

Executive

16 March 2017

Report of the Director of Economy and Place (Portfolio of the Executive Member for the Environment)

Delivering One Planet Council

Summary

1. On 17 March 2016, the Executive approved the development of One Planet Council, a new framework that sets out the Council's ambition to put sustainability and resilience at the heart of its decision-making processes.
2. This report presents the final One Planet Council Framework (Annex 1), which puts forward the vision for what it means to become a One Planet Council, and the practical steps required to see this vision realised.
3. One Planet Council is an integral part of the wider One Planet York programme, which brings together organisations from across York, with a shared aspiration of becoming a more sustainable, resilient and collaborative 'One Planet' city. One Planet Council is CYC's individual commitment to this broader, city-wide effort.
4. One Planet Council aims to:
 - i. Help realise the ambitions set out in the Council Plan (2015–19): to put sustainability at the heart of everything we do, to work towards 'One Planet Living' and to become a more resilient organisation.
 - ii. Encourage decision making that carefully balances social, economic, and environmental considerations, whilst minimising potential negative implications.

- iii. Reduce the Council's carbon footprint, whilst generating significant financial savings.
 - iv. Add value to the work we do by embedding additional 'One Planet' opportunities into the projects, policies, and strategies that are developed.
 - v. Provide strengthened channels of engagement between different service areas on issues related to sustainability, fostering greater collaboration and innovation across the Council.
5. Implementing the One Planet Council Framework is contingent upon the use of the 'Better Decision Making' tool (Annex 2), and the One Planet Council Communication Plan (Annex 3). This report therefore presents these tools for consideration by the Executive.

Recommendations

6. Members are asked to:
- i. Approve the use of the One Planet Council Framework and the associated Action Plan (Annex 1).

Reason:

In order to embed sustainability and resilience into council decision-making processes and work towards 'One Planet Living', as set out in the Council Plan (2015–19).
 - ii. Approve the 'Better Decision Making' tool (Annex 2) for a six-month pilot period for all new proposals going before the Executive (subject to the limitations set out in paragraph 28).

Reason:

The tool is a fundamental practical step to embedding the One Planet principles into decision-making processes across the Council.
 - iii. Delegate to the Director of Economy and Place, in conjunction with the Executive Member for the Environment, the making of any revision to the 'Better Decision Making' tool following the six

month pilot period, as well as the roll-out of the tool for other council decisions.

Reason:

To validate the proposed changes and enable the One Planet Council Programme to move forward.

- iv. Note the use of the proposed One Planet Council Communication Plan (Annex 3).

Reason:

To raise staff awareness of One Planet Council and gain the support of employees from across the Council.

One Planet York

- 7. One Planet York and One Planet Council originated from an extended period of consultation with businesses and community groups across the city, as part of the Sustainable City Summit. The initiatives were developed to help overcome concerns that the city of York needed a more comprehensive and coordinated strategy to tackle social, economic and environmental sustainability, at both a city-scale and as a council.
- 8. The aim of One Planet York is to bring together communities and organisations from across the city who share a vision of creating a more sustainable, resilient and collaborative 'One Planet' York. One Planet York provides a platform for networking, sharing ideas, and showcasing good practice across the city.
- 9. One Planet York draws upon the ideas of 'One Planet Living': a global movement concerned with the rapid and unsustainable rate at which we are consuming resources. At the core of 'One Planet Living' are ten easy-to-understand principles, which encourage organisations to think about different aspects of sustainability and how they apply to their operations. Underlying this is the belief that the principles are interconnected and should be considered in a balanced and systematic way. A key part of One Planet York is to encourage external organisations to embrace these principles in their practices.

10. The ten 'One Planet' principles are:



One Planet Council

11. One Planet Council is CYC's individual commitment to One Planet York, and represents the Council's opportunity to play its part in becoming a more sustainable, resilient and collaborative 'One Planet' city.
12. One Planet Council uses the same 'One Planet' principles, but adapts them to fit the Council's internal operations and the way it provides services, as well as to align them with the Council Plan (2015–19).
13. The intention of One Planet Council is to embed these principles into the heart of the Council's decision making processes, encouraging officers to think more carefully about social, economic and environmental sustainability, and the Council's organisational resilience more broadly.
14. Given the difficult financial climate, the increasing demand for council services, and the challenges posed by climate change, it is essential that sustainability, in the broadest sense of the word, becomes part of everyone's job. This is a key aim of One Planet Council.
15. Although a lot of good work is taking place across the Council, issues of social, economic and environmental sustainability are

currently dealt with by individual teams, without an overarching framework to coordinate their efforts.

16. A more joined-up approach to sustainability is required, with strengthened channels of engagement to share expertise and encourage collaboration between service areas, to ensure that no opportunity to embed sustainability into our operations and service provision is missed. One Planet Council provides a mechanism for doing just this. This strengthened and more pro-active approach to sustainability will help us operate more efficiently and identify financial savings.
17. One Planet Council also seeks to build on the work that is being done to reduce carbon emissions across council services. Through the One Planet Council brand, it is the intention to elevate the importance of this initiative and to encourage individual services to think more about their own energy and water consumption.
18. To highlight the importance of this task, on both a financial and environmental level, in the 2014/15 financial year the Council spent in excess of £5m just on energy related to water, waste and transport. Over 15,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide were also produced through Council activities related to corporate services and schools.

Delivering One Planet Council

19. Delivery of the One Planet Council initiative depends on the development and implementation of the One Planet Council Framework.

Framework

20. The One Planet Council Framework (Annex 1) sets out the vision of what it means to be a One Planet Council and the practical steps required for its realisation.
21. The Framework sets out the ten One Planet principles that all council services should work towards.
22. It further details: specifically how the principles will be incorporated into existing and emerging operating models and decision-making processes, including service planning; how performance will be

monitored; and the governance structures in place to oversee the One Planet Council Programme.

23. The Framework also sets out a One Planet Council Action Plan, which outlines how the framework will be implemented over time, and provides clarity on key milestones, responsible officers, current status, and measures of success.
24. Subject to Member approval, the Framework would be implemented from 1 April 2017.

Better Decision Making Tool

25. A 'Better Decision Making' tool (Annex 2) has been developed to enable the One Planet principles to be embedded within key decision-making processes. The tool encourages council officers to consider broader sustainability issues that extend beyond their own service area — whether social, environmental or economic — and to help them do so in a more balanced, systematic, and evidence-based manner.
26. The tool helps mitigate any potential negative consequences early on in the decision-making process, and provides an opportunity to reflect on any additional positive benefits that could be built into the proposal.
27. The tool also enables officers to think about the impact of the proposal on different 'communities of identity', ensuring that the Council is able to provide inclusive and discrimination-free services.
28. It is proposed that the use of the 'Better Decision Making' tool is considered for all projects, strategies, policies, and changes to services that are going to the Executive as part of the forward planning process. Irrespective of whether the tool is used, consideration must be given to the steps required to comply with the Council's equalities duties.
29. It is proposed that the 'Better Decision Making' tool would be attached as an annex to Executive reports. This is to ensure that all sustainability and resilience implications of a proposal are brought to the attention of the Executive. A summary of a proposal's impact from a 'One Planet' perspective would also be reported in a newly

created One Planet Council implications section of the Executive report (to replace the Community Impact Assessment section).

One Planet Council Communication Plan

30. The One Planet Council Communication Plan (Annex 3) is fundamental to fostering employee engagement with One Planet Council. A range of methods will be used for regular communication with staff at all levels, including staff awareness campaigns, suggestion schemes, competitions, and regular Buzz articles.
31. In addition to raising awareness, many of the activities detailed in the Communication Plan serve the purpose of better sharing ideas and expertise between service areas, since a more joined-up approach to sustainability is central to what One Planet Council is trying to achieve.
32. The One Planet Council Framework and 'Better Decision Making' tool have been designed and branded in line with One Planet York to highlight the connection between the two programmes.

Consultation

33. One Planet York and One Planet Council emerged out of the Sustainable City Summit co-hosted by the University of York, York Environment Forum, and City of York Council. The initiatives came out of an extended period of community consultation and co-design with both the public and a wide range of city stakeholders. This work followed many years of work on sustainability through initiatives such as Agenda 21.
34. Given the council-wide impact of One Planet Council, extensive internal consultation was carried out in relation to the development of the Framework and the 'Better Decision Making' tool.
35. Officers with a broad range of experience and expertise relevant to the One Planet principles were consulted. Consultation began in August 2016 and included officers from: health, economic development, corporate services, arboriculture, public protection, waste services, transport, property, HR, business travel, fleet transport, energy and sustainability, equalities, communities, and All About Projects.

Council Plan

36. One Planet Council directly supports the ambition of the Council Plan (2015–19) to create a prosperous city for all; embed sustainability into everything the Council does; and work towards 'One Planet Living'.
37. The Framework and the 'Better Decision Making' tool draw heavily upon Council Plan priorities, and encourage a joined-up approach to their consideration.
38. One Planet Council also supports the following Council Plan priorities: protecting York's green spaces; encouraging residents to lead healthier lives; increasing recycling rates; cutting carbon emissions; helping residents to participate fully in their communities; improving air quality; and making evidence-based decisions.

Options

39. Officers request that Members consider the following options:

Option 1: That the Executive, subject to any agreed changes, approve the recommendations set out above.

Option 2: That the Executive determine we should continue as usual, delivering sustainability initiatives within existing frameworks.

Option 3: That the Executive request officers undertake further work not highlighted in the report.

Analysis

40. A strengthened sustainability framework is required in order to deliver the aims of the Council Plan: to place sustainability and resilience at the heart of decision making processes; and to work towards 'One Planet Living'.
41. Increased pressures on council services necessitate a more joined-up, balanced, and evidence-based approach to social, economic and environmental sustainability, in order to operate more efficiently and maximise the positive impact of council decisions.

42. It is important that as a council we demonstrate our commitment to the sustainability and resilience aims of One Planet York.
43. Option 1 presents the opportunity to meet all of the above aims and is therefore recommended.
44. It is possible for delivery of Option 1 to commence quickly due to the deliverability of the programme within existing council services, with only modest changes to corporate processes and limited resource implications.

Implications

45. The following implications have been assessed:

Financial – The costs of One Planet Council can be contained within existing budgets.

Human Resources (HR) – The development of One Planet Council and the implementation of the programme will predominantly, although not exclusively, need to be resourced within the Corporate Directorate of Economy and Place. One Planet Council is in keeping with, and indeed actively endorses, the People Plan.

Community Impact Assessment – A Community Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached as Annex 4.

Legal – The Council has a variety of public law duties when making decisions. In simple terms these include a duty to act within its powers, to act rationally, to act fairly, to act reasonably, to take all relevant considerations into account and to act for proper purpose. Certain decisions have specific statutory requirements e.g. as to consultation. There are also overarching statutory requirements such as to comply with the Human Rights Act 1998, to meet the Council's equalities obligations and to have regard to the crime and disorder implications of decisions. The decision making tool may provide some assistance in ensuring that these issues are considered and that decision making is robust.

Crime and Disorder – None identified.

Information Technology (IT) – None identified.

Property – None identified.

Other – None identified.

Risk Management

46. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, the main risks relating to the recommendations of this report have been established.
47. Risk: the benefits of One Planet Council are not adequately communicated and employees are therefore not fully engaged with the programme.

Consequence:

- Employees do not comply with using the 'Better Decision Making' tool.
- Officers do not see the value of embedding the One Planet principles into service plans, and do not review service plan in light of missed 'One Planet' opportunities.

Mitigation:

Ensure engagement with officers at all levels. Frequently monitor employee support for, and understanding of, One Planet Council, and revise communication plan, as necessary.

48. Risk: the 'Better Decision Making' tool is poorly understood or not compatible with the development of certain types of projects, policies or strategies, and is therefore ineffective as a tool.

Consequence:

- Proposals are not adequately revised in relation to social, economic or environmental sustainability concerns.
- Potential negative impacts are not mitigated and opportunities to add value to proposals are missed.

Mitigation:

Ensure adequate training is in place. Review detailed feedback on the tool following six-month pilot; identify common problems; and adapt the tool.

49. Both identified risks would mean that the Council Plan aspirations to place sustainability and resilience at the heart of decision making and work towards 'One Planet Living' could not be fulfilled.

50. The Council's role in the emerging One Planet York programme would also be undermined, with potential negative reputational consequences.
51. The significance of the identified risks means it is imperative that they are actively managed.

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**Report
Approved**



Date 03/03/2017

Specialist Implications Officer(s):

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Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Glossary of Abbreviations:

N/A

Annexes:

Annex 1 – One Planet Council Framework

Annex 2 – ‘Better Decision Making’ tool

Annex 3 – One Planet Council Communication Plan

Annex 4 – One Planet Council Community Impact Assessment