

Report from Executive Member for Environment for March 2018 Full Council

The portfolio holder for Executive Member of Environment covers a wide range of services. But it also has a supporting role across other portfolios to help ensure that we all deliver on the Environment and One Planet York Principles. Some of the highlights I would like to draw attention to are as follows:

1) Flood Defence

a) Flood Inquiry

The 90 recommendations of the inquiry have continued to be reviewed and almost all actions have been completed in a range of review meetings across all partner organisations. All partners have been asked to identify any areas where recommendations have not been completed and we will work together to progress these.

An additional officer role has been identified to support the development of flood resilience capability across the city, an Emergency Planning Assistant has been recruited to deliver this through a range of objectives which will be reported in the quarterly updates on flood defence :

- Engagement with communities and partners, including Flood Action Groups, Flood Wardens, and Local Resilience Forums
- Promotion and increased take up of flood wardens and community action planning
- Promotion and increased take up of the EA flood warning service, development of our flood recovery role, collation of flood incident data to support EA flood warning improvements
- Effective partnership working through enhanced relationships between the community, the local authority and key partners including the Environment Agency
- Increased flood risk awareness promoting individual and collective action
- Development of wider awareness of flood risk insurance opportunities for residents and businesses

b) Repair and Renew Grant

Following the tidal surge and flooding events of winter 2013/2014 and 2015/2016 Government directly funded affected Lead Local Flood Authorities to deliver property level resilience (PLR) via the Repair and Renew Grant Scheme. PLR takes on two forms – resistance measures designed to slow or reduce the ingress of water into a property via air brick covers, door guards, pumps etc or resilience measures designed to ensure the property is more resilient to the resultant flood via raised electrics, flood resistant construction materials etc.

CYC have administered the grant since the event, the key details are below:

- Number of applications approved 271
- Value of applications approved £1,117,641
- Number of applications paid out to date 204 fully, 67 ongoing
- Value of applications paid out to date £857,070

Support grants for residential properties and businesses have also been funded and we have paid out £197k to residential and 221k to commercial properties.

c) Five Year Flood Plan

Funding has been allocated to the Environment Agency following the floods to renew existing and provide new flood defences across the city, £17m has been allocated to the Foss Barrier improvements and £45m to the wider flood defences across the city.

The works at the Foss Barrier are almost complete, the building has been made more resilient to flooding and eight new pumps have been installed, the station is now able to pump flood flows at 50 tonnes per second, in excess of those experienced on Boxing Day 2015, which will provide increased resilience in future flood events.

Defra approvals have been granted for the high level business case and the contract has been awarded to consultants to develop the detailed business cases in each flood cell (the breakdown of individual areas in the city based on the 'mechanism' of flood risk) and consequent detailed design of packages of works.

The priority locations at present are Clementhorpe, New Walk and North Street. The EA attend the working groups of the York Central and Castle

Gateway regeneration projects. There will be some difficult areas to carefully balance the required raising of flood defence asset heights against the needs of those living by and enjoying access to our rivers.

Early work has begun to identify possible areas for upstream storage on the River Foss, this work will support the improvements at the Foss Barrier.

A drop-in centre has been set up on North Street at the former Bike Hub site, this provides a place where all partners working on the schemes can co-locate and work together and residents and businesses can come in to discuss the schemes in more detail. The hub is open to the public on Mondays 10am-4pm, Wednesdays 10am-6pm and Thursdays 10am-4pm.

d) Long Term Flood Plan

Early work has commenced to identify possible catchment scale solutions across the River Ouse catchment, natural flood risk management measures such as tree planting, upland land management and flood storage have the capability to provide a long term climate change resilience to the measures that are being developed in the city. This work is looking at our flood resilience needs over the next 100 years and we will work closely with environmental groups and partners to develop this further. Currently a figure of £4 million has been allocated via the EA capital programme for this work and I have written to the Floods Minister to make the case for improvements to measurements of water levels in becks and tributaries to provide the evidence of the effect that Natural Flood Management is having on the water courses. A supportive response has been received from Dr Thérèse Coffey.

e) Development Management

The Lead Local Flood Authority is a statutory consultee for surface water flooding matters in all planning applications, in addition to this we work alongside the Environment Agency and other partners to scrutinise key planning applications to ensure they will not increase the risk of flooding to themselves or neighbours through the lifetime of the development. A Flood Risk Management Engineer is embedded in the Development Management team to provide this advice.

We have updated our Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and have developed a supporting Sustainable Drainage Guidance document to

ensure developers understand the information that is required to develop a compliant drainage strategy for their development. These documents will be published alongside the emerging Local Plan.

f) Highways Drainage Management

The 42,690 known gully assets in the City of York Council area carry out an essential role to drain excess water from our highways. Primarily these assets contribute to the provision of a road network able to safely carry all road users but in times of excessive or extreme rainfall they can contribute to the reduction of surface water flood risk.

Funding has been made available to develop an additional survey and investigation programme, to date more than 35,000 of the 43,690 known gullies have been logged, investigated and cleansed, a flood risk assessment process has been previously carried out to ensure key assets have been prioritised. 53% of all assets were found to be blocked but significant work has ensured the majority of the system investigated to date is operating effectively. Key asset data is being collected by tablet devices that are available to all operatives.

The data will be used to develop a risk based gully cleansing programme, based around individual asset needs to utilise the available operational resources to deliver an efficient and effective service. We are working closely with West Yorkshire Combined Authority colleagues in this work.

2) Waste and Recycling

a) Allerton Park and Waste

This February saw the completion of the Allerton Park project and we now have a fully operational facility. This is a massive achievement for the city and our partners on the project North Yorkshire County Council. It has very real environmental benefits for the city –90% of this waste that we have historically buried at landfill is now being treated at Allerton Park.

Not only are we diverting from landfill but the plant generates enough energy to power 40,000 homes a year. Whilst our preference is always that people recycle, the waste that is sent to Allerton Park is mechanically sorted to ensure we take what we can to recycle which had been built into the project in the early phases by City of York councillors.

This will not reduce our ambition for increasing recycling in the city but it will make a difference to the waste which would otherwise have been landfilled.

By-products from the facility will be treated and recycled into aggregate for roads and reprocessed metal.

Using the waste to produce energy displaces the carbon produced by coal fired power stations (the equivalent of taking 12,000 cars off the road), and reduces the escape of methane gas which is a more potent climate change gas which is released from landfill sites (even those which capture methane for electricity generation as there are limits to the practical operation of this feature).

It financially gives us 25 years of stable costing, has provided 700 jobs during construction and will employ 70 people going forwards.

Our waste services have sought to drive efficiency through the service. Route optimisation has made the collection rounds more efficient. Two new 'one-pass' recycling vehicles have been procured. The new vehicles are bigger in capacity than the four which they have replaced and are also compacting the recycling.

We have also worked with the workforce and trade unions to make the workloads of recycling and waste crews more equitable with working patterns for other teams. There is still work to do to achieve the efficiency, and we had some teething troubles in terms of knowledge but the service to residents has improved in recent months. I have met regularly with officers to respond to these situations, and I am grateful to the public for raising concerns with me.

b) Energy Projects

Allerton Park is not the only energy project, we have worked on over 200 homes to improve the heat insulation on properties, heating within the buildings was addressed with 29 oil heating systems replaced with air source heat pumps during February 2017 – April 2018 and a total of 665 gas boilers replaced across CYC housing. The programme will continue over future years with another 600 boilers planned this year and further insulation works

A number of energy efficiency schemes are in place in the private sector to support residents in improving the energy efficiency of their homes in order to save money on their heating. This results in a reduction in carbon, as better insulated homes require less heating. There are a number of grants and schemes which focus on fuelling poor households

to help homeowners, private tenants and private landlords across the city. The scheme aims to create warmer, healthier homes and to reduce the cost of fuel bills by providing grants to homes with low energy efficiency rating and household incomes less than £35,000 per year.

Overall emissions from buildings utilities have declined 19.3% from 16,663,792 kg CO₂e to 13,443,779 kg CO₂e since 2010/11. This is due to retrofit works such as installation of LED lighting, energy management systems, wall insulation and new windows. We have replaced the lighting in Piccadilly Car Park with energy efficient LED lighting, as well as at Acomb Primary School and Haxby School. There are further plans to do this with other local authority buildings.

c) **Street lighting**

There are metered and unmetered street lights across the city for which CYC are responsible for paying the electricity bills. This includes street lights, feeder pillars, pedestrian crossings, variable message signs and traffic lights.

Overall electricity consumption and associated emissions have been declining significantly in recent years. Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 electricity consumption fell 34.3% from 8,755,397 kWh to 5,749,201 kWh. Because of this drop in consumption we are now emitting around 1,100 tonnes of CO₂e and spending £275,000 a year less than we otherwise would have been.

This drop in consumption over time can be attributed to:

- Installation of the photo-electric cell unit at the Eco Depot to monitor and assess streetlight switching times enabled a conversion from passive to dynamic half-hourly billing
- The programme of converting street lighting to LEDs has reduced the council's carbon emissions by a third and remains ongoing
- Conversion from filament to LED lighting
- Reduced lighting between 12am and 6am by 60%, up to 75% on arterial roads

These street lighting refurbishments have made a major contribution to the overall decline in the council's carbon footprint in recent years.

Recently a £2 million refurbishment programme has been announced. Over the course of the next four years the work to replace sodium lights

with LEDs will continue; 2,000 new steel and concrete columns will be installed and maintenance checks will be carried out on 12,000 columns.

d) Business Improvement District (BID)

We have worked closely with the BID to improve the public realm with York. The investment in street wardens has a positive effect on the appearance of our city centre. Work with the BID will see the piloting of a new wayfinding project this summer.

3) Environmental Health

- a) We are on target to complete all of our food hygiene inspections and other interventions required under the Food Law Code of Practice, this is particularly challenging given the high number of food businesses in the City and the rate at which many change ownership (often referred to as business churn). Historically, we have had a good record of dealing with our highest risk premises, and have brought in a programme to bring us back on track with the 600 lowest risk premises for which we are on course to achieve.
- b) We have taken formal enforcement action against the poorest performing food businesses. Three separate cases have been brought before the courts. This includes our first prosecution for a trader falsely stating their food hygiene rating. There are several more cases in the pipeline.
- c) We have provided a record number of 'pre-food hygiene inspection rating advice visits'. These effectively give businesses the opportunity to pay for an advisory visit before their main inspection and to iron out problems which may impact on their score. Of the 60 York businesses who have taken up this offer, some 73% have improved their 'food hygiene rating', with 77% achieving a rating of 5 out of 5. This work has been nominated for a Regulatory Delivery Office 'Excellence Award'. However, there are still some companies who don't follow up the advice given and so work continues in this respect.

4) Air Quality

a) Monitoring

The public protection team continue to monitor and report on air quality in the city and to oversee the implementation of York's Low Emission Strategy (LES) and Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP). The last Annual Status Report (June 2017) indicated that air quality is generally improving in the city. At the end of December 2017 the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) on Salisbury Terrace was revoked (although the equipment remains in place and the data will continue to be reported to the Executive Member annual air quality update report). There still remain a number of areas of air quality concern in and around the inner ring road which will continue to be addressed through ongoing delivery of the LES and AQAP. Officers are currently preparing a consultation on the proposed bus based Clean Air Zone (CAZ) (in conjunction with the sustainable transport team) and developing anti-idling measures.

b) Low emissions

In August 2017 the council was awarded £3.3 million from the Department for Transport's Ultra Low Emission Bus Scheme to support the delivery of high capacity, fully electric buses and charging infrastructure for the remainder of York's Park & Ride routes. To support the new CAZ and subject to assessments, York's scheme will help deliver an electric Park & Ride network by February 2019. The new electric buses will join the 11 existing ones already operating at Poppleton Bar and Monks Cross.

Our own fleet fuel emissions have fallen by 20.5% from 3,164,377kg in 2010/11 to 2,515,276kg in 2016/17. In part due to improved Telematic systems are being expanded across all fleet vehicles to help identify uneconomic driving practices and encourage behaviour change. We have also commenced the use of additives to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions in order to comply with Euro 6 regulations.

Progress also continues to be made with the development and implementation of low emission planning guidance which requires developers to mitigate the emission impact of their developments, for example by providing electric vehicle charging points and using construction environmental management plans.

c) Clean Air Day 2018

Following the success of National Clean Air Day 2017, plans are being put in place for the 2018 event to be held on 21st June 2018.

(<https://www.cleanairday.org.uk/>). Representatives from the University of York will be providing interactive air quality workshops in some local primary schools, followed by an air quality focused 'Walk to School Week' to be delivered by the CYC sustainable transport team and representatives from Sustrans. Public protection staff will once again be joining forces with representatives from AMEY to undertake anti-idling awareness.

Members are welcome to assist with Clean Air Day activities either by helping to raise awareness of idling outside schools or to support Public Protection staff in the city centre. Anyone interested in helping out on Clean Air Day should contact Liz Bates in the public protection unit (ex 1529).

5) Community Centres

Significant progress has been made over the last few years with all community centres now on a formal lease arrangement with CYC. The following leases are in place:

- Tang Hall Community Centre – 30 year lease
- Bell Farm Social Hall – 7 year lease
- Sanderson House – 7 year lease
- Foxwood community centre – 7 year lease

These community buildings are being community managed by volunteers and delivering on local needs. The Council continue to offer a small annual grant to each centre which supports building improvements or projects that generate additional use. All are managing to sustain themselves as well as successfully drawing in external grants.

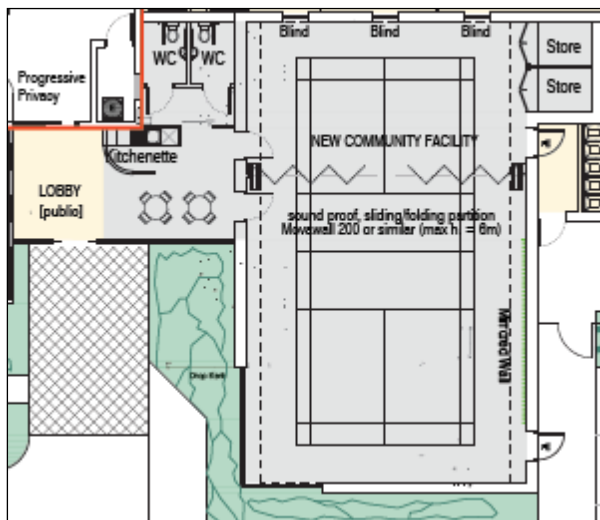
A self-help Community Centre Network is well established which supports the growth and development of the centres. This is open to anyone who runs a community centre in York.

The Council in agreement with the community centres has employed a degree level apprentice to support the volunteers who run the centres and the Community Centre Network. This role focuses on ensuring the Council's community centres are being run safely and maximising the use of our assets.

Celebrating the work of volunteers is incredibly important and the Community Centre Network is looking to run a number of events during National Volunteer month in June 2018.

Burton Stone Community Centre is the last of the Council run community centres and this will close on 31 May 2018 to be replaced by a purpose-built community centre attached to Marjorie Waite Court following the refurbishment to open in 2019. A relocation plan is in place for all users to ensure continuity of activity.

Draft floor plan for new community facility at Marjorie Waite Court:



Community Centre Network:



Community Centre event:

6) One Planet York



The LSPs 'Strategy for York 2011-2025' set an ambition to be 'a leading sustainable city'. The Council Plan 2015-2019 commits the council to 'put sustainability at the heart of everything we do' and 'work towards One Planet living'.

The One Planet York vision and framework was approved by City of York Council Executive on 16 March 2016. OPY emerged out of a process of community co-design as a way to mobilise the city towards a more sustainable, resilient and collaborative future - with a vibrant inclusive economy, strong community and healthy environment.

OPY is not exclusively an 'environmental' agenda. The framework recognises the integrated nature of city challenges – economic, social and environmental - and sets out a vision of 'good place' through ten easy to understand principles.



1	Zero Carbon
2	Zero Waste
3	Sustainable Transport
4	Local and Sustainable Materials
5	Local and Sustainable Food
6	Sustainable Water
7	Natural Habitats and Wildlife
8	Culture and Heritage
9	Equity and Fairtrade
10	Health and Happiness

One Planet York is a growing network of public organisations, private businesses and voluntary groups committed to making York a more sustainable and resilient city.

The network is currently hosted and facilitated by City of York Council. A core leadership group of 12 organisations meets regularly to champion and develop OPY.

In 2017 the council's Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee reviewed One Planet York and recommended 'the Council fully utilises the opportunities presented by the One Planet York framework to drive organisational efficiency and effectiveness and further mobilise the wider city towards a more sustainable and resilient future'.

OPY aims to:

- Increase understanding about what a sustainable and resilient city looks like
- Increase awareness about the leadership being shown
- Increase recognition for York's achievements
- Raise city aspirations

OPY takes an open source, asset based approach that says 'anyone can be a leader'.

One Planet York - progress and key milestones:

Innovative OPY City Scorecard:

The scorecard provides new insights into city performance through an integrated assessment of city progress across the following domains:
Prosperity, opportunity, inclusion and equity
Health, wellbeing and community
Environmental resilience and sustainability

In 2017 it showed York's overall performance was top quartile (i.e. 48th from top out of 324 other local authority areas). The scorecard shows York can legitimately lay claim to being 'a leading sustainable and resilient city'. The scorecard shows York's key challenge is to ensure everyone benefits from the city's economic success. The scorecard will be refreshed again in April 2018.

Annual OPY City Conference and Expo:

The 2017 event took place within the envelope of York Festival of Ideas and aimed to shine a spotlight on sustainable living and bring new ideas and 'thought leadership' to the city. The keynote address was by the Mayor of Munster – 'the world's most liveable city'. Over 30 local organisations took part. 2018 will see collaboration with York Health and Wellbeing Board on a 'Healthy City' theme. The event will be held on 12th June.

A city working together:

There are currently around 60 organisations publicly supporting the OPY vision and working towards some or all of the OPY principles. Organisations signal their support by making a pledge on the OPY Directory. The network includes many of York's largest employers, several SMEs and a host of innovative voluntary and community groups.

