

**Executive**

**19 March 2020**

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive  
Portfolio of the Executive Member for the Environment and Climate Change

## **Climate Emergency Response**

### **Summary**

1. This paper provides an update on the council's work to reduce carbon emissions at a city level, identifying activities which relate to the council's own carbon emissions and those which have a wider impact on carbon use across the city.
2. Ongoing activities are progressing which support the shift to a lower carbon economy. However, we recognise that as a city and as council we must go further and faster to reduce and mitigate the effects of climate change. The council will be bringing forward a range of papers for decision by Executive over the coming months.

### **Recommendations**

3. The Executive is asked to note this update.

### **Background**

4. The Council declared a climate emergency in March 2019. An update was provided to Executive in August 2019 to outline ongoing activity in response and to recommend from additional actions. The activities below were requested by Executive:
  - a. *"The Climate Change Policy & Scrutiny Committee to consider York refreshing its engagement with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy"*
  - b. *Officers to investigate the potential for York's participation in the developing network of UK Climate Emergency cities;*

- c. *Officers to investigate how to engage with the newly established Local Government Association Climate Emergency Task and Finish Group, which will make recommendations on how the government can support councils in achieving climate emergency targets;*
- d. *A further report to be developed regarding the emerging Carbon Reduction Plan, the timing of which will be determined by the Leader.*
- e. *Reports in relation to the following investments made in the Emergency Budget to be brought to the Executive / Executive Member for Economy & Strategic Planning, as indicated below:*

*To Executive:*

- *The Northern Forest, with this initiative to be signed up to by the council*
- *Building Insulation Programme*
- *Electric Charging Points*

*To the Executive Member:*

- *Additional capacity to speed up the production of Supplementary Planning Documents to support the Local Plan.”*

5. In response to these requests:
  - a. The Climate Change Policy & Scrutiny Committee considered refreshing the Engagement with the Covenant of Mayors in December 2019 and recommended to Council that CYC’s commitment is restated. Council accepted this recommendation. A further report to scrutiny in March will update on this, including the required carbon disclosure reporting.
  - b. Participation in the UK Climate Emergency Cities network will be considered by the new Carbon Reduction team (See paragraph 8 below).
  - c. The new Carbon Reduction team will also engage with the Local Government Association Climate Emergency Task and Finish Group

- d. The development of a carbon reduction plan was within the agreed remit for the Climate Change Policy & Scrutiny Committee. The committee has continued to consider factors in relation to the plan, and will be reporting to Executive in due course. Officers are currently commissioning a report outlining a detailed carbon reduction pathway for York. This evidence-based work will prioritise activities which deliver the biggest carbon reductions. It is intended that the report will be received in April and form the evidence base from which the council will plan its programme of activity for the next 3 years.
- e. The following reports are planned:
  - i. Executive will receive papers on the Council's Fleet Strategy and Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy at this meeting.
  - ii. The Executive Member for Housing & Safer Neighbourhoods will receive a report on 30 April in relation to the Energy Accelerator Project around housing insulation.
  - iii. In April, Executive will receive reports outlining the Council's tree strategy, the development of tree planting in relation to the Northern/White Rose Forest (signed up to in July 2019) and the Pollinator Action Plan, the scope of the Local Transport Plan and the approach to climate change consultation.
  - iv. In May, Executive will receive the year-end report from Scrutiny.
  - v. In October 2019, the Executive Member for Economy and Strategic Planning received a report which outlined the prioritisation and progress of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) related to Green Infrastructure, and Carbon Reduction, Renewable Energy and Sustainable Design and Construction.
6. The Council has invested £384k to resource the development and co-ordination of the climate action plan. On 27 March, an investment of £150k in 20/21 with a further £150k committed in 2021/22 was included in the budget towards the climate change delivery programme. This is additional to £54k included in the supplementary budget of July 2019 to support a Carbon Reduction and Sustainability Officer, with a £30k capacity building budget.
7. This does not include significant additional delivery budgets for work in relation to carbon reduction across multiple areas of council work,

including for the Northern Forest, which consists of £50k ongoing revenue and a total of £3m capital funding.

8. Following this additional funding made available in the 2020/2021 budget, recruitment is underway to recruit to a new Carbon Reduction team to co-ordinate work across the council on the pathway to net carbon zero and to engage with the whole city. The next phase of work is to bring together the above areas of work into a clear programme of activity. The delivery of this will continue to sit across all areas of the council, but will be reported through to Executive as a specific programme. The programme will be underpinned and shaped by an evidence-based pathway to net zero carbon of the city, and informed by a wide range of engagement activities to bring together the public, stakeholders and experts in addressing the challenges. The reports noted in paragraph 5.e. above relate to key work streams of this emerging programme.
9. An update, designed to be public facing and accessible, is provided at Annex A to summarise the work underway and the identified areas of future work for the council in terms of its own carbon footprint and as an enabler of carbon reduction across the city. It also notes actions which all residents can consider to reduce their own carbon footprint and support the Council in delivering the target for the city.

## **Consultation**

10. A future report will outline the approach to engagement and consultation across the city in respect of climate change.

## **Council Plan**

11. The emerging programme of activity described in this paper relates to and underpins each area of the Council Plan, but is more closely related to the ambitions for net carbon zero in the Greener and Cleaner outcome.

## **Implications**

- **Financial** – the financial resources are noted within the body of this report.
- **Human Resources (HR)** There are no HR implications other than recruitment to the Carbon Reduction Team through the council's standard procedures.

- **One Planet Council / Equalities** The activities described in this report support the ambitions to be a sustainable city.
- **Legal** There are no legal implications in relation to this report.
- **Crime and Disorder** There are no crime and disorder implications in relation to this report.
- **Information Technology (IT)** There are no IT implications in relation to this report
- **Property** There are no property implications in relation to this report.
- **Other**  
State here any other known implications i.e. Highways (Contact – relevant Head)

## Risk Management

8. There are no known risks in relation to the recommendation of this report.

## Contact Details

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**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

**Ian Floyd**  
**Deputy Chief Executive**

**Report**  **Date** 10 March 2020  
**Approved**

**Wards Affected:**

**All**

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

**Background Papers:**

Responding to the Council's Climate Change Motion

<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s133825/Climate%20change%20-%20Final.pdf>

## **Annexes**

**Annex A – A Climate Emergency Update.**