
Meeting	Climate Change Policy and Scrutiny Committee
Date	12 November 2019
Present	Councillors Vassie (Chair), Baker (Vice-Chair), S Barnes, Hook, D Myers and Wann
Apologies	Councillors Fisher

14. 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.

Councillor Barnes declared a personal interest in relation to item 5 of the agenda, as he worked for an Offshore Renewable Energy company, Catapult.

15. Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 15 October 2019 be approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

16. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been three registrations to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

Emanuela Buizza spoke about the importance of trees to CO2 reduction. They requested that the Committee recommend to the Executive a complete ban on tree felling on both public and private land. They also requested that the Committee recognise the importance of the Ecological Emergency alongside that of the Climate Emergency.

June Tranmer echoed the previous speaker and noted that more trees are chopped down than are planted. The speaker also raised a concern regarding recycling, noting that residents are often displeased to see their separated waste being merged during collection.

Debby Cobbett requested that the Committee consider a number of recommendations to the Executive including:

- Changing the reimbursement transport policy for staff to not include travel by car or plane;
- The introduction of subsidised public transport passes;
- The introduction of electric charging points;
- Diversifying away from the use of fossil fuels.

17. Report on Co-Option

Before Members considered a report outlining the opportunity to co-opt a number of experts and stakeholders onto the Climate Change Policy and Scrutiny Committee, it was noted that Chloe Wilcox, Theo Steele, Amelia Barber, and Maisie Outhart were representatives from Youth Strike for Climate and not Extinction Rebellion. The Committee were also asked to consider the co-option of Terry Smithson from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

The Scrutiny Officer noted that the four members from Youth Strike for Climate would have one place on the Committee and co-optees would be non-voting members of the Committee. Whilst Conservative and Independent Councillors did not currently have a seat on the committee due to City of York Council proportionality rules, it was noted that the Chair could still invite these Members to the Committee as non-voting participants. Finally, it was noted that Members had the option to invite representatives of the Stockholm Environment Institute to meetings on an ad-hoc basis, depending on whose expertise from the institute could support the Committee on particular topics.

Members unanimously agreed to all the recommendations.

Resolved:

- i. That the representatives of Youth Strike for Climate Chloe Wilcox, Theo Steele, Amelia Barber, and Maisie Outhart be co-opted onto the Committee.
- ii. That Terry Smithson from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust be co-opted onto the Committee.
- iii. That representatives of the Stockholm Environment Institute be invited to meetings on an ad-hoc basis, when appropriate.
- iv. That the chair would invite Conservative and Independent Councillors to attend meetings as non-voting members.

Reason: To ensure that the Committee continues to seek the thoughts of key stakeholders and experts on the issues considered.

18. One Planet York - Update

Members considered several annexes about One Planet York and were joined by the Chair of One Planet York Mike Bonsall to help guide discussions with the Committee.

Mike Bonsall informed Members about the funding issues currently facing One Planet York and the reliance on external funding to carry out work. Low funding had meant that projects at One Planet York have not been taken forward. They confirmed that they would look at a number of funding options including having a host organisation, if it shared One Planet York's ambitions.

Members noted the importance of One Planet York as a brand leader within the city. In response to Members questions, Mike Bonsall confirmed that the objective for One Planet York in the next 12 months would be four to five projects already happening in the city that could be supported or enhanced by One Planet York coordinating activity for.

The Director of Economy and Place reminded the Committee to consider the role of the third sector as a whole in achieving zero carbon by 2030, as well as what City of York Council could do to support these organisations in achieving this goal.

Resolved:

- i. That the information provided be noted.
- ii. That the Committee will consider further issues relating to third sector organisations in helping achieve zero carbon by 2030.

Reason: To ensure that the committee are content with the relationship between the Council and One Planet York.

19. Specialist Perspectives on Challenges and Opportunities of a Zero Carbon Fleet

The Committee was joined by council officers, as well as Andy Griffiths, (Head of Value Chain Sustainability, Nestlé UK Ltd) and Jon Harman, (Head of Fleet, First Bus York) for a round table discussion on the challenges and opportunities of realising and operating a zero-carbon fleet.

Challenges highlighted included the current limitations on long distance electric freight vehicles, the cost of conversion to none petrol or diesel vehicles (electric buses can cost around twice as much as diesel) due things such as electric battery costs, and current infrastructure for none

petrol and diesel vehicles being currently insufficient across the country as well as in the city. It was noted that bus usage was predominately by those with limited transport options and would need to be able attract those with a wide range of transport options. Specific infrastructure challenges raised in relation to the city included, the current power supply at James Street bus depot and Hazel Court likely being insufficient to be able to charge vehicles if these sites were running full electric fleets.

Opportunities highlighted in the discussion included the council's multifaceted role as a key builder of transport infrastructure and as the legislator for how roads are used in the city. The opportunity to create a more free flowing transport network that priorities how the network is used, the use of and expansion of rail for both public transportation and freight, and the potential for urban consolidation centres or larger national consolidation centre as part of freight solutions. The growing promise of hydrogen fuel cells was noted (viability is a current challenge due to the current technology and infrastructure, but could be a longer term option) and the potential of using bio methane as a pathway to clearer sources of energy. Officers noted current co-operation with other authorities and business to assist in baselining data and identifying areas the council could make a difference. Officers have also been monitoring pilot schemes in other cities, such as London and Aberdeen who have moved to electric refuse vehicles and hydrogen refuse vehicles respectively.

The Committee also discussed on the importance that whole life costing and carbon budgeting could have, as well as, co-operation between organisations to find solutions, and the potential for joint funding of key infrastructure projects could have on achieving zero carbon by 2030.

Resolved:

- i. That the Committee noted the discussions held during this session.

Reason: To continue the work and engagement with organisations in the City, to better understand the challenges of achieving a zero-carbon City by 2030.

20. Work Plan

Members considered the committee's work plan for the remainder of the 2019/20 municipal year.

Resolved:

- i. That the Chair and Vice Chair will discuss with the Scrutiny Officer and City of York Council officers, as to when a report on Carbon Budgeting should be brought to the Committee.

Reason: So that the Committee has an agreed schedule of work in place in order to move forward with its remit.

Cllr C Vassie, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.31 pm and finished at 8.01 pm].