

One Planet Council Policy Statement (DRAFT)

Overview

This document sets out the Council's policy on sustainability. It aims to build on the Council's long history of developing as a sustainable organisation. It sets some new strengthened, balanced, principles for all council departments to work towards. It is one part of how the Council aims to meet its commitment in the Council Plan (2015 – 2019) to embed economic, social and environmental sustainability into everything we do and work towards 'One Planet' Living.

Introduction

On 17th March 2016 the Executive approved the implementation of [OnePlanetYork](#) so that sustainability is put 'at the heart of everything we do' and drives wider progress towards creating a sustainable, resilient and collaborative 'One Planet' city.

OnePlanetYork starts from one central idea: We are consuming the resources of three planets when we only have one. The Council aims to work with partners to enable the city to work towards a shared vision of creating a sustainable, resilient and collaborative city. It also uses 10 simple principles to make sense of sustainability and help meet this vision.

On 17th March 2016 the Executive approved the Council becoming an OnePlanetCouncil. This included adopting a new strengthened approach to sustainability and the creation of this new OnePlanetCouncil policy and series of tools and action plan(s) to deliver organisational change.

Scope

This OnePlanetCouncil policy applies to all City of York Council employees and all internal and external facing council services, projects, programmes and policies. The primary focus is internal operations and services, but it also applies to the external, city-facing services we provide. Where relevant, it also shows how the policy will help support the Council Plan (2015-2019) and major city strategies (of which some examples are included in the policy below).

Aims


This policy aims to:











- in a time of constrained budgets and changing operational models, ensure that employees add value to projects and maximise opportunities to embed OnePlanetCouncil principles into everything we do and reduce and mitigate, over time, any negative impacts that may arise;
- ensure that all staff and members are fully aware of the 10 key OnePlanetCouncil principles within this policy and how they too can play a part in helping the Council to 1) ensure sustainability underpins everything we do and 2) work towards becoming an 'One Planet' organisation; and
- enable the Council to champion and lead by example and will work with its suppliers, contractors and city partners to drive wider progress towards a more sustainable, resilient and collaborative 'One Planet' city.

10 OnePlanetCouncil Principles

The Council commits to:

 <p>Equity and local economy</p>	<p>Continue to support fair pay across the council and help create a thriving economy.</p> <p>Through the People Plan, we will remain confident in the fairness of our reward and pay practices.</p> <p>Where appropriate, services will also support delivery of the city's Economic Strategy (2016) and help create a thriving city with opportunities for residents to get good quality and well paid jobs (Council Plan 2015-2019) and the emerging local plan.</p>
 <p>Health and happiness</p>	<p>Maximise opportunities to promote health and wellbeing across our organisation and the city. We will promote effective and active employee engagement with wellbeing programmes and proactive support focussing on key health issues for the organisation that are also aligned to the Public Health Strategy.</p> <p>Services will also support creating a thriving city where residents are encouraged and supported to live healthy lives (Council Plan 2015-2019).</p>

 <p>Culture and community</p>	<p>Maximise opportunities to deliver a collaborative, innovative, inclusive and creative culture across the council and create services which help York’s residents live, confident, healthy, inclusive lives. Based on the People Plan we will continue to strive to be an organisation that values and engages with employees and has a culture that is collaborative, innovative, inclusive and creative.</p> <p>Services will also work to support creating a thriving city where all York’s residents live and thrive in a city which allows them to contribute fully to their communities and neighbourhoods (Council Plan 2015-2019).</p>
 <p>Sustainable water</p>  <p>Zero carbon</p>	<p>Create energy efficient buildings, get the most of our energy from renewable sources and ensure York is climate ready. We will minimise energy and water use, make the most out of renewable energy and reduce carbon dioxide emissions from our activities. We will also ensure all our operations and services are climate ready and prepared for current and future changes in our climate.</p> <p>Services will also help cut the city’s carbon emissions and be a leading low emission city (Council Plan 2015 – 2019).</p>
 <p>Zero waste</p>	<p>Reduce waste, reusing where possible and ultimately sending zero waste to landfill. We will minimise operational waste that arises across the council through waste reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery measures and ultimately work towards sending zero waste to landfill.</p> <p>Services will also help increase the percentage of waste recycled across the city (Council Plan 2015 -2019).</p>
 <p>Sustainable transport</p>	<p>Reduce the need to travel and encourage employees to use sustainable modes of transport. Through our travel policies we will promote the use of a range of sustainable modes of transport and low emissions vehicles.</p> <p>Services will also help improve air quality across the city and continue to offer efficient and affordable transport links enabling residents and businesses to access key services (Council Plan 2015 – 2019).</p>
 <p>Sustainable materials</p>	<p>Use goods from sustainable sources and, where possible, source locally. Where possible we will reduce the environmental impact of all new council owned buildings and the goods and services we procure as an organisation.</p>

 <p>Local and sustainable food</p>	<p>Support a thriving local food economy. We will, where possible, use and support local food initiatives within council services and across the city.</p>
 <p>Land use and wildlife</p>	<p>Conserve and enhance York's built and natural environment. We will conserve the City's landscapes, built and natural environment and wildlife and actively seek enhancements. We will do this across our estate and the city and also encourage sustainable new developments.</p> <p>Services will also help protect the greenbelt and unique heritage and character of the city (Council Plan 2015 – 2019).</p>

Action Areas

The Council will develop an OnePlanetCouncil Action Plan, with specific plans, targets and indicators. Due to limited resource, there are 2 phases to this planned work.

- Phase 1- Towards a zero carbon, resource smart council action plan (covering the following OnePlanetCouncil principles -carbon, energy, water, waste, sustainable transport) (2016)
- Phase 2 – A OnePlanetCouncil action plan covering the remaining principles - Health and wellbeing, Culture and community, Equity and economy, Land use and wildlife and Sustainable materials (2017).
- In addition a new Integrated Impact Assessment Tool will be rolled out through the All About Projects programme to help all new projects maximise 'One Planet' opportunities, add- value and reduce any potential OnePlanetCouncil impacts. It will be supported by guidance and staff training.

Evaluation and review

Progress towards becoming an OnePlanetCouncil will be reviewed annually. An internal score card will be developed to demonstrate annual progress against the OnePlanetCouncil Action Plan (both phases). Where quantifiable data is not available the OnePlanetCouncil Embedding Matrix – Self Assessment tool will be used to set qualitative targets and show annual progress.

Implementation date

This policy and Phase 1 – Towards a zero carbon, resource smart council action plan will apply from XXXX 2016. Phase 2 will follow in 2017.

Approval

This final draft has been approved by the council's Corporate Management Team on XXX 2016 and the Executive Member for the Environment on 1st August 2016.

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