
Meeting	Climate Change Policy and Scrutiny Committee
Date	14 January 2020
Present	Councillors Vassie (Chair), Baker (Vice-Chair), S Barnes, Fisher, Hook, D Myers and Wann
Apologies	

28. Declarations of Interest

At this point, Members were asked to declare any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, prejudicial interest or any disclosable pecuniary interests which they may have in respect of business on the agenda. None were declared.

29. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous meetings held on the 12 November 2019 and the 16 December 2019 be approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

30. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been six registrations to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme, however, only five of those registered attended the meeting.

Jamie Sims spoke as a member of Extinction Rebellion and discussed the rising global temperatures and the impact that 100 of the largest companies have on temperature rises. He raised concerns about the future homes standard and the need to insulate existing homes. He asked the Committee to lobby the Executive for a ban on shops leaving their doors open.

Dave Merrett raised concerns about the Local Plan potentially not being fit for purpose. He questioned the amount of affordable housing in the plan and noted that more low income earners working in the city would end up living further away from the city, suggesting that this would create a greater reliance on car based transport to and from the city. He asked the Committee to consider if the York Central development should be car free.

Richard Clark also raised concerns about the York Central development and was apprehensive regarding York's Carbon Neutral by 2030 target

being matched with its industrial goals. He noted that they believed that the York Central development was planning for a lot of car use by assigning large parking areas for officers and homes.

June Tranmer brought up the carbon foot prints of individuals in relation to their sending of emails. She cited the Carbon Literacy Document, noting the amount of carbon different sized emails produced. She asked that the Committee consider ways of reducing the size and volume of emails used, noting the need for more web links rather than attachments in emails to reduce carbon emissions.

Debby Cobbett spoke as a member of Yorkshire and Humber National Pensioners Convention and questioned whether City of York Council had done enough to tackle the Climate Emergency, nearly a year after the Council declared one. She noted their support for the motion that was passed at the December 2019 Council meeting, that would ban non-essential car journeys from inside the city walls. She however, hoped that this would not just move where car journeys were taking place, but would be part of improving and promoting the use of cleaner transport options.

31. Sustainable Development, Local Plan and Climate Change

The Committee were joined by Liam Tate (Planning Manager at Barratt Homes / David Wilson Homes), Paul Wharam (Technical Director at Barratt Homes / David Wilson Homes), Steve Cinderby (Stockholm Environment Institute), and Council Officers.

Officers outlined the position of the Local Plan, the supplementary planning documents, and the reasons for the plan being considered in two separate phases by the inspector. In response to Member questions, the officers noted that there were limitations to being able to amend the plan beyond what the inspector could recommend. They also noted that the Local Plan was setting higher building standards than current government building regulations. Officers confirmed the limitations to being able to set potentially more ambitious targets for carbon reduction or energy efficiency as the plan and noted that there was a chance that the inspector could lower targets on the grounds of feasibility due to them being higher than national planning policy frame work.

Liam Tate and Paul Wharam responded to a series of Members questions, outlining that from a developer's perspective that they were looking for a level playing field between themselves and other developers. They therefore were looking for guidance in the form of planning guidelines that would indicate the standard that they would need to build too. They highlighted that they as a company had taken a fabric first approach and

considered PV or heat recovery systems only when building over and above current building regulations. In response to questions about car free developments and the potential for York Central to be car free, they noted that public perception would need to be in favour of car free developments and that current planning standards ask for developments to come with space for two cars.

Members considered the government's consultation on The Future Homes Standard: changes to Part L and Part F of the Building Regulations for new dwellings, it was noted that in 2006 there had been a government target for homes to be 'zero carbon' by 2016, however, the plan was stopped by a previous administration. Instead of the options in the consultation of reductions in carbon emissions of homes, Members stated that they would prefer a target of 'zero carbon' for all new homes.

The Committee also discussed a range of topics including localised heating systems, renewable energy on listed buildings, and the financial implications of building to higher standards. Furthermore they considered examples of schemes undertaken by other local authorities and highlighted the Friends of the Earth document as part of the agenda pack '33 actions local authorities can take on climate change' as further ways of considering what City of York Council could consider implementing. Members agreed to discuss outside of the meeting potential funding streams the council could seek to use that would allow for buildings to be built to a higher standard, while not adversely affecting things such as the building of affordable housing.

Resolved:

- i. That a report be brought to the February meeting of the Committee providing an initial perspective on whether the City of York Council could adopt any of the 33 actions local authorities could take on climate change, as outlined in the Friends of the Earth document.
- ii. That Members of the Committee would meet outside of the meeting to discuss potential funding streams in building sustainable homes and report back to the Committee.
- iii. That the Supplementary Planning documents be shared with the Committee at an appropriate time, so that Scrutiny Members can feed into the process.
- iv. That the Executive Member of Economy and Strategic Planning be asked to consider submitting a supplementary response to the Government's Future Homes Standard consultation, requesting the adoption of a zero carbon emissions standard in all new build homes.

- v. That the Executive be asked to consider coordinating with other local authorities to lobby the government to instate a zero carbon emissions standard in all new build homes.

Reason: To ensure that the City of York Council can meet its target of becoming a carbon natural city of 2030.

32. Work Plan 2019/20

Members considered the committee's work plan for the remainder of the 2019/20 municipal year. Members agreed that Biodiversity scheduled to come to the 4 February 2020 meeting would be postponed to the 21 April 2020 Committee meeting.

Resolved:

- i. That the draft work plan was approved, as submitted, subject to the above clarification.

Reason: To ensure that the committee has a planned programme of work in place.

Cllr. C Vassie, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.34 pm and finished at 7.54 pm].