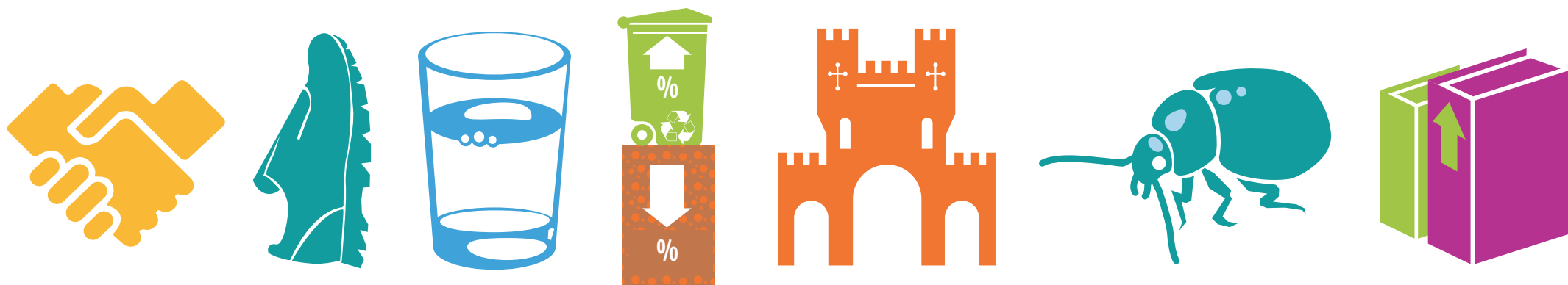


# One Planet York



Where is York currently at?

# Introduction

## Contents

Waste and recycling .....	3
Climate change .....	4
Natural environment.....	5
Built environment.....	6
Sustainable transport.....	7
Equity and local economy.....	8
Health and happiness.....	9
Culture and community .....	10
Sustainable food .....	11

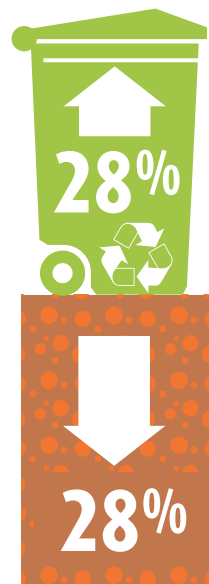
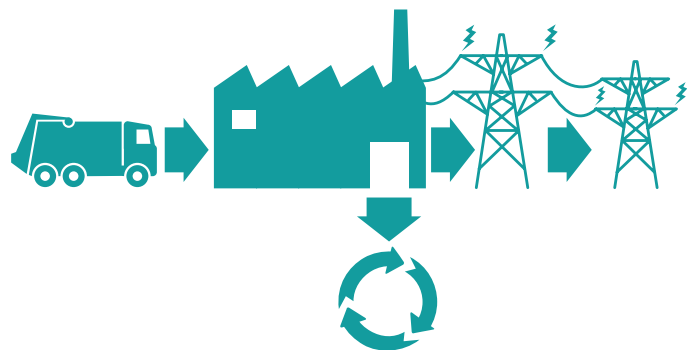
In 2008, York's Local Strategic Partnership set an ambition for York to be 'a leading sustainable city'.

Accurately assessing where York is at in relation to this ambition is a challenging task given the scope and nature of the 'sustainability' agenda, which covers almost every aspect of economic, social and environmental life in York. Some things can be readily measured and others can't and quite often there's no agreed baseline data to enable easy comparison with other areas.

This document therefore aims to provide a quick portrait of York at a point in time using a variety of 'evidence' that, taken together, might help us arrive at some sort of assessment about where York is currently at.

By necessity it is a subjective and selective list of evidence, measures and 'proxy' measures. But we hope it will serve as a starting point for debate about what York has achieved and where it could build from for the future.

# Waste and recycling



The amount recycled in York increased by 28% over a ten year period.

In the same time the amount of waste sent to landfill has decreased by over 28%.

York residents have been doing a great job to divert waste away from landfill.

Almost **44% of household waste was reused, recycled or composted** in 2013/14 compared to just 15% ten years earlier.

Over the same time household waste sent to **landfill for disposal reduced** from 84.6% to 56.4%.

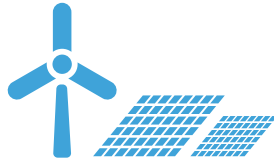
Home composting, reducing food waste, encouraging use of charity shops and reuse organisations, reducing junk mail, promoting real nappies and schools projects have all made an impact.

The St Nicks Environment Centre runs an **award-winning community recycling scheme** collecting from 2,600 homes.

Many local businesses have achieved **Investors in the Environment** status and others are working towards it. In 2011 Nestle, which operates one of the world's **largest confectionery plants** in York achieved zero waste to landfill status.

A **new waste strategy** for York will help deliver greater cost savings and include plans for a multi-million pound **waste treatment facility** processing both household and commercial waste.

Some waste will be processed through an integral '**energy from waste**' plant and food waste will be treated in an anaerobic digester. The facility will be operational in 2018 and will produce enough **electricity to power the equivalent of 40,000 homes**.



# Climate change



2014 was the warmest in the UK since records began in 1910, with temperatures 1.1 degrees centigrade above the long-term average .

It is likely that by 2050 summer temperatures will increase by 2.3 degrees centigrade, summer rainfall will decrease by almost 20% and winters to be over 10% wetter.

Because of the amounts of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) we generate our **climate is changing**<sup>1</sup>. This is likely to lead to more **frequent and severe weather events** bringing significant risk of damage and disruption to the city.

York has a history of flooding and it is likely to experience **more extensive flooding** more often in the future.

York's total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions currently stand at 1.1million tonnes<sup>2</sup>. York has committed to tackling climate change and to becoming more resilient by **reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 40% by 2020**.

Since 2005, total **CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have fallen** with the council reducing its own emissions by an estimated 25%.

In recent years, **free loft and cavity wall insulation** has been fitted to homes and low income households have benefitted from **free solar panels**.

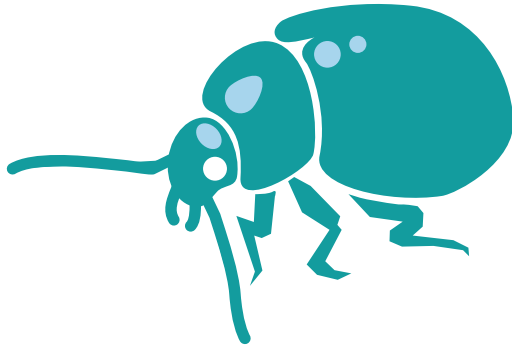
York's **collective energy switch campaign** continues to help people consider switching energy tariffs. Over the next three years, **Better Homes York** will bring energy efficiency improvements to 800 privately owned homes to reduce bills and cut carbon emissions.

Successive **Green Neighbourhood Challenge** campaigns (a runner up in the national climate week awards) have encouraged communities to reduce carbon emissions.

To help meet the city-wide CO<sub>2</sub> reduction target we need to **increase the amount of sustainable energy generated**.

The council has carried out a series of city studies to help understand the potential for this and **installed a variety of renewable energy technologies** including biomass boilers and ground source heat pumps.

A new programme to transform energy across the council's estate aims to accelerate the generation of solar energy.



York has **nine Sites of Special Scientific Interest**, three of which are internationally designated.

The city supports species and habitats which are of local, regional and national importance. These include the **Tansy Beetle**, which, until 2014, was known only to occur along the River Ouse, and **ancient flood meadows** of which 10% of the national resource is in York.

There are **86 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation** and a further **156 Sites of Local Interest**. The city also has four statutorily designated **Local Nature Reserves** and a series of **green corridors**.

The City of York Biodiversity Action Plan (2013) sets targets for all types of habitat in York. In 2013, **53% of Local Sites in York were in positive conservation management**, up from 51% the previous year.

The council manages over **515 hectares of green space** in addition to that provided by Parish and Town Councils and community groups. Five of the council's green spaces hold the **Keep Britain Tidy Green Flag Award** with two externally managed sites regularly achieving Gold in Yorkshire in Bloom.

The council looks after **30,000 public trees** within the city. Local initiative **Tremendous** aims to plant over 50,000 more.

The **St Nicks Environment Centre** provides 24 acres of unique green space on a former rubbish tip alongside volunteering and learning opportunities.

The **Smarter York initiative** will see local residents across York getting involved in the '**Big Spring Clean**'.

A new **Green Infrastructure Strategy** will help to shape the way in which the City's Green Infrastructure is planned and managed.

# Built environment



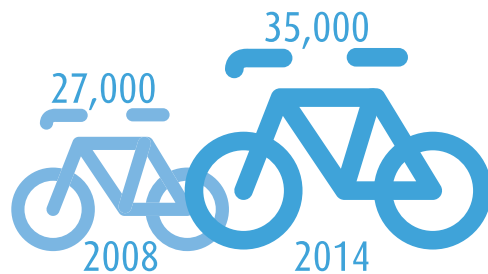
York has the only complete medieval city walls in England. It is almost unique with its easily recognisable medieval street pattern and **2,000 years of unbroken urban development.**

The city has one of the **highest concentrations of designated heritage assets** in England.

There are **22 Scheduled Ancient Monuments** and seven Areas of Archaeological Importance and **35 conservation areas.**

York's rich built environment is a large part of what makes York special.

# Sustainable transport



York's compact size and flat terrain make sustainable travel a realistic option for many, with a **higher proportion of trips by bicycle** than many other UK cities.

In 2013 York was ranked the **third best cycling city** in England (DETR).

The **large foot streets area** is popular and the **extensive bus network** covers most areas.

York's **nationally regarded Park & Ride service** is one of the most effective in the country providing **4m passenger trips each year**.

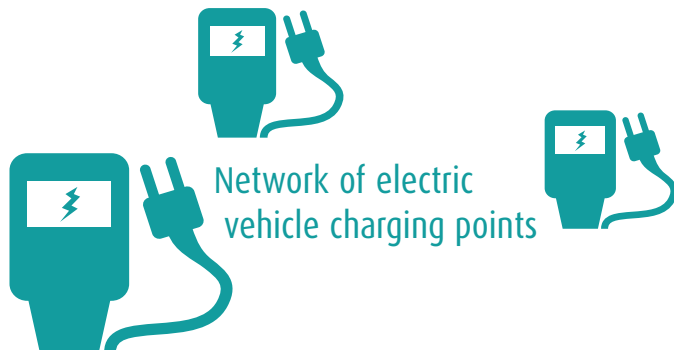
York station allows **excellent rail connections** to surrounding towns and cities and is on the main line to Edinburgh and London.

The city has a **growing electric bus fleet**. York is home to the world's **first double decker tour bus converted from diesel to electric** alongside a wider **fleet of low emission buses and taxis**.

York is one of **only five 'Better Bus Areas'** and has a well established 'Quality Bus Partnership'. Key successes include a **multi-operator bus ticket** and improved services for young people and those with disabilities.

**95% of schools have travel plans.**

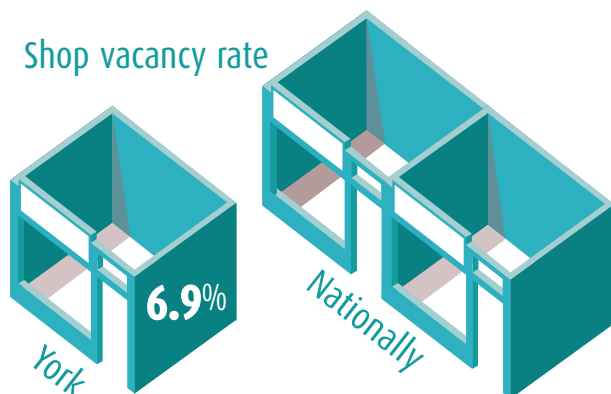
Building on the success of the four-year **I-Travel York programme** will help promote and increase take up of sustainable travel amongst businesses and residents.



# Equity and local economy



Shop vacancy rate



According to Centre for Cities, York has some of the **lowest levels of inequality** of any major city in the UK<sup>1</sup>.

York is a **leading Living Wage city** with 11 accredited employers ranging from Nestle to the Golden Ball community pub.

York is home to the highly influential **Joseph Rowntree Foundation** that works nationally to address poverty and disadvantage.

In January 2015 the council was rated **'Excellent'** against the Local Government Equalities Framework.

**Unemployment is low** and the workforce highly skilled though there are **high levels of part time working**, particularly amongst women.

A successful **Tour de France** generated **£8.3m** and drew 18.6m spectators worldwide. **Make It York** has been created to support inward investment and tourism.

York Central, a **major brown field** site in the city centre, will create new homes and office space. There is significant regional investment in **new Bio-renewable centres** to support the growing bioeconomy.

York's **two universities** are key assets and play a significant role in the economic wellbeing of the city. The **Stockholm Environment Institute**, a highly regarded research institute, has a base in the city.

York is at the top of the **national leader board for GCSE results** though an attainment gap remains between pupils eligible and ineligible for free school meals.

There is **pressure on the housing market** with high values and rents. A programme of new council homes alongside **award winning sustainable developments** like Derwenthorpe will further underpin York's economy.

York's **super connected city programme** aims to make York the best connected city in the UK.



# Health and happiness

Almost **90% of residents are satisfied** with York as a place to live. Low crime, green space and health services are the things residents value most.

Overall **health and wellbeing levels are good** but disparities in health outcomes persist. There is a **gap of ten years in life expectancy** for males between the most and least deprived communities in York.

More people die prematurely in York each year due to **poor air quality** than from obesity and road accidents combined. The main source of poor air quality is traffic emissions.

A new **community stadium and leisure complex** is planned to add the wide range of sport and leisure facilities available across the city.

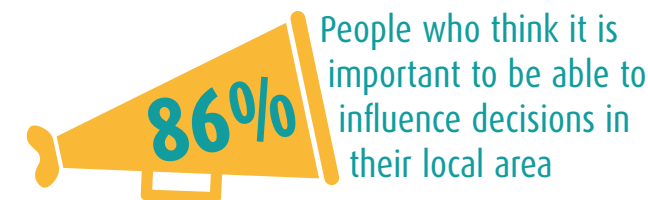
York is on the way to being a **dementia friendly city** through the work of the York dementia action alliance.

York's **housing stock is in good condition** with high energy efficiency but 9% presents a serious risk to health such as risk of falls or excess cold.

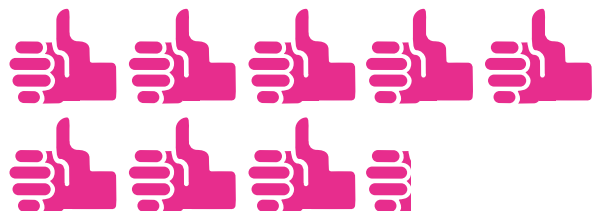


89% satisfied with York as a place to live

People aged 55+ participating in sport and active recreation 2013/14



# Culture and community



83% of residents satisfied with their local area as a place to live 2013/14

In 2012 York was named **the most beautiful city in the UK** and the city most Britons would like to live (Bing).

In 2014 Tripadvisor named it the **best place to eat out in the UK**.

The city attracts over **7m visitors each year** drawn by northern Europe's largest Gothic cathedral, a **rich heritage and built environment** and the world's largest rail museum.

York is home to one of **the country's top three high streets** set within one of the UK's 'coolest neighbourhoods' (The Times).

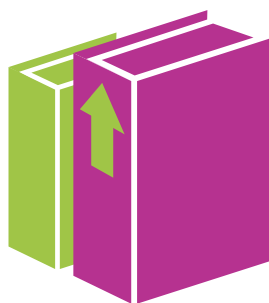
It is also home to the **UK's first library mutual** – York Explore' and a world class **£1.6m city Archive** documenting 800 years of local history.

Awarded the UK's **first UNESCO City of Media Arts** status in 2014, the city hosts the BAFTA qualifying **Aesthetica Short Film Festival**, the world famous **Mystery Plays**. A £4m investment in York Theatre Royal will commence in 2015.

A number of **community asset transfers**, such as the £1m Lottery funded Clements Hall, and a growing network of **community hubs** provide local services through 21 venues.

The city pioneered the award winning **GeniUS innovation forum** to harness the ideas of local people.

Library visits up more than a million



# Sustainable food



York is at the very heart of one of the **most diverse food producing regions in the UK**.

It has been a recognised **FairTrade city** since 2004 with regular city centre local food fairs and markets.

The York Food and Drink festival showcases the wealth of quality Yorkshire produce that can be found in the region.

Fertile grass routes action has delivered a network of **edible community gardens** under the umbrella of **Edible York**. This expanding network supports community groups to grow independently, turning unloved corners of the city into edible oases.

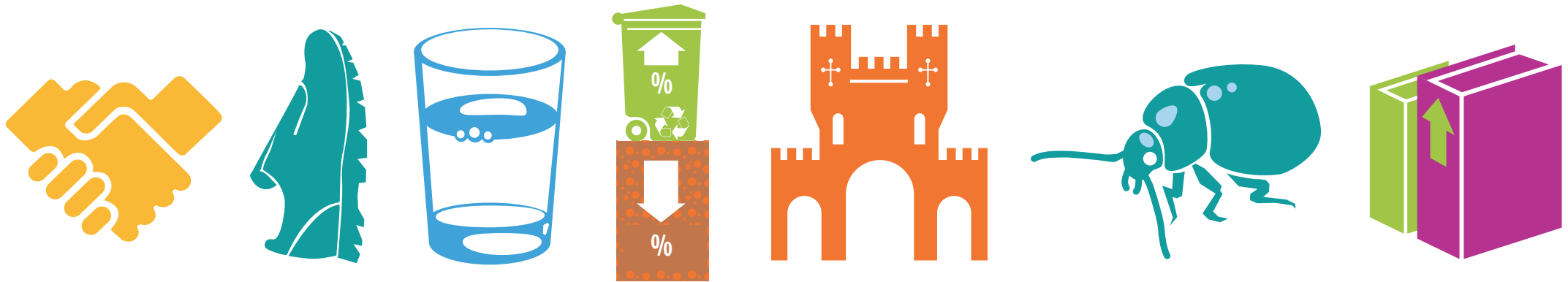
Together with **York Edible Schools**, Edible York has recently planted 199 fruit trees as part of the '**York Orchard**' producing 20,000 pieces of fresh fruit.

The Orchard is linked to the city's **Abundance Project** that maps underused fruit trees across York and redistributes produce to people in need.

There are also around 1,600 allotment plots across the city.

York has a **thriving third sector** supporting a wide range of community & voluntary groups and social enterprise.

**York in Transition** and **The Incredible Movement** in York are just two such groups that sharing a common interest in building community-led action and local resilience.



If you would like this information in an accessible format (for example in large print, in Braille, on CD or by email) please call (01904) 551550

**This information can be provided in your own language.**

Informacje te mogą być przekazywane w języku ojczystym.

Polish

Bu bilgi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür.

Turkish

此信息可以在您自己的语言。

Chinese (Simplified)

此資訊可以提供您自己的語言。

Chinese (Traditional)

 01904 551550

For more information:

 [www.york.gov.uk/](http://www.york.gov.uk/)

 #sustainabilityIs?