apply</b>	a) Energy access and power generation b) Transport c) Property, buildings, fixed appliances d) Land use, forestry e) Other		
<b>6. Other Climate result area(s)</b>	a) Increased resilience of people, communities and regions b) Increased resilience of infrastructure, food and water supply c) Awareness, communication and education d) Other		
<b>7. Expected tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (t CO<sub>2</sub> eq) to be reduced or avoided over lifespan of project</b>	<p>The delivery of the technology carbon modelling tool will allow exact carbon reductions to be calculated for new or changed services being delivered and their associated technology choices.</p> <p>To establish a baseline for emissions associated with the technology department as a whole – this is inclusive of scopes 1, 2 and 3. Following the calculation of a baseline, any changes of activities would be input into the product and the emissions impact would be assessed. This adds a further layer of consideration to any decision making. This project will facilitate the delivery of targets outlined in the Directorate Action Plan and allow for a greater understanding of emissions associated with data centre and AI usage – something which regularly asked about and top of some people's agenda.</p> <p>An example and immediate use case would be the swap out of hardware and associated processors from current Intel Core i5 to a more modern AMD Ryzen processor. At present we have limited ability to fully simulate and understand the positive impact of this change should we make it. From current high level estimates its possibly in the region of 567 metric Tons of CO<sub>2</sub> over a 6-year period (as they are swapped out). This would also enable associated spend reduction in relation to reduced energy used to power the devices. Which could be anywhere between £100-400k depending on factors including but not limited to (homeworking Vs corporate site, energy prices etc). At present, undertaking these calculations is difficult and requires niche and specific skills. To enable technology services to bake sustainability by design into the way it undertakes and assesses all activity the technology carbon modelling tool will enables any and all staff to better access these calculations and information.</p>		
<b>8. Project funding requested</b>	£42k	<b>9. Total project cost</b>	£42k
<b>10. Investment cost per t CO<sub>2</sub>eq (investment cost / expected emission reduction)</b>	NA – please see box 7.		
<b>11. Project / Programme Implementation Period</b>	22 weeks following signoff	<b>12. Total lifespan (impacts of investment)</b>	<p>The model is designed to be dynamic and adaptable with a future proofed solution as technologies evolve. This shall be achieved from ongoing updates to emissions factors.</p> <p>There is the potential for return on investment if impacts to emissions are used as part of a holistic approach to decision making.</p>

## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

North Yorkshire Council's Technology department provides critical digital services to a wide range of internal users and external customers. However, delivering these services comes with an environmental cost in the form of carbon emissions across multiple lifecycle stages—covering everything from hardware manufacturing and distribution to operational energy consumption and end-of-life disposal. In light of increasingly ambitious climate targets and a growing emphasis on sustainability reporting, the Council needs a robust, transparent method to quantify and manage these emissions.

The proposed development of a custom carbon model that consolidates data from key sources to establish a comprehensive baseline of the Council's current IT-related emissions will allow for further consideration of decisions made when assessing for potential feasibility of projects. Having a robust model will allow for North Yorkshire Council to 'stand behind' any emissions reduction claims, allowing for potential press releases and good news stories about what we have achieved.

The tool is proposed to include:

- Hardware production (embodied emissions) – covering manufacturing and transport logistics,
- Operational electricity consumption – including end-user devices, data centres, and cooling systems,
- Ancillary IT emissions – capturing overlooked areas like software development, cloud hosting, and printing.
- Third party – support in evaluation of current supply chain and third-party emissions and in assessing impacts of proposed changes

Once an emissions baseline is established, the model will enable scenario analysis, allowing the Council to simulate policy changes and interventions—for example, assessing the carbon impact of different hardware refresh cycles, cloud migrations, or energy-saving measures. With integrated, up to date emission factors (e.g. BEIS), the tool will also remain dynamic and adaptable, providing a future-proofed solution as technologies and sustainability standards evolve.

Some specific work this will support includes, but is not limited too.

- Data centre rationalisation
- Systems consolidation and convergence
- Hardware, refresh and end of life processes
- Data footprint and reduction in size / duplication

This data-driven approach will empower North Yorkshire Council to make cost-effective, environmentally responsible decisions—helping the Technology department balance service delivery, budget constraints, and sustainability goals while ensuring full transparency in emissions reporting.

## 2. CLIMATE CONTEXT

With the addition of a tool to calculate a baseline for current processes NYC will have an enhanced understanding of where it currently stands in terms of emissions associated with current activities. Following any change in activities, or to assess options prior to a change, NYC will be able to use the tool to robustly assess for emissions impacts associated with proposed technical changes. This can add some additional context to an options appraisal.

Further to the above, gaining an understanding around emissions associated with the technology department (e.g data centre usage and AI) is paramount to meeting targets outlined in the Resources Directorate Action Plan. Furthermore, there is a target focusing on personal emissions, and a percentage change from this – use of this tool will allow for a reliable source of personal emissions associated with technology use

Immediate highlighted use cases include, but are not limited too.

- AMD Ryzen hardware processor swap out
- Corporate devices build idle / sleep / wake time changes by service (currently all devices have a 2-hour time after a user logs out before they properly got to sleep)
- Understanding our data footprint and what minimising this means in terms of CO<sup>2</sup> reduction
- Better support and understanding of how to implement the most optimal model for hybrid working
- Better support and visibility in assessing and working with technology supply chains and understanding scope 3 emissions.

### 3. Project / Programme description

The project should be undertaken in 3 - 4 stages

**Stage 1:** Commission work with chosen consultant

**Stage 2:** Provide information to the consultant to facilitate the creation of the tool

**Stage 3:** Test and feedback on the tool

**Stage 4:** Handover of product

### 4. Implementation arrangements

Current proposal received from MyCarbon consultants to create and design the proposed calculation tool.

### 5. Impacts, Outcomes and performance indicators

Expected Impact / Outcome / Result	Indicator	Means of Verification	Baseline	Target	Assumptions
More rigorous and more frequent reporting	Carbon reduction Reporting	Emission reporting	Current technology activities	Rigorous annual emissions report, decision making for projects	Following product deployment calculate baseline of current. Use for all potential projects and as feasibility
Energy and carbon emissions reduction	Affordability Carbon emissions Energy cost saving	Financial model Emission reporting	Current utility cost & carbon output	Reduce emissions Reduce cost of running buildings	Potential savings used to fund further decarbonisation works

## 6. Activities

Activity	Description	Sub-activities	Deliverables
Assess information to send to consultant	What can be sent to produce the calculator	Engage data governance to ensure information shared is appropriate and does not represent either a risk to our security or potential to be used for unintended purpose.	List of sources and contact for information
Production of calculation tool	Calculation tool is produced by consultant and regular catchups to ensure meeting criteria	Monitor progress	First draft of technology carbon modelling
Calculator and baseline	Start to use product to produce baseline and impact of projects	Look for ongoing opportunities	Technology carbon modelling tool

## 7. Timelines and milestones – including critical start / end dates

Milestone	Expected Date	Why is this key? (e.g. legal, funding, contract)
Technology carbon modelling tool	22 weeks following commission	This is the timeframe proposed by the consultant


## 8. HIGH LEVEL RISKS

*Are there any high-level risks that are apparent at this stage, including risks if the project is not delivered and any known risk of undertaking the project?*

Risk Description & Consequence
Council Reputation – if don't reduce emissions to minimum
Finance – reduce energy usage where possible
Public – if publicise with incorrect figures – this tool would mitigate that
Do nothing - If as a department and organisation we continue to do nothing within the space it will continue to place a barrier on the ability to properly assess the environmental impact of technology related change, including the impact of AI.

## 9. APPROVALS

*Confirm below that the submission has been agreed by the following:*

Comments	Signed	Date
<b>Sponsor</b>		
Madeline Hoskin 	M. Hoskin	11/02/2025

<b>Initial equality impact assessment screening form</b> 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.			
<b>Directorate</b>	Environment		
<b>Service area</b>	Environmental Services		
<b>Proposal being screened</b>	Beyond Carbon Pump Priming Budget Review of Funding Bid		
<b>Officer(s) carrying out screening</b>	Jos Holmes		
<b>What are you proposing to do?</b>	Develop a tool to ascertain carbon and financial cost of options available in IT service development and design, including AI		
<b>Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?</b>	To tackle the causes of climate change.		
<b>Does the proposal involve a significant commitment or removal of resources? Please give details.</b>	It seeks internal funding to implement the projects.		
<b>Impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYCC's additional agreed characteristics</b> As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics?</li> <li>Does the proposal relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important?</li> <li>Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the proposal relates to?</li> </ul>			
<b>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 <a href="#">Equality rep</a> for advice if you are in any doubt.</b>			
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	

<b>Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities/probable impacts</b> (e.g. disabled people's access to public transport)? Please give details.	No.			
<b>Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate?</b> (e.g. partners, funding criteria, etc.). <b>Do any of these organisations support people with protected characteristics?</b> Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.	No			
<b>Decision (Please tick one option)</b>	EIA not relevant or proportionate:	X	Continue to full EIA:	
<b>Reason for decision</b>	There are no adverse impacts anticipated.			
<b>Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)</b>	Michael Leah			
<b>Date</b>	XXX			

## 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 [beyond.carbon@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:beyond.carbon@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 the summary section of the form below.

Please contact [beyond.carbon@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:beyond.carbon@northyorks.gov.uk) for advice.

<b>Title of proposal</b>	<b>Beyond Carbon Pump Priming Budget Review of Funding Bids</b>
<b>Brief description of proposal</b>	Develop a tool to ascertain carbon and financial cost of options available in IT service development and design, including AI
<b>Directorate</b>	Environment
<b>Service area</b>	Climate Change
<b>Lead officer</b>	Jos Holmes
<b>Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment</b>	Jos Holmes, Climate Change Strategy Manager
<b>Date impact assessment started</b>	<b>27.06.25</b>

**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.

Bids are submitted to the Beyond Carbon Pump Priming budget following an agreed process. Therefore, no alternative options were considered.

**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 property decarbonisation projects will highlight energy saving activity required and therefore, if implemented, will create an operational saving on energy costs.

How will this proposal impact on the environment?  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.		Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where	No impact (Place a X in the box below where	Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where	Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?  Where possible/relevant please include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes over and above business as usual</li> <li>• Evidence or measurement of effect</li> <li>• Figures for CO<sub>2</sub>e</li> <li>• Links to relevant documents</li> </ul>	Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.	Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.
Minimise <b>greenhouse gas emissions</b> e.g. reducing emissions from travel, increasing energy efficiencies etc.	Emissions from travel	X			Improving access to digital services reduces the need for in person travel.		
	Emissions from construction						
	Emissions from running of buildings						
	Emissions from data storage	X			The proposed tool will calculate the emissions from various IT services choices.		
	Other						
Minimise <b>waste</b> : Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost e.g. reducing use of single use plastic		x			It will support the purchasing choice for hardware and delivery options.		
Reduce <b>water</b> consumption							

<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><b>Positive impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p><b>No impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p><b>Negative impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where</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"> <li>Changes over and above business as usual</li> <li>Evidence or measurement of effect</li> <li>Figures for CO<sub>2</sub>e</li> <li>Links to relevant documents</li> </ul>	<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 <b>pollution</b> (including air, land, water, light and noise)</p>						
<p>Ensure <b>resilience</b> to the effects of climate change e.g. reducing flood risk, mitigating effects of drier, hotter summers</p>						
<p>Enhance <b>conservation</b> and wildlife</p>						
<p>Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of <b>North Yorkshire's landscape</b></p>						
<p>Other (please state below)</p>						

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

**Summary** Summarise the findings of your impact assessment, including impacts, the recommendation in relation to addressing impacts, including any legal advice, and next steps. This summary should be used as part of the report to the decision maker.

IT services are used by every Directorate. Often GHG from the use of IT are 'hidden' such as cloud storage or the increasing use of AI. This tool will help to identify efficiencies in IT service choices and therefore lead to savings of both Ghg and financial costs.

### Sign off section

This climate change impact assessment was completed by:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Jos Holmes</b>
<b>Job title</b>	<b>Climate Change Strategy Manager</b>
<b>Service area</b>	<b>Environmental Services</b>
<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Environment Directorate</b>
<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Completion date</b>	<b>27.06.25</b>

**Authorised by relevant Assistant Director (signature): Michael Leah**

**Date: XXX**