

## **Climate Emergency Policy Scrutiny Committee**

Report of the Head of Carbon Reduction  
Portfolio of the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change

### **York Climate Commission**

#### **Summary**

1. In response to the climate emergency, the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Change approved the establishment of York Climate Commission (the Commission) in December 2020.
2. The Commission was established following a recommendation in the 'Zero Carbon Roadmap for York (Leeds University, August 2020), that an independent York Climate Commission could help draw actors together and build capacity to take and track action towards our climate change ambition.
3. Updates on the activity of the Commission are included in City of York council's monthly Climate Change e-newsletter.

#### **Recommendations**

4. Scrutiny Committee is asked to:
  - i. Consider the contents of this report on York Climate Commission

#### Reason

York Climate Commission is an independent organisation promoting leadership in the city on climate change

#### **Background**

5. York Climate Commission is part of the Place based Climate Action Network (PCAN); an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) supported team of researchers with a remit to create impact, engagement and knowledge sharing that delivers local climate action.
6. Recognising that no single organisation has the power, authority, resources or ability to achieve the city-level change needed to deliver our climate ambition, it is necessary to bring together key partners across the city to create shared ownership and accountability, and also to benefit from the collective experience and expertise that exists within York.

### **Role of the Climate Commission**

7. The role of York Climate Commission is to:
  - Promote leadership in the city on climate change, encouraging stakeholders to take effective action now, while maintaining a long term perspective.
  - Provide authoritative independent advice on the most effective steps required to meet the city's carbon reduction target so as to inform policies and actions of local stakeholders and decision makers.
  - Monitor and report on progress towards meeting the city's carbon targets and recommend actions to keep on track.
  - Make the economic case for project development, implementation and investment in low carbon and climate resilient projects in the city; and promote best practice in public engagement on climate change and its impacts in order to support robust decision-making.
  - Bring together major organisations and key groups in York to collaborate on projects that result in measurable contributions towards meeting the city's climate reduction target.
  - Act as a forum where organisations can exchange ideas, research findings, information and best practice on carbon reduction and climate resilience

### **Membership**

8. Membership of the Commission is open to individuals representing key organisations from the public, private and civic sectors across the city who can contribute to the development and delivery of a low carbon and/or climate resilient economy/society in York.

9. The balance of membership of the Commission reflects the need for cross-city representation and for it to address both climate mitigation and resilience.
10. The York Climate Commission comprises of the following members reflecting the desired representation of key organisations across the city:
  - i. University of York – Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research (Chair)
  - ii. City of York Council – Executive Member for the Environment and Climate Change & Head of Carbon Reduction
  - iii. Nestle – (TBC)
  - iv. York & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce – Vice President
  - v. First Group – Managing Director & Strategy Director
  - vi. Joseph Rowntree Foundation – Group Chief Executive
  - vii. York NHS Foundation Trust – Head of Sustainability
  - viii. York Minster - Director of Works and Precinct
11. Members of the Commission are recruited periodically via an open process. Individuals wishing to become members of the Commission are invited to express their interest in email to the current Chair.

## Updates

12. The York Climate Commission provides updates on activity through the council's climate change e-newsletter and also provides updates, events and latest news via the website: [www.yorkclimate.org.uk](http://www.yorkclimate.org.uk). The Commission can be contacted using the email address [carbon.reduction@york.gov.uk](mailto:carbon.reduction@york.gov.uk)

## Implications

- **Financial** – There are no financial implication associated with the report.
- **Human Resources (HR)** – There are no HR implications associated with the report.
- **Equalities** – There are no Equalities implications associated with the report.
- **Legal** – There are no legal implications associated with the report.
- **Crime and Disorder** – There are no crime implications associated with this report

- **Information Technology** – There are no IT implications associated with this report
- **Property** – There are no property implications associated with this report

## Contact Details

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### Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

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Report Approved  Date 12/07/22

### Wards Affected:

All

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

## Background papers

Executive Decision Session – York Climate Commission (December 2020)

<https://modgov.york.gov.uk/documents/s144692/York%20Climate%20Commission%20Report.pdf>

Zero Carbon Roadmap for York (Leeds University, August 2020)

<https://modgov.york.gov.uk/documents/s144693/Zero%20Carbon%20Roadmap%20for%20York%20Leeds%20Uni.pdf>

York Climate Commission – Terms of Reference

<https://modgov.york.gov.uk/documents/s144694/York%20Climate%20Commission%20Terms%20of%20Reference%20Draft.pdf>