

Report of the Director of City Strategy

Climate Change Framework and Climate Change Action Plan for York – Consultation results and proposed changes

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to outline the results of the city-wide consultation on the draft Climate Change Framework and Climate Change Action Plan for York. The report also highlights proposed amendments to the drafts and seeks permission to finalise and adopt the CCFAP for York by the end of 2010.

Background

2. As outlined in the Executive report of 16th February 2010 on 10:10 Campaign, a consultation draft of the Climate Change Framework (CCF) and Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) were to be finalised by April 2010 and approval sought for a wider public consultation.
3. On 8th June 2010 the Executive approved these consultation drafts (available from : www.york.gov.uk/environment/sustainability/climatechange/2framework/). (For the purpose of this report both drafts will be referred to collectively as CCFAP)
4. The Framework 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. The Framework is to be used by the organisations across the city, including the council and WoW (Without Walls) partnership, to focus and drive forward coordinated action to tackle climate change.
5. The Action Plan 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

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.

help the city to prepare and adapt to climate change. The Action Plan is the delivery mechanism to achieving the Framework and the 10 key areas it aims to tackle.

6. Public consultation was carried out on the consultation draft CCFAP from 29th June 2010 – 1st September 2010. A summary of the consultation communication strategy is detailed in Annex 1. This consultation was predominately an on-line consultation that maximised the use of existing council and Without Walls Partnership consultation channels and events.

Current Position

7. An online questionnaire was available on the council's website from 29th June 2010 - 1st September 2010 for residents and businesses to give their opinions on the CCFAP before it was finalised. Annex 2 is a copy of the questionnaire.
8. Over 100 questionnaires were completed. A total of 94 questionnaires have been analysed (the remaining responses arrived late). 49 questionnaires were completed online and a further 45 were completed through various events and at reception areas/library. Annex 3 summarises the headline results. A full copy of the results and the detailed proposed amendments is available from the Sustainability Officer.
9. Through the results of the consultation, and the suggested actions that arise from them, the following amendments are proposed to the current draft CCFAP (available from : www.york.gov.uk/environment/sustainability/climatechange/2framework/):

a. Q1 - How strongly do you agree or disagree that it is important for the council and its partners to have a clear plan to tackle climate change?

Q2 - How important or unimportant are each of the 10 areas to you for tackling climate change in York?

Relating to the responses received for questions 1 and 2 above, no changes are suggested. An overwhelming majority of respondents agreed to some degree that it was important for the council and WoW to have clear plans on tackling climate change. All respondents also agreed that the 10 key areas for tackling climate change in York were important to some degree.

b. Q 3 - Are there any key areas or factors missing from the plans that should be included to tackle climate change in York?

The responses for question 3 suggest that the most common category of comments received related to creating sustainable

low carbon lifestyles (35% of all respondents stated this). Of these, the most common additional suggestions were for local food initiatives and sustainable schools/education programmes. As a result of this the CCFAP will be strengthened to include additional actions to develop, and work with, more partners across the city to deliver greater number of initiatives to support local food networks and food security. The CCFAP will also be strengthened to illustrate the work of the sustainable schools strategy and emerging action plan and additional actions to look to develop, and work with, more partners across the city to deliver greater number of initiatives to support schools.

- c. Another common response to missing areas identified through the consultation on the CCFAP related to sustainable transport. The CCFAP delivery mechanism for creating a sustainable transport system is through the LTP2 and in the future the emerging LTP3. It is proposed that the comments received on strengthening the sustainable transport section of the CCFAP will be fed into the LTP3s development and the Environment Partnership Board's Transport Subgroup for consideration.
- d. **Q4 - How strongly do you agree or disagree that it is important that the council encourages residents to reduce their carbon emissions in the home and whilst travelling around York?**

No changes are suggested relating to question 4. An overwhelming majority of respondents agreed to some degree that it is important for the council and WoW to encourage residents to reduce their carbon emissions. This is covered in the draft CCFAP through a number of various awareness campaigns (for example campaigns on energy efficiency, grants and renewable energy), and will continue to be one of the major categories of actions in the finalised CCFAP.

- e. **Q5 - What could the council and the Without Walls partnership (WoW) do to encourage you to reduce your carbon emissions?**

Relating to the responses for question 5, and in order for the CCFAP to support residents to reduce carbon emissions, 37% of respondents stated that more work and actions around sustainable transport improvements would encourage them to reduce their carbon emissions. As detailed in 9c, the CCFAP delivery mechanism for achieving a sustainable transport system is through the LTP2 and the emerging LTP3. Therefore it is proposed that transport related comments from question 5 are also fed into the LTP3's development.

- f. Other common categories of responses relating to question 5 that would support residents to reduce carbon emissions

included local food initiatives. As mentioned above in 9b the CCFAP will be strengthened to include additional actions to develop and work with more partners across the city to deliver local food networks and food security.

- g. Additional common responses relating to question 5 also included categories of responses for sustainable energy and the creation of sustainable, energy efficient homes. These areas are covered in the draft CCFAP, but further actions with partners such as Sustainability4Yorkshire will be investigated to better promote the uptake of energy efficiency and renewable energy in homes across York.

h. Q6 - How would you prefer to receive information regarding how you can reduce your carbon emissions in the home and whilst travelling around York?

In order for the CCFAP to support residents to reduce carbon emissions, the finalised CCFAP will look to enhance and create engaging information campaigns in the future. This will also be linked to the results of question 6, and will utilise the identified preferred methods of communication (Internet (15%) local newspaper (13%) and where feasible, local incentives (12%).

- i. In order for the CCFAP to further support residents to reduce carbon emissions, better promotion and information on energy efficiency grants and renewable energy grants specifically will be actioned in the finalised CCAP.

j. Q7 - How strongly do you agree or disagree it is important that the council encourages businesses in the city to reduce their carbon emissions created in the workplace?

Relating to the responses received for questions 7, no changes are suggested. An overwhelming majority of respondents agreed to some degree that it is important for the council to encourage businesses to reduce their carbon emissions. In order for the CCFAP to support businesses to reduce carbon emissions, comprehensive promotion and information on energy efficiency grants and renewable energy grants will be made stronger in the finalised CCAP and further actions with partners will also be investigated. This will also continue to be one of the major focuses of actions in the finalised CCFAP.

k. Q8 - Do you have any other comments on the Climate Change Framework and Action Plan?

Relating to responses to question 8, the most frequent category of response received was surrounding low carbon lifestyles. The most common of these responses related to improvements to education campaigns and information. Action to deliver this is

already covered in the consultation draft of the CCFAP, but further actions with partners such as York in Transition, St Nicholas Fields Environment Centre and Sustainability4Yorkshire will be investigated to better promote a wide range of campaigns and advice to help York's residents to live more sustainable lifestyles.

- I. Also relating to responses to question 8, another common response received related to improving sustainable transport. The current LTP2 and LTP3 will deliver the sustainable transport system for the CCFAP and reductions in CO2 emissions. The comments received from this consultation will be feed into the LTP3 development.
10. The above amendments are a summary of proposed actions and / or proposed amendments. Details of all the actions that will be carried out as a result of the consultation responses are available from the Sustainability Officer.
11. As detailed in the 8th June 2010 Executive Paper - *Climate Change Framework and Climate Change Action Plan for York – Consultation drafts and Update*, to better understand how the CCFAP will achieve its 40 per cent and 80 per cent targets, and the actions the council and city will need to take over the next 40 years to achieve them, a carbon descent trajectory for York was to be created to support the development of the finalised CCFAP.
12. This carbon modelling work is currently in progress to quantify current actions, future actions and national intervention. It will determine a priority list of future actions and interventions that will enable York to meet its targets. This list of actions will be added to the finalised CCFAP once available. It is likely some will require substantial investment and resources. In this case, actions to assess feasibility and viability will be added to the Climate Change Action Plan.
13. Some background to the modelling is detailed in Annex 4.
14. This modelling is expected to be completed during October 2010. It is already clear from the initial models that maximising the potential of renewable energy in York will be vital, as too will developing citywide programmes to develop an increased up-take in domestic and non-domestic energy efficiency measures (including lighting, solid wall insulation, loft insulation and boiler replacements), behavioural change, road transport fuel reduction, road transport efficiency, replacement road fuels (such as for example biofuel or electricity).
15. Once this work is completed it will then be used to determine a priority list of future actions and interventions that will enable York

to met its targets. This list of actions will be added to the finalised CCFAP.

16. An event will also be arranged to share the full results with key council officers and executive members (end of October / November 2010).

Next Steps for the CCFAP

17. Both the council and the WoW will need to approve the suggested amendments to the current CCFAP. Approval will be sought from both organisations. Should CYC's Executive, WoW's EPB Board and WOW Board approve proposed amendments, finalised versions of the CCFAP will be available on-line before the end of 2010.
18. Once finalised the CCFAP will be delivered and implemented by the Climate Change Subgroup of the Environment Partnership Board and key partner organisations including the council and Without Walls Partnership. The creation of CCFAP have been the primary responsibility of the Sustainability Officer who will now continue in this coordination role to ensure implementation and delivery

Consultation

19. The draft CCFAP have been created by the Climate Change Subgroup of the Environment Partnership Board. In order to create these documents officers from across the council 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.
20. Annex 1 also details the wider public consultation of the draft CCFAP.

Options

21. There are two options at this stage for managing climate change across York:
 - Option A – accept the amendments proposed above, and the actions identified through the carbon modelling work, to create an finalised CCFAP. This will establish a high-level coordinated citywide approach to tackle climate change in York. It will also illustrate the challenge ahead

in meeting the targets and define the actions that York will need to investigate and secure resources to deliver in the future.

- Option B – do not accept the amendments above and adopt the consultation draft CCFAP. Adopting the consultation draft framework and action plan will not reflect the additional aspirations of the city expressed through the consultation nor will it include the carbon modelling work that sets out a roadmap to achieving the CCFAP targets. Without such a roadmap, it will be difficult for York to understand what its actions and resources are necessary to reach the CCFAP targets.

Analysis

22. Option A will ensure that an accelerated, coordinated approach is taken across York. The city will also be working towards a clear plan to achieve the 40 per cent and 80 per cent carbon reduction targets by 2020 and 2050. The city will also feel like they have buy-in and involvement in the development and implementation of the plans.
23. Option B will ensure a coordinated approach is taken across York to mitigate climate change but it will be unclear how the CCFAP will meet the 40 per cent and 80 per cent carbon reduction targets by 2020 and 2050. It will also be a framework and action plan that residents and businesses do not feel they have buy-in to.

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

24. **Financial** – All actions detailed in the CCFAP are financed through existing CYC and existing partners budgets. (* Some transport related actions are subject to review by the new government). There is limited DCSD Sustainability budget to facilitate communication and marketing of the finalised CCFAP and for wider communication messages surrounding sustainable lifestyles. * Please note that large scale, city-wide actions resulting from the carbon modelling are not included in the CCFAP. Once added to the CCFAP, there may be financial implications. In this case feasibility and viability will be investigated through the Climate Change Action Plan and financial implications identified through this process. It is likely that such large scale programmes will need approval from council and WoW and future reports will be drafted to secure approval.
25. **Human Resources:** - The CCFAP are drafted on the basis of existing staff resources (*These are subject to CYC Organisation Review and other government cuts for partners).
26. **Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder:** A EIA has been drafted to accompany the CCFAP. A finalised copy will be available in November 2010.
27. **Property and IT** – To continue to use the Carbon Descent Vantage Point software post 2011 there is an annual licence fee. 2010 licence has already been paid.

Risk Management

Potential risks include:

28. Failure by the council and WoW partners to deliver actions as per the Climate Change Action Plan. This would result in the City of York failing to meet the carbon reduction targets of the CCFAP, the EU Covenants of Mayors and the Friends of Earth 'Get Serious' campaign.
29. Failure of the council and WoW partners to take a coordinated approach and actions to adapt to a changing climate. Failure to act may result in social, economic and environmental damage and disruptions across York's communities, businesses and transport networks.
30. Lack of sufficient co-ordination of the CCFAP city wide actions in addition to the council's other sustainability priorities. The capacity to assist delivery of city-wide programmes of action is currently limited and the proposed amendments that respond to the consultation result in an increased risk that the level of coordination needed can not be fully delivered, in addition to existing priorities..

This leaves a real possibility that the council and WoW partners will fail to deliver the actions necessary meet the carbon reduction targets of the CCFAP.

31. To monitor the above risks the following risk management process are in place :
 - a. The climate change subgroup of the EPB will manage the CCFAP (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 advise progress against the targets and assess whether adequate resources are in place to maintain the necessary progress
 - d. 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.
 - e. Re-prioritisation of the Sustainability Team's CYC and city-wide work priorities will also be carried out in mitigate the risk of the Sustainability Officer's limited capacity to deliver the CCFAP.

Recommendations

32. Executive are asked to approve the proposed amendments to the draft CCFAP.
33. Reason: To enable the CCFAP to progress and to be approved and adopted.
34. Executive are asked to note the risks of delivering the finalised CCFAP and the scale of the challenge ahead, and the risks of delivering such city-wide targets that rely on partnership working to achieve them.
35. Reason: To highlight the ambition and challenge ahead of meeting the CCFAP whilst noting the finite capacity of coordinating and delivering the targets through the existing CYC Sustainability Officer.

Author: David Warburton
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** 6 October 2010

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers

Report to and minutes of CYC Executive 8th June 2010

Annex:

Annex 1 – Communication Strategy

Annex 2 – Consultation Questionnaire

Annex 3 – Summary of the Results of the Consultation on the Climate Change Framework and Action Plan

Annex 4 – Carbon Modelling background paper