

Notice of a public

Decision Session - Executive Member for Environment and Climate Emergency

To: Councillor Kent and Ravilious (Executive Members)

Date: Tuesday, 12 September 2023

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: The Thornton Room - Ground Floor, West Offices (G039)

AGENDA

Notice to Members – Post Decision Calling In:

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in any item* on this agenda, notice must be given to Democratic Services by **4:00 pm** on **Thursday, 14 September 2023**.

*With the exception of matters that have been the subject of a previous call in, require Full Council approval or are urgent, which are not subject to the call-in provisions. Any called in items will be considered by the Corporate Services, Climate Change & Scrutiny Management Committee.

Written representations in respect of items on this agenda should be submitted to Democratic Services by **5.00 pm** on **Friday, 8 September 2023**.

1. Declarations of Interest (Pages 1 - 2)

At this point in the meeting, the Executive Member is asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest, or other registerable interest, they might have in respect of business on this agenda, if they have not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

[Please see attached sheet for further guidance for Members].

2. Minutes (Pages 3 - 6)

To approve and sign the minutes of the Decision Session held on 5 July 2023.

3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. Members of the public may speak on agenda items or on matters within the remit of the Executive.

Please note that our registration deadlines are set as 2 working days before the meeting, in order to facilitate the management of public participation at our meetings. The deadline for registering at this meeting is 5:00pm on Friday, 8 September 2023.

To register to speak please visit www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings to fill in an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting, please contact Democratic Services. Contact details can be found at the foot of this agenda.

Webcasting of Public Meetings

Please note that, subject to available resources, this meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The meeting can be viewed live and on demand at www.york.gov.uk/webcasts.

During coronavirus, we made some changes to how we ran council meetings, including facilitating remote participation by public speakers. See our updates (www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy) for more information on meetings and decisions.

4. Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission (Pages 7 - 14)
Climate Pledge

This report presents the proposal for City of York Council to become a signatory to the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission's Climate Pledge; and for the Executive Member to confirm they are happy with the proposal.

5. Urgent Business

Any other business which the Executive Member considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer:

Louise Cook

Telephone No- 01904 550131

Email- louise.cook@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

**Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim
własnym języku. (Polish)**

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

 (01904) 551550

Declarations of Interest – guidance for Members

- (1) Members must consider their interests, and act according to the following:

Type of Interest	You must
Disclosable Pecuniary Interests	Disclose the interest, not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Directly Related) OR Non-Registrable Interests (Directly Related)	Disclose the interest; speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Affects) OR Non-Registrable Interests (Affects)	Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting, participate and vote <u>unless</u> the matter affects the financial interest or well-being: (a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interest or well-being of a majority of inhabitants of the affected ward; and (b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest. In which case, speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise do not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.

- (2) Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.
- (3) Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations,

and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Environment and Climate Emergency
Date	5 July 2023
Present	Councillors Kent and Ravilious
In attendance	James Gilchrist, Director of Environment, Transport and Planning Mike Southcombe, Public Protection Manager

1. Declarations of Interest (10:01)

The Executive Members were asked to declare, at this point in the meeting, any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests or any prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests they might have in respect of the business on the agenda. None were declared.

2. Minutes (10:01)

Resolved: That the minutes of the Decision Session held on 8 March 2023 be approved and signed by the Executive Members as a correct record.

3. Public Participation (10:02)

It was reported that there had been three registrations to speak at the session under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

Flick Williams spoke on agenda item 4 – Air Quality – Annual Status Report 2022. She spoke on the importance of clean air before commenting on the increased number of businesses using diesel generators and that their effects on the air quality were not monitored. She requested that the use of generators was considered in air quality assessments and also spoke on accessibility within the city centre.

Cllr Dave Merrett also spoke on agenda item 4. He praised the work completed by air quality Officers but then stated that maximum concentrations of NO₂ have plateaued in some areas, increased in others, and continued to be above the World Health Organisation Guidelines. He then questioned the effectiveness of the previous Air Quality Action Plan and called for an on-street electric vehicle charging pilot scheme.

Geoff Beacon also spoke on agenda item 4. He called for reports to have a note and graphs on the current status of the global climate. He then commented on the location of air quality monitoring stations and asked the Council to do some modelling on the pollution levels at a person level for a more accurate result.

It was reported that there had been one written representation received by the Executive Members.

Steve wrote in regard to agenda item 4. He expressed concerns over the plausibility of York's 2030 carbon zero target in respect of logistics congestion and ongoing delays of introducing a delivery hub operation. He also commented on the effects of heavy traffic across York, the need to repurpose buildings, and called for an increase in the scale of electric cargo bike use.

4. Air Quality - Annual Status Report 2022 (10:15)

The Executive Members considered a report which detailed the latest (2022) air quality monitoring results for York, the progress on achieving measures in York's current Air Quality Action Plan to deliver further improvements in air quality and provided an update on a successful funding bid made to DEFRA's Air Quality Grant Scheme.

The Public Protection Manager outlined the report and noted that:

- There has been a downward trend in nitrogen dioxide concentrations of the past 10+ years.
- There were improvements in air quality in some areas of the Air Quality Management Plan in 2022. Pollutant concentrations in most were broadly similar to 2021 but remained lower than pre-pandemic levels recorded in 2019.
- Most of York had good air quality and met the health-based annual average air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide but it was exceeded in the same three 'technical breach' areas within the city centre, which included the following roads: Gillygate / Bootham / St Leonards Place, Blossom Street and Rougier Street.
- The highest concentration of nitrogen dioxide recorded at a 'relevant location' was on Gillygate and concentrations of particulates remained well within the current health-based air quality objectives for these pollutants.

- City of York Council has progressed with the delivery of measures within York's Third Air Quality Action Plan through the support of electric vehicle infrastructure, amongst other schemes.

He concluded by outlining some of the priorities for the 2023/24 Action Plan and stated that there was a focus on raising awareness of the impact of poor air quality on health.

In response to questions from the Executive Members, the Director for Environment, Transport and Planning, and Public Protection Manager explained that:

- The draft consultation of the Air Quality Action Plan update (AQAP4) was completed but was tied in with other Council corporate plans and awaiting approval. The AQAP4 would also include additional measures, such as DEFRA's new air quality strategy, amongst others.
- Air quality was measured through 9 monitoring stations and around 234 diffusion tube monitoring sites across the city. The monitoring stations presented challenges associated with space/ownership of land and available electricity supply and also cost around £27,000 to purchase alongside the £3,500 maintenance and other service/audit costs.
- Some food street vendors in the city centre use electric supplies, as opposed to diesel generators, and there was a good network of diffusion tubes throughout the centre. There was a project to improve the electricity supply into the footstreets in the city centre, but this has been stalled due to unsuccessful funding.
- The Council have some key performance indicators on modal use in York, which were monitored over extended periods of time. The monitoring methods could also be developed in the future to improve the data that was collected.

Resolved:

- i. That the contents of the report were noted (and the submission of the Annual Status Report to DEFRA was approved), including the generally improving trend in air pollution in recent years, progress made with AQAP3 and progress with updating the current plan in line with the Environment Act 2021, to complement other key CYC strategies.

Reason: To ensure that the Executive Members were aware of current air quality position in the city including continued exceedances of objectives in some areas, progress made with air quality improvement measures and progress with AQAP4.

Cllr Ravilious, Executive Member

[The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 10.34 am].



**Decision Session – Executive Member for
Environment and Climate Change****12/09/2023**

Report of the Assistant Director Policy & Strategy

Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission Climate Pledge**Summary**

1. The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission (YHCC) was established in 2021, bringing together public, private and third sector actors to support, guide and track the delivery of ambitious climate actions across the region. City of York Council (the Council) is a member of YHCC and is represented on the Commission by the Chief Operating Officer.
2. In November 2022, YHCC launched a Climate Action Pledge. The Pledge signals a commitment to acting on climate and nature towards four goals:
 - i. help protect your organisation from climate impacts
 - ii. put your organisation on the road towards net zero
 - iii. boost nature, enhancing our region’s fantastic natural assets
 - iv. promote taking climate action in a fair way that involves everyone
3. The impacts of the climate and ecological emergencies are already being felt in our region and will do so with increasing frequency and intensity in the years to come. By signing the Climate Action Pledge, the Council reaffirms the climate emergency declaration and our commitment for York to be a carbon neutral city by 2030.
4. Signatories of the Climate Action Pledge will benefit from a series of online training modules, signposting and networking with organisations across the region.

Recommendations

5. The Executive Member is asked to:
 - 1) Approve City of York Council becoming a signatory to the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission’s Climate Action Pledge.

Reason: Demonstrate leadership in tackling the climate and nature emergency and reaffirm the council's commitment for York to be carbon neutral.

Background

6. The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission (YHCC) was established in 2021, bringing together public, private and third sector actors to support, guide and track the delivery of ambitious climate actions across the region. City of York Council (the Council) is a member of YHCC and is represented on the Commission by the Chief Operating Officer.
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 - iii. boost nature, enhancing our region's fantastic natural assets
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8. The impacts of the climate and ecological emergencies are already being felt in our region and will do so with increasing frequency and intensity in the years to come. By signing the Climate Action Pledge, the Council reaffirms the climate emergency declaration and our commitment for York to be a carbon neutral city by 2030.
9. Signatories of the Climate Action Pledge will benefit from a series of online training modules, signposting and networking with organisations across the region.
10. By becoming a signatory of the YHCC Climate Action Plan, CYC will reaffirm its declaration of a climate emergency and its position as a leader on taking climate action within the region.
11. In demonstrating leadership and becoming a signatory, the Council will be leading by example and may encourage other organisations across the city to become signatories to the Climate Action Pledge.

Consultation

12. The Climate Change Programme Board has been consulted on the Council becoming a signatory of the Pledge. The recommendation of the Board is for CYC to become a signatory.

13. The Chief Operating Officer has been consulted on their views to CYC becoming a signatory. No issues were raised.

Options

Option 1: Do Nothing – Not signing the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission's Climate Action Pledge.

Option 2: City of York Council becomes a signatory to the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission's Climate Action Pledge.

Analysis

14. There is no cost commitment or savings associated with becoming a signatory to the pledge. Therefore, the financial implications are the same for both options.
15. Additional support services are offered by the Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission to signatories of the Climate Action Pledge. By signing the pledge, City of York Council will have access to this support, assisting our efforts to become net zero by 2030.
16. As a signatory, City of York Council demonstrates its commitment to tackling the climate emergency and shows leadership in this endeavour.
17. As a member organisation of Y&HCC, there is a reputational risk associated with not becoming a signatory.
18. Action being taken by City of York Council aligns with that required as a signatory of the pledge. No additional capacity or resource would be required to meet the requirements of the pledge.

Council Plan

19. The commitments within the pledge align with the Council's priorities or protecting the environment, affordability, improving health and wellbeing and equalities and human rights.

Implications

- **Financial** – There are no financial implications
- **Human Resources (HR)** - There are no HR implications
- **Equalities** - There are no equalities implications

- **Legal** - There are no Legal implications
- **Crime and Disorder** - There are no crime and disorder implications
- **Information Technology (IT)** - There are no IT implications
- **Property** - There are no property implications
- **Other** - None

Risk Management

20. Reputational risk associated with not becoming a signatory, while the Leader of CYC is a Vice-Chair of YHCC.

Contact Details

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Claire Foale
Assistant Director Policy & Strategy

Report Approved Date 01/09/2023

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Annex A - Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission: Climate Action Pledge

List of Abbreviations Used in this Report:

CYC – City of York Council

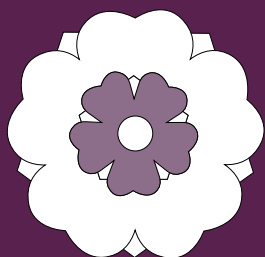
YHCC – Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission

YORKSHIRE & HUMBER CLIMATE ACTION PLEDGE

Make a public commitment to taking action on climate and nature

Reduce your business risk and unlock the opportunities of a green economy

Share your progress with other Yorkshire & Humber businesses and organisations



Sign the pledge at:

www.climateactionpledge.org.uk



Introducing the Climate Action Pledge

The Yorkshire & Humber Climate Action Pledge is a simple commitment to acting on climate and nature that we're asking businesses and organisations across the region to sign. It's suitable for all shapes and sizes of organisation, and for those who are already taking steps to be greener or right at the start of a learning journey.

The Yorkshire & Humber Climate Action Pledge

As a business / organisation proud to operate in Yorkshire and the Humber, we are committed to playing our part in tackling the climate emergency and enhancing nature in order to make the region a happier, healthier and more sustainable place for both current and future generations. In support of this, and in line with the broad objectives of the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Action Plan, we commit to taking action to:

- Become 'climate ready' – adapting to our changing climate, becoming resilient to future impacts.
- Reduce our carbon emissions, with the goal of reaching 'net zero'.
- Enhance nature and biodiversity.
- Help promote a just transition that leaves no-one and nowhere behind.

We agree that action will be most effective if it is carried out according to four principles:

Strong leadership

Action on climate and nature will be a top priority within our business / organisation, with leadership on climate and nature. We will seek to understand how climate impacts on our corporate risks and develop a strategy that responds to that knowledge. We will also develop tangible targets that we will regularly monitor and report on publicly.

Engaged workforce

We will engage our employees in how we develop action on climate and nature. This means we will build environmental awareness and climate literacy, benefiting the whole region, and enabling our employees to have a voice in shaping fair climate actions both in the workplace and wider society. This forms part of our broader commitment to providing good quality, secure jobs with decent pay; inclusive and fair policies and practices; and effective employee engagement.

Engaged stakeholders

Climate and nature will inform how we work with others – especially our suppliers, customers or service users and communities. We will do what we can to raise awareness and build broader capacities for climate action across the region through our day-to-day activities and interactions.

Fairness and inclusion

It is important that individuals and communities aren't left behind by the changes that will happen in our region to respond to climate change. We will play our part in helping to ensure fairness is at the heart of climate action.

By signing this pledge, we commit to taking action and putting these four principles into practice across our business / organisation, to work with other signatories to share learning and best practice and to regularly share updates on our progress with the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission.

The details

The Climate Action Pledge is starting a 'sprint' of focused action on climate across our region. We want to see a year of progress in 2023 that puts us on the road to net zero, that helps protect our economy from climate impacts and that boosts nature, enhancing our region's fantastic natural assets. It's an opportunity for organisations and businesses to join in a movement for a greener, more secure and prosperous Yorkshire & Humber.

Who is it for?

The Climate Action Pledge has been designed to be applicable to as many businesses and organisations across our region as possible, from SMEs to our largest businesses, from local third sector bodies to NHS Trusts.

How does the Climate Action Pledge work?

After signing the pledge, businesses and organisations will be asked about their progress so far in tackling climate and nature issues on a simple tick box scale. This will enable us to categorise organisations into one of three tiers:

Signatories: Those who have signed and pledged to take action.

Achievers: Those who already have a plan in place for one or more of our four areas of focus.

Leaders: During 2023, we will work with those businesses and organisations that appear to be most advanced to develop criteria for Climate Leaders.

The questions will be asked again at the beginning of 2024 to help track progress.

What support will be available to signatories?

The Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission is seeking to develop a Climate Leadership Programme – a series of online training modules that will help support those who take the pledge. In the meantime, we will signpost signatories to existing support services and tools that we identify.

We will also be developing opportunities for business engagement and networking, sharing the best practice from around the region and encouraging peer support.

What makes this Pledge different?

There are other climate pledge schemes – but they tend to focus on cutting carbon emissions alone – and that's not the only action we need to take. Our pledge also asks businesses and organisations to get ready for a changing climate through addressing risks and becoming more resilient, and to start taking actions to help tackle our nature and biodiversity crisis.

It's also about working together for Yorkshire & Humber – helping make sure our region is climate ready and able to take advantage of the opportunities of a greener economy. The Climate Action Pledge encourages businesses and organisations to consider how their action can influence people and partners they work with, and places they work in – cascading impacts from business to business as well as business to community from Huddersfield to Hull.

How will businesses and organisations be assessed?

The Climate Action Pledge is a public commitment to taking action that aims to create a movement for change. We will be relying on businesses and organisations to provide honest, self-assessed feedback on their progress. During the year we will define criteria for climate leadership and a simple process that will allow a limited number of pioneering organisations to be identified as Yorkshire & Humber's Climate Leaders. Our scheme is focused on growing the number of organisations taking action on climate, and deepening and broadening that action over time, rather than grading or certifying individual businesses.



Why sign the pledge?

You will be joining a growing movement of organisations across Yorkshire & Humber who recognise that we need to take action to protect our region from climate impacts and unlock the benefits of a green economy.

You will be working towards getting climate-ready. The impacts of the climate and ecological emergencies are already being felt in our region. Extreme weather like flooding and heatwaves has damaged premises and hit productivity – and will do so with increasing frequency and intensity in the years to come.

You will send a clear message. Cutting your carbon emissions and working towards net zero is essential. Your customers, service users and employees will expect it. By signing the Climate Action Pledge, you will demonstrate to your customers, clients and staff that you are a responsible organisation determined to make a difference. Signatories will be listed on the Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission website.

You will benefit from working together. We are aiming to bring pledge signatories together to network, learn from each other and support collective action.

Who's backing the Climate Action Pledge?

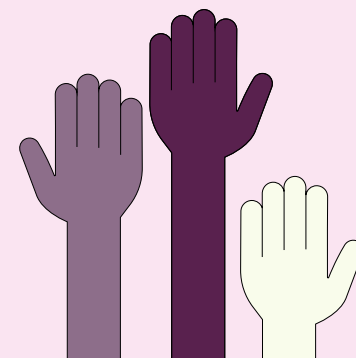
The Yorkshire & Humber Climate Action Pledge has been developed by The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission: an independent advisory body set up to bring actors from the public, private and third sectors together to support and guide ambitious climate actions across the region.

The Commission developed the region's Climate Action Plan with the help of more than 500 people from across the region. The development of a pledge for businesses and organisations was identified as a key action in the Plan.

The Commission's work has been supported by the Yorkshire and Humber Leaders Board and by the leaders of councils across the region. It has also been developed with the support of the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water, Northern Powergrid, Northern Gas Networks, the TUC, Yorkshire Universities, Yorkshire Building Society, and the University of Leeds.

The Yorkshire & Humber Climate Action Pledge launched in November 2022. Some of the first signatories include:

The Environment Agency, Full Circle Funerals, Harrogate Borough Council, Hull City Council, Optimo Business Limited, Suma Wholefoods, Sewell Construction, The University of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire Housing Partnership, West Yorkshire Integrated Health Partnership, Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust, Yorkshire Sport Foundation and Zenith Vehicles.



Sign the pledge at:

www.climateactionpledge.org.uk

**YORKSHIRE
& HUMBER
CLIMATE
COMMISSION**