

## **Report to Full Council from the Deputy Leader of the Council**

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### **York Central**

The Executive have agreed to recommend to Full Council that a capital budget be established to fund core infrastructure on the York Central site. This funding will be used to open up the site with a new access road, bridge and spine road. The funding will also include enabling works, such as site clearance, demolitions, utility diversions and drainage.

Furthermore, the infrastructure fund will be used to deliver a new park, create new public squares and provide a new western railway station entrance. As part of this, a network of pedestrian and cycle routes will be established through the site and will integrate with an upgraded public transport hub around the railway station.

The proposed budget is funded by a combination of external grants, contributions, previously agreed funding and also council borrowing. The council will borrow £35 million, which will then be repaid using retained business rates from the York Central Enterprise Zone.

### **York Station Front**

Following an extensive public consultation, the Executive has approved the submission of a new planning application to redesign and revitalise the front of York Station.

The York Station Front project aims to transform the front of York's historic railway station by delivering new pedestrian-friendly public spaces, creating an improved setting for the City Walls and providing space to make it easier to switch between public transport.

Since the public consultation opened, nearly 1,500 responses have been received, commenting on a variety of aspects to the projects. The comments collected have been used to amend the project, and this has led to new design changes.

## **Local Plan**

As of the 11<sup>th</sup> November, the council has formally responded to the Government's Planning Inspectors and subsequently requested early public hearings on York's draft Local Plan.

As a council, it is important that we push for an early hearing to discuss the issue of the city's housing need, particularly in reference to the reduction in the ONS household projection figures.

## **Waste & Recycling Service Investment**

Following recent challenges to the council's Waste & Recycling Service, an additional £125K will be invested in improving the resilience of the service.

Utilising funding from the Waste Reserve, the Waste Service will be able to recruit and train more staff ahead of the busy winter period.

Earlier this year, a national shortage of HGV drivers, sickness and poor weather caused a number of issues for the Waste & Recycling Service. In response, improving the service was made a priority; including rectifying missed collections and holding a successful recruitment day for staff in September.

A further report will be taken to the Executive Member Decision Session recommending a new driver apprentice programme, in order to support the service in the long-term. If approved, the council will develop a driver apprentice programme within the waste team to train drivers as early as next year.



In addition, the service has been trialling an electric vehicle for collections, which I was very pleased to see in operation on 4<sup>th</sup> December. This is a welcome sign for the development of the new fleet of vehicles, and I will be asking for further work from officers to ensure that more new vehicles are electric, in order to fit with our commitments on air quality.

### **Fracking Consultation**

The council has outlined its concerns regarding the Government's proposals to allow fracking as permitted development, as part of the Government's consultation on the future of fracking.

Under current Government proposals, fracking would be fast-tracked as 'Permitted Development', bypassing the local planning system and therefore, local decision making.

In the draft response to the consultation, the council stated that there was not sufficient justification to introduce the new measures, as set out in its shale gas consultations, which intend to allow shale gas exploration to take place without planning permission.

A future response to the Government's new fracking consultation, regarding the process in which communities will be consulted, will soon be sent on behalf of the council, after the public decision making session.

### **Brexit preparations**

Brexit preparations for the city will continue to be made and revisited by the Executive in December.

In a report presented to the Council's Executive on current preparations in the event of a 'no-deal' Brexit, it was agreed that preparations should continue to be made for all Brexit scenarios.

We will continue to review the nature of the national Brexit discussions and the meaningful vote by MPs and determine any potential impact on services. The council will also continue to work closely with partners, including Make it York and the LEPs, to understand the wider implications for York and, where possible, provide support and access to information for residents, businesses and organisations.

### **Air Quality:**

York's city centre Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) has been expanded, after a decision was taken to include Coppergate.

Coppergate will now be included in the city centre's AQMA, in order to tackle air pollution from diesel vehicles in the area and maintain progress in improving the city's air quality.

It was also decided to retain the Fulford AQMA for a further 12 months, despite NO<sub>2</sub> in the area remaining below the council's health bases objectives. This is to ensure that Fulford's air quality is monitored in view of future nearby developments in the city.

Future reports will be drafted on how the new traffic light systems and charging points for electric cars, especially for people living in terraced areas, can be delivered to make further improvements.

The Department for Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) added that:

*‘The Council taking exceptional steps and effort to actively tackle air quality within the city and the success of this approach is reflected in their results.’*

## **Employment**

Newly published statistics from the ONS reveal that York now has the highest number of jobs ever seen in the city.

It was revealed that York had a 5% growth in its employment over 2017, leading to an increase of 5,000 new jobs, leaping from 101,000, to 106,000.

Across the region, employment increased on average by 2%, with York seeing the largest increase with 5%. These figures put York in the top 10% performing local authorities in England for employment growth. For example, the city’s employment growth was stronger than Nottingham, Manchester, Leeds and Cambridge.

On review, 500 jobs were created in the manufacturing sector, 1,000 in professional scientific and technical businesses and 1,000 in food and drink businesses.

## **One Planet York**

The Leadership Group continues to work hard across the partnership to promote positive actions to deliver the changes needed within the city to ensure full sustainability.

The issue surrounding the App has galvanised a greater commitment to develop other communications streams, in order to ensure that the work of the partnership is spread.

One significant project that has come out of the OPY initiative has been the Good Food York initiative and I was grateful to hear about this at the launch on 12<sup>th</sup> November, at the Friends Meeting House.

<http://www.goodfoodyork.org/>



Another scheme which was an example of what One Planet York can achieve for the city was the redevelopment of Westfield Primary School Kitchen and Canteen. The canteen was officially opened on 27<sup>th</sup> November by Maxine Squire, along with the teams from the council, school and the construction company: F. Parkinson.



Not only has it improved the facilities, reduced heat loss with new windows to replace very old metal framed ones, and provided energy efficient kitchen equipment, it has created a more pleasant environment for meals, and a better range for healthier options. There is also greater opportunity to engage with the community.



## **Flood Defence Update**

Work continues with the major improvements to the city's flood defences and the Environment Agency is continuing to maintain its websites providing detail on the ongoing consultation and any future planning applications. The quarterly updates are provided at Decision Sessions.

## **Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership Board**

The LCR Local Enterprise Board met on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and updates were received on the Local Inclusive Industrial Strategy, Green and Blue Infrastructure Delivery Plan, Digital Framework, Culture, sport and major events, Preparations for Brexit, and the changes to the Local Enterprise Partnerships.

The LEP made a submission which tied in with the request for a West, York and North Yorkshire LEP, which then tied in with the submission made by the YNYER LEP. This ensures that there is a consistent message from the region in terms of the response to the Government consultation on the LEP Geography. Whilst this has not been requested locally, this does deal with the 'overlap' issue of York in a way that works with our economy.

## **Leeds City Region Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) & Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan:**

The Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan (ESDP) aims to **'create a clear coordinated approach to energy, which allows the City Region to meet its SEP ambitions'** and maximise the economic opportunities from the transition to a low carbon economy.

Funded by Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, this is a key strategy to address the long-term clean growth challenge for the Industrial Strategy.

The proposal is to adopt a carbon emission reduction target in line with achieving the Paris Climate Change Agreement. This aims to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2°C and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C. To limit temperature increase

to 1.5°C, this will require net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to be brought down to zero by the middle of the Century.

Over the coming months, work will be undertaken to see how that trajectory changes in relation to the most recent IPCC report on limiting global warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius.

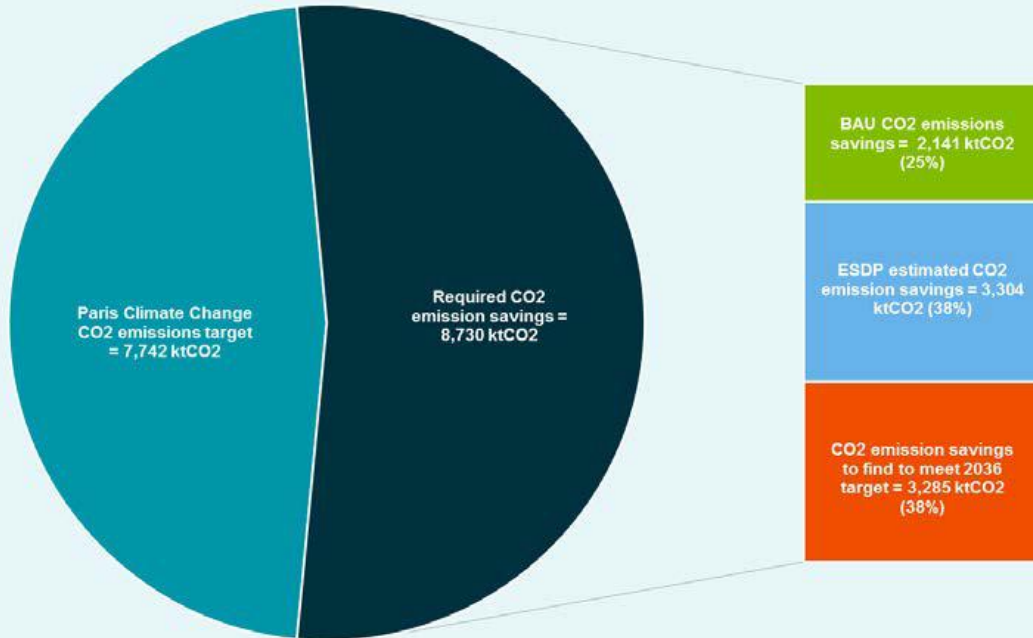
The Plan also proposes to adopt a target in line with the SEP timescales, this would equate to a 53% reduction in carbon emissions by 2036, based on 2015 levels.

The Energy Strategy and Delivery Plan for the first time clearly articulates the scale of the challenge in achieving the SEP ambition, but also the opportunities it presents, which are:

- Benefits that could be achieved include: An increase in GVA of between £11.3 and £11.6 billion.
- An increase in employment of between 99,500 and 101,825 people (current energy sector employment is 7,900 people rising under business as usual to 10,200 people in 2036).
- Lower energy costs for businesses and households.
- Increased competitiveness through lower energy costs for businesses.
- Reduction in fuel poverty and increase in associated health benefits.
- Increased inward investment

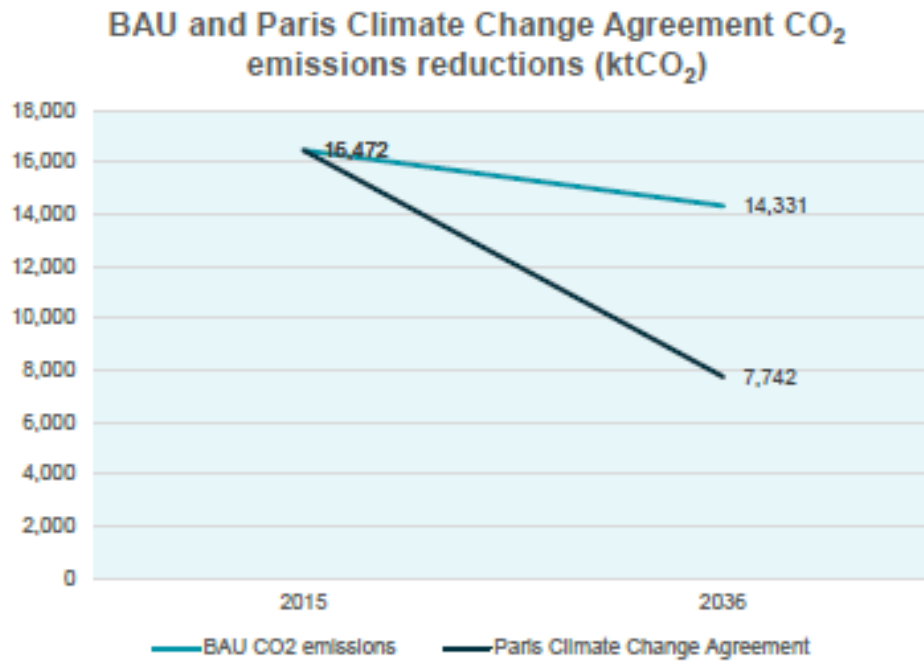


Meeting the CO<sub>2</sub> Emission Reduction Target (KtCO<sub>2</sub>)



# Carbon Reduction Target

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Councillor A Waller

Deputy Leader

5 December 2018