

Report of the Director of City Strategy

**Climate Change Framework and Climate Change Action Plan for York –
Consultation drafts and Update**

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to outline the consultation drafts of the Climate Change Framework (2010-2015) and the Climate Change Action Plan (2010-2013) for York. The report also seeks permission to go out to public consultation on these draft from late June – late August 2010.

Background

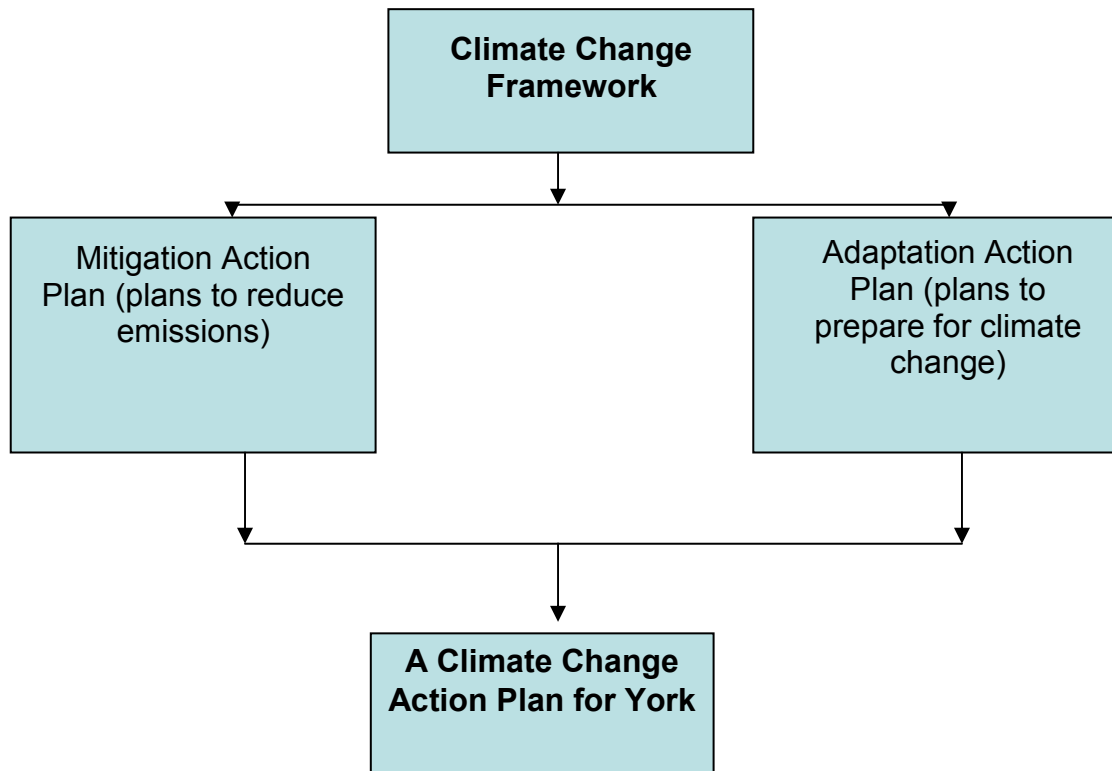
2. In September 2007 the Executive of the City of York Council agreed a city wide Climate Change Strategy to be developed in partnership with other organisations in the city, with the Without Walls Partnership (WoW) being the best delivery mechanism to achieve this.
3. The scope for the climate change strategy and action plan, and the details of how it was to be developed were provided and agreed by the Without Walls Board on 21st November 2007.
4. As outlined in the Executive report of 16th February 2010 on 10:10 Campaign, a consultation draft of a Climate Change Framework 2010-2015 (CCF) and a Climate Change Action Plan 2010 – 2013 (CCAP) were to be finalised by April 2010 and approval sought for a wider public consultation.

Current Position

5. To date the CCF and CCAP have been drafted and circulated to key delivery officers of City of York Council and to the Environment Partnership Board. These drafts are attached as annex 1 and 2. Annex 3 is a succinct summary of these drafts.
6. The CCF is the overarching ambition of York to accelerate actions to reduce carbon emissions across the city. It illustrates the actions already on-going across York and highlights the key areas the City needs to begin to drive forward in order to eventually reach the

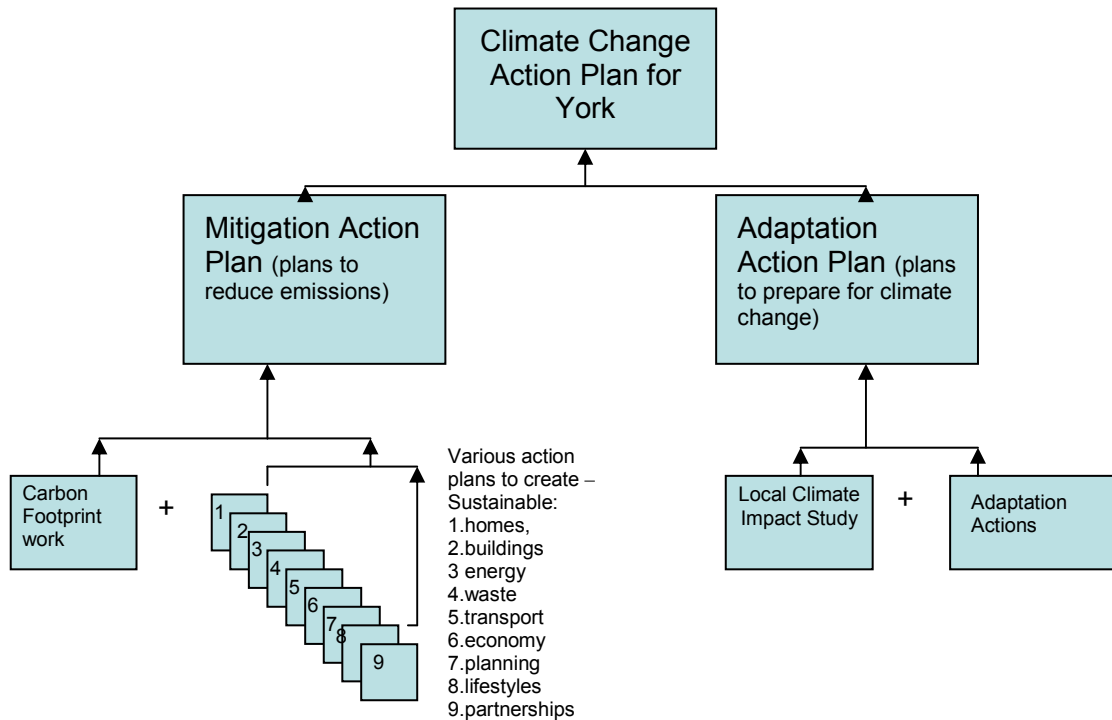
national Climate Change Act¹ (2008) 80% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2050 (2005 baseline). The Framework is to be used by the organizations across the City, including the CYC and WoW partnership, to focus and drive coordinated action to tackle climate change.

7. Figure 1 below demonstrates the composition of the CCF:



8. The CCAP for York is a combination of specific action plans. The plans are broken into mitigation actions, actions that will reduce emissions from across York, and adaptation actions, action that will help the City to prepare and adapt to climate change. The CCAP is the delivery mechanism to achieving the CCF and will address the 10 key areas of the CCF.
9. Figure 2 below demonstrates the components that make up the CCAP:

¹ The Climate Change Act 2008 is the UK's legally binding long-term framework to cut carbon emissions by 80% by 2050 and at least 34 percent by 2020 (1990 baseline). It also creates a framework for building the UK's ability to adapt to climate change.



10. The CCF sets the direction of travel for York in terms of climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation work. The actions in the CCAP (all 10 key areas identified in CCF) will assist the City to deliver a 80 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050 (based on a 2005 baseline).
11. However, following the Full Council motion approved on 3rd December 2009 the CCF and CCAP will now also need to address the Council's recent commitment to the Covenants of Mayors² and the Friends of the Earth 'Get Serious' campaign³. These commit the City to a even more challenging 40 per cent reduction in carbon emissions by 2020.
12. To better understand this new challenging local 40 per cent target, and the actions CYC and City will need to take over the next 10 years a carbon decent trajectory for York will be determined.
13. This carbon modelling work will take place between June and September 2010 to quantify current actions and determine future carbon trajectories and interventions that will enable York to the

² The **Covenant of Mayors** is a commitment by signatory towns and cities to go beyond the objectives of EU energy policy in terms of reduction in CO₂ emissions through enhanced energy efficiency and cleaner energy production and use. <http://www.eumayors.eu/>

³Get Serious About CO₂ campaign is calling for **every council to do its bit** to tackle climate change and reduce emissions by 40% based on a 2005 baseline. http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/get_serious/index.html

40% target by 2020. A trajectory for the 80 per cent target will also be determined. These trajectories will identify what actions (and costs) and policies City of York Council and WoW Partners will need to undertake and support in order to meet both the local and national targets of the CCF and CCAP.

14. Both the CCF and CCAP will be delivered and implemented by the Climate Change Subgroup of the Environment Partnership Board and key organisations including CYC and Without Walls Partnership. The creation of CCF and CCAP have been coordinated by the Sustainability Officer of DCSD who will continue in this coordination role to ensure implementation and delivery.
15. The current capacity of the Sustainability Officer to deliver the CCF and CCAP, particularly the co-ordination of City wide actions, in addition to the councils other sustainability priorities is limited in relation to the task, although the success of the CCF and CCAP relies on all CYC directorates.
16. In order for CYC to deliver its part of the CCAP, a climate change action plan for CYC will be developed as part of a wider refresh of the existing CYC Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2007). All directorates will need to play their part in supporting this agenda, and in all future planned projects, programmes and strategies.
17. A Refreshed Environmental Sustainability Strategy for CYC (replacing the out of date Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2007) will be developed in 2010 / 2011 and will incorporate a proposed CYC CCAP. Such a corporate strategy will provide a coordinated approach to embedding climate change and wider sustainability issues such as a CYC Sustainability Impact Assessments tool for all future projects, programmes and policies. This CYC CCAP document will form a core part of this future strategy.

Next Steps for draft CCF and CCAP

18. To date the Environment Partnership Board and WoW Board have received draft copies of the CCF and CCAP. These documents will then be presented to the City of York Council's Executive on 8th June 2010 to seek approval to go out for wider public consultation and engagement. Once approved the drafts will be formally launched later in June 2010 as consultation drafts and open to a summer of public consultation. The emerging communication plan to support this consultation is attached as Annex 4.
19. It is envisaged that a final version of the CCF and CCAP, incorporating all consultation amendments, and modelling work, will be ready for signoff by the WoW Board and City of York Council's Executive from September 2010.

20. The following timescales are proposed for finalising the CCF and CCAP:

- WoW Board and CYC DMT and CMT approval – May 2010
- CYC Executive – 8th June 2010
- City wide carbon modeling exercise – June – September 2010
- Public consultation / event + communication campaign - End of June-End of August 2010
- Focus Group meetings and online survey – Early July 2010
- Finalise framework and action plan + report back to WOW and CYC - September – October 2010
- Launch documents (including a public facing summary document)- October 2010
- On-going - Monitoring, revisions and communication

Consultation

21. The draft CCF and CCAP have been created by the Climate Change Subgroup of the Environment Partnership Board. In order to create these documents officers from across CYC have been involved in their development. These include teams from Forward Planning, Transport Planning, Design, Conservation and Sustainable Development, Waste, Environmental Protection, Housing, Procurement, Civil Engineering, Emergency Planning and Engineering Consultancy. Wider development also included key partners from Energy Saving Trust advice centre, Energy Partnership, North Yorkshire Green Business Club, Natural England, Environment Agency, Friends of St Nicolas Fields, Environment Forum and SEI and Higher York.

Options

22. There are two options at this stage for managing climate change across York:

- Option A – No further development of the draft CCF and CCAP and continue climate change activity in an ad-hoc manner, focusing mainly on mitigation, and utilising opportunities as they arise, or
- Option B – approve the draft CCF and CCAP, carry out public consultation on the documents, and sign off and approve, by October 2010. This will provide a high level coordinated city wide approach to tackle climate change in York.

Analysis

23. Option A will not ensure that an accelerated, coordinated approach is taken across the City. The City would therefore risk failing to meet the 40 per cent and 80 per cent carbon reduction targets by 2020 and 2050. It would also risk failing to address key climate change adaptation measures, which may cost CYC and partners substantial amounts of money and disruptions to essential services.
24. Option B will ensure an accelerated, coordinated approach is taken across York to mitigate climate change and adapt to a changing climate. It will also allow the city to understand the key actions it must take in order to meet its 40 per cent and 80 per cent carbon reduction targets by 2020 and 2050. Without such coordinate plans these targets will be extremely difficult to deliver.

Corporate Priorities

- Addressing climate change is a key component to delivering on CYC's corporate ambition of delivering a sustainable city – *“We aim to be clean and green, reducing our impact on the environment while maintaining York's special qualities and enabling the city and its communities to grow and thrive”*

The CCF and CCAP will also contribute towards the following city priorities:

- ‘Without Walls’ – the Sustainable Community Strategy which provides the sustainable framework for York;
- ‘Without Walls’ – Sustainable Community Strategy: Sustainable City Chapter - including: *“To lead the implementation of City of York Climate Change Strategy, emphasising the need for everyone to reduce their impact on the local and global environment and to measure their carbon and ecological footprint”*.

Implications

25. **Financial** – All actions detailed in the draft CCF and CCAP are financed through existing CYC and existing Partners budgets. There is only a limited DCSD Sustainability communication and marketing budget to carry out the consultation and wider communication messages surrounding the CCF and CCAP.
26. **Human Resources:** - The CCF and CCAP are drafted on the basis of existing staff resources.
27. **Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder:** A EIA is currently being drafted to accompany the CCF and CCAP.
28. **Property and IT** – N/A

Risk Management

Potential risks include:

29. Failure for the City of York to meet its carbon reduction commitments of the CCF and CCAP and the EU Covenants of Mayors and the Friends of Earth 'Get Serious' campaign.
30. Failure of the CYC and WoW to take a coordinated adaptation approach to a changing climate resulting in social, economic and environmental damage and disruptions.
31. Failure for CYC and WoW to coordinate an approach to dealing with climate change which will result in CYC/ WoW failing to achieve its LAA targets - NI 186 and NI 188.
32. Delivery and coordination of the CCAP internally within CYC and externally across York is a significant task. There is some risk to delivery which needs managing through the Council's risk management processes. The CCF and CCAP are only part of the council's and WoW's sustainability priorities including NI 188. The complete picture needs to be managed as above.
- 33.** To address the above risks the following actions have been taken:
 - a. A climate change subgroup of the EPB will manage the CCF and CCAP (lead by the Sustainability Officer of CYC).
 - b. A monitoring strategy is also in place and will be delivered by the Climate Change Subgroup(lead by the Sustainability Officer of CYC).
 - c. Regular updates and progress reports will be issued to WoW and CYC Executive to ensure progress is made and adequate resources in place to continue progress
 - d. Risk log has been started on the CYC risk register.
 - e. CYC have made adapting to climate change a corporate risk and will develop and carry out a comprehensive risk assessment of all Directorates by April 2011.

Recommendations

34. Executive are asked to approve the consultation drafts of the CCF and CCAP.
35. Reason: To progress the development of the CCF and CCAP.
36. Executive are asked to note the risks to delivering the CCF and CCAP due to the scale of the task and the city wide, partnership working nature of this agenda.
37. Reason: To highlight the ambition of the CCF and CCAP whilst noting the finite capacity of coordinating and delivering them through the existing CYC Sustainability Team.
38. Executive are asked to acknowledge CYC's role in delivering the CCF and CCAP, and to ensure delivery through the various delivery mechanisms that they are responsible for.
39. Reason: To ensure CYC play a lead role in the delivery of the CCF and CCAP

Author: David Warburton
City Strategy
Tel: (01904) 551312
Email:
Jacqueline.warren@york.gov.uk

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:
Bill Woolley
Director of City Strategy
Tel: (01904) 551330
Email: bill.woolley@york.gov.uk

Wards Affected: All

Report Approved **Date**

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers

Report to and minutes of CYC Executive March 16th 2010

Annex:

- 1 – Draft Climate Change Framework for York 2010- 2015
- 2 – Draft Climate Change Action Plan for York 2010 - 2013
- 3 – Climate Change Framework and Action Plan - Summary
- 4 - Draft Outline communication plan