

**Notice of a public meeting of
Decision Session - Combined Executive Member Decision Session**

To: Councillor Jenny Kent (Executive Member for Environment and Climate Emergency)

Date: Tuesday, 5 May 2026

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: West Offices, York

AGENDA

Notice to Members – Post Decision Calling In:

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in any item* on this agenda, notice must be given to Democratic Services by **4:00pm on Tuesday 12 May 2026**.

*With the exception of matters that have been the subject of a previous call in, require Full Council approval or are urgent which are not subject to the call-in provisions. Any items that are called in will be considered by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.

Written representations in respect of items on this agenda should be submitted to Democratic Services by **5:00pm on 30 April 2026**.

1. Appointing a Chair

To confirm arrangements for chairing the meeting as follows:
Councillor Jenny Kent, Executive Member for Environment and Climate Emergency – All agenda items

2. Apologies for Absence

To receive and note apologies for absence.

3. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting, Members and co-opted members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest, or other registerable interest, they might have in respect of business on this agenda, if they have not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

(1) Members must consider their interests, and act according to the following:

Type of Interest	You Must
<i>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</i>	<i>Disclose the interest, not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting unless you have a dispensation.</i>
<i>Other Registrable Interests (Directly Related)</i> OR <i>Non-Registrable Interests (Directly Related)</i>	<i>Disclose the interest; speak on the item only if the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting unless you have a dispensation.</i>
<i>Other Registrable Interests (Affects)</i> OR <i>Non-Registrable Interests (Affects)</i>	<i>Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting, participate and vote unless the matter affects the financial interest or well-being:</i> <i>(a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interest or well-being of a majority of inhabitants of the affected ward; and</i> <i>(b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest. In which case, speak on the item only if the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise do not participate in the discussion or</i>

	<i>vote, and leave the meeting unless you have a dispensation.</i>
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(2) Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.

(3) Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations, and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

4. **Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. Members of the public may speak on agenda items or on matters within the remit of the committee. Please note that our registration deadlines are set as 2 working days before the meeting, in order to facilitate the management of public participation at our meetings. The deadline for registering at this meeting is 5:00pm on Thursday 30 April 2026.

To register to speak please visit www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings to fill in an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting, please contact Democratic Services. Contact details can be found at the foot of this agenda.

Webcasting of Public Meetings

Please note that, subject to available resources, this meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The meeting can be viewed live and on demand at www.york.gov.uk/webcasts.

5. **Minutes**

To approve and sign the minutes of the Combined Executive Member Decision Session held on 14 April 2026. (To follow)

6. **Energy Independence** (Pages 7 - 50)

This report considers the potential for York to achieve energy independence through a combination of energy efficiency and new renewable generation. It considers the associated benefits, challenges, progress to date and required future activity.

7. Urgent Business

Any other business which the Chair considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer:

Angela Bielby

Contact details:

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- Email: a.bielby@democratic.services@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports and
- For receiving reports in other formats

Contact details are set out above.

Alternative formats

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我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (ہولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

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Meeting:	Executive Member Decision Session
Meeting date:	5 May 2026
Report of:	Chief Strategy Officer
Portfolio of:	Councillor Jenny Kent, Executive Member for Environment and Climate Emergency

Decision Report: Energy Independence for York

Subject of Report

1. This report considers the potential for York to achieve energy independence through a combination of energy efficiency and new renewable generation. It considers the associated benefits, challenges, progress to date and required future activity.
2. Energy Independence would mean that York is able to meet its energy needs entirely through local generation, without relying on external sources. Energy independence offers significant economic, social and environmental benefits, but will also require significant and co-ordinated investment.
3. As of 2023, total energy demand for York was 703.29 Gigawatt hours (GWh). In the same year, York generated 15.72 GWh from renewable energy sources, constituting 2.24% of total energy demand. There is a known pipeline of an additional 109.288 GWh of annual energy generation.
4. Work is underway to go beyond the current known pipeline, exploring opportunities for mass roll-out of rooftop solar, large-scale renewable developments and utilisation of renewable heat. Funding has been awarded through the Mayoral Energy Generation Accelerator Programme (EGAP) to:
 - i. Complete a Full Business Case for a Green Energy Park at Harewood Whin (£200k)

- ii. Undertake a techno-economic feasibility study for a city centre heat network (£100k)
- iii. Landscape assessment for new renewable opportunities (£130k)

Benefits and Challenges

5. Energy Independence has the potential to provide financial savings for households by installing self-generation which can significantly reduce utility bills and insulate consumers from price spikes. Localised energy also allows homes to maintain power during grid outages, providing protection against extreme weather.
6. Producing our own energy reduces vulnerability to global supply chain disruptions and geopolitical instability.
7. Transitioning to local, renewable sources reduces carbon emissions and reliance on polluting fossil fuels. Clean, local power is an integral component of decarbonising York's energy system, which is currently responsible for 120,000tCO₂e, or 16% of York's direct carbon emissions.
8. Economic growth: Investments in domestic renewable infrastructure stimulate the local economy, create jobs, and keep financial resources within the area.
9. It is challenging to find consistent forward and backward-looking data when it comes to energy at a local authority level, which means this report is limited in its ability to establish a consistent way of measuring York's progress towards energy independence. There are two options for ongoing monitoring:
 - The percentage of total final energy consumption York meets with its renewable energy capacity, reported 2 years in arrears.
 - The percentage of projected future energy demand York can meet with its renewable energy capacity.

This report looks at the percentage of projected future energy demand York can meet with its renewable energy capacity. However, since there are no retrospective total final number for actual annual energy demand in York, using this as a measure of progress going forward would rest on the assumption that the NPG DFERS is an accurate reflection of real energy demand.

10. When looking at the pipeline of renewable energy projects across York, this report does not present a complete and confident view; when looking at projects that are planned but not yet delivered this report only captures non-council delivered projects where they are recorded in the DESNZ planning database.
11. The NPG DFERS sees York reach net zero by 2050; this falls short of York's ambition to be net zero by 2030. Hence, this report is limited by a lack of projections that match York's ambition.

Policy Basis for Decision

12. The York Prospectus, approved by Executive in November 2025, sets the goal for York to generate more renewable energy than it consumes, becoming the UK's first net exporter of renewable energy. This goal supports the council priorities of Equality, Affordability, Climate and Health.
13. The York and North Yorkshire Draft Strategy for a Sustainable Future includes an ambition for York and North Yorkshire to achieve energy independence. While possible, it will require a bold transformation through targeted investment, co-ordinated delivery and planned infrastructure deployment.

Financial Strategy Implications

14. Achieving energy independence will require investment by external bodies such as DESNZ, YNYCA and private sector partners. As such, the 3 schemes referred to in this report have funding allocated by the YNYCA. Further investment will need to be identified and secured in order to reach the energy independence ambition.
15. In recent years, the cost of energy usage has seen significant volatility from global events such as the invasion of Ukraine. Being more independent from such events will reduce the pressures on the Council's budget and help to support a sustainable long term financial strategy.

Recommendation and Reasons

16. The Executive Member is asked to:
- i. Note the goal for York to become the UK's first net exporter of renewable energy, associated challenges, progress to date and planned activity
 - ii. Accept grant funding from the Mayoral Combined Authority to:
 - Complete a full business case for a Green Energy Park at Harewood Whin (£200k)
 - Complete a techno-economic feasibility study for a city centre heat network (£100k)
 - Provide staff capacity to support delivery of the Energy Generation Accelerator Programme (£130k)

Background

17. This report considers the ambition of Energy Independence in York. It considers current energy demand and renewable generation from within the local authority boundary, the planned pipeline for new generation and the proposed approach to identify new generation opportunities. Energy independence is a stated objective of the Draft York and North Yorkshire Strategy for a Sustainable Future¹ and the York Prospectus².
18. Energy Independence would mean that York is able to meet its energy needs entirely through local generation, without relying on external sources. In the context of this report, energy is limited to electricity, as comparing across multiple fuel types is not possible for this analysis. Opportunities to generate renewable heat are considered in the future pipeline, but do not contribute to the headline data.
19. Energy independence offers significant benefits:

¹ <https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/YNYS-Strategy-for-a-Sustainable-Future-Consultation-Draft.pdf>

² <https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s186082/Item%2015%20-%20Yorks%20Prospectus%20Going%20for%20Good%20Growth%20with%20Innovation%20Culture%20and%20Heritage%20at%20our%20hea.pdf>

- Economic – The cost of imported energy to meet forecast demand in 2030 is expected to be £43m³ and in 2050, it would exceed £100m³. Locally owned renewable generation ensures these revenues stay within region. Local generation can reduce the cost of energy to consumers and through community ownership models, it can contribute to community wealth building.
- Social – affordable, locally produced energy can support residents in fuel poverty and insulate consumers from sudden price shocks and inflation. It improves security of supply and reduces the likelihood of power outages as a result of extreme weather events.
- Environmental – clean local power reduces reliance on fossil fuels. In 2023, electricity consumption in York accounted for 120,000tCO₂e, or 16% of total direct emissions.

20. The following analysis utilises energy demand data from Northern Power Grid (NPG), measuring York’s renewable energy capacity and future planned renewable developments against NPG’s projections for expected energy demand in York from 2023 up to 2050. It focuses on energy demand as opposed to total final energy consumption, as energy demand captures transmission and distribution losses making it a more accurate representation of the total renewable energy York would need to supply to achieve energy independence.
21. NPG’s Distribution Future Energy Reference Scenario (DFERS) demonstrate how energy demand is likely to change in the coming decades. We are using the most optimistic DFERS scenario for the analysis, in which:

“Net zero is met by 2050 with ambitious early momentum and support in line with existing commitments. Relies on extensive investment in low carbon tech, early action from government and high levels of engagement from consumers.”

Total energy demand in 2023 (GWh)	Total energy demand in 2030 (GWh)	Total energy demand in 2050 (GWh)
703	869	1,427

³ Based on 2024 prices

Under this scenario, energy demand in York will increase by 103% by 2050. Demand is expected to rise from 703.29 GWh in 2023 to 869.13 GWh in 2030, reaching 1,427.59 GWh by 2050, as shown below:

22. This report uses these projections to quantify the gap between current and future energy demand and the requirements for achieving energy independence.

Energy demand and renewable generation in 2023

23. In 2023, York generated 15.72 GWh from renewable energy sources, constituting 2.24% of total energy demand for York that year.

Source	Number of sites	Generation capacity (MW)	Annual generation (GWh)
Photovoltaics	4,772	18.7	15.62
Onshore wind	6	73	0.07
Offshore wind	0	0	0
Hydro	0	0	0
Anaerobic digestion	0	0	0
Offshore wind	0	0	0
Wave/tidal	0	0	0
Sewage gas	2	0.7	0.003 ⁴
Landfill gas	2	7.1	0.021 ⁴
Municipal solid waste	0	0	0
Animal biomass	0	0	0
Plant biomass	0	0	0
Cofiring	0	0	0
Total	4,782	26.6	15.72

Data source: [DESNZ Regional Renewable Statistics](#)

Future energy generation in York

24. The NPG DFERS provides projections for the development of renewable capacity in York; however, these projections would not see York achieve energy independence.

⁴ The annual generation for sewage and landfill gas was not provided by DESNZ to prevent the output of individual plants being revealed. Annual generation was therefore estimated from the generation capacity using [DUKES load factor data](#).

Year	Total demand (GWh)	Expected total renewable generation in York as projected by DFERS (GWh)	% of demand covered by local generation under DFERS projections for York	Total energy generation imported to cover projected demand (GWh)	Wholesale electricity (volume weighted) p/kWh (2024 prices)	Cost of importing energy to meet energy demand (2024 prices)
2030	869.13	144.90	17%	724.23	6	£43,453,792
2050	1427.59	439.22	31%	988.37	11	£108,720,467

25. To achieve energy independence, York needs to go beyond NPG's expectations for installed renewables across the local authority. It would need installed renewable capacity to generate:
- 869.13 GWh annually by 2030
 - 1,427.59 GWh annually by 2050.
26. With only 2.24% of energy demand met by York's renewable supply in 2023, significant renewable infrastructure development over the coming decades is needed to achieve energy independence.

City of York Council progress since 2023

27. *Renewable Installation on City of York Council Owned Sites –* Since 2023, City of York Council has completed or supported several renewable projects, increasing total annual energy generation from renewables by 0.88 GWh.

Project Name	Completed	Annual generation (GWh)
Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary	May 2024	0.105
Applefields School	November 2024	0.142
Dringhouse Primary School	May 2024	0.031
Muddy Boots Nursery Acomb	October 2024	0.021
Westfield Primary Community School	October 2024	0.048
Energise Leisure Centre	April 2025	0.073
Yearsley Swimming Pool	March 2026	0.139
Elvington CE Primary School	March 2026	0.019
Pine Trees Care Centre	March 2026	0.018
St Mary's Primary School	March 2026	0.015
Joseph Rowntree School	October 2025	0.243
Knavesmire Pavillion	February 2026	0.026

28. *Small scale renewable developments (domestic and commercial)* – The Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) database records all MCS certified small scale renewable energy installations (up to 50kW) and provides a picture of renewable generation growth across domestic and commercial settings since 2023. In total, small scale solar PV installation in York across domestic and commercial sites have contributed an estimated 14.13GWh annual energy generation. 91% of this generation comes from domestic solar PV.

Type	Sites	Installed Capacity (MW)	Expected Annual Generation (GWh)
Domestic Solar PV Installation	1,797	10.27	12.83
Commercial Solar PV Installation	164	1.62	1.30
Total	1,961	11.89	14.13

Planning permission approved projects

29. According to the Department for Net Zero and Energy Security Renewable Energy Planning database⁵ (January 2026 report), renewable energy projects delivering a total of 103.90 GWh of annual energy generation have been approved. Of the 103.90 GWh expected from approved sites, 91% of this generation is expected to come from three solar farms, two private developments (72%) and one City of York Council site, Harewood Whin Energy Park (25%).

Operator (or Applicant)	Site Name	Technology Type	Installed Capacity (MWelec)	Annual generation GWh	Planning permission expires
Renewables First	Naburn Weir Hydro	Small Hydro	0.50	1.60	20/01/2023
Solar2 Limited	Hessay Solar Farm	Solar Photovoltaics	40.00	37.42	11/03/2027
Ampyr Solar Europe UK	Poppleton Solar Farm	Solar Photovoltaics	32.60	30.50	08/10/2027
Network Rail	Network Rail, Holgate Road - Solar Panels	Solar Photovoltaics	0.82	0.77	
T H Hobson Limited	Haggwood Farm, Broad Highway - Solar Panels	Solar Photovoltaics	0.23	0.21	28/04/2026
T H Hobson Limited	Westhouse Farm, Elvington - Solar Array	Solar Photovoltaics	0.22	0.21	28/04/2026

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/renewable-energy-planning-database-monthly-extract>

Network Rail	Network Rail, Holgate Road - Solar Panels	Solar Photovoltaics	0.46	0.43	20/04/2026
Downing Renewable Developments	Walbutts Sewage Works, Brecks Lane - Solar Array	Solar Photovoltaics	0.27	0.25	
St Peters School	St Peters School, Clifton - Solar Panels	Solar Photovoltaics	0.15	0.14	07/07/2026
Solar Options for School Limited	Archbishop School, Hull Road - Solar Photovoltaic Panels	Solar Photovoltaics	0.46	0.43	
Yorwaste Limited	Harewood Whin, Tinker Lane - Solar Farm	Solar Photovoltaics	28.00	26.20	28/04/2028
Private Client	Newlands Farm, Wigginton - Solar Panels	Solar Photovoltaics	0.27	0.25	22/05/2029
University of York	University Of York, University Road - Solar Panels	Solar Photovoltaics	0.15	0.14	08/08/2029
University of York	, Innovation Way Solar Panels	Solar Photovoltaics	0.23	0.22	08/08/2029
Sainsburys Supermarkets Limited	Sainsburys supermarket - Solar Panels	Solar Photovoltaics	0.31	0.29	07/10/2027
Downing Renewable Development	Elvington Water Treatment Works - Solar Photovoltaic	Solar Photovoltaics	3.00	2.81	29/04/2028
York College	York College - Solar Panels	Solar Photovoltaics	0.28	0.26	
DED Company Limited	Yorkshire Water Naburn Lane - Ground Mounted Solar	Solar Photovoltaics	0.37	0.35	
University of York	Biology Department, Wentworth Way - Solar Panels	Solar Photovoltaics	0.22	0.21	01/08/2028
J Lister Electrical Limited	Donald Baron Court, Heslington - Solar Panels	Solar Photovoltaics	0.15	0.14	11/08/2030
York Community Energy	Better York Leisure Centre, Kathryn Avenue - Solar Panels	Solar Photovoltaics	0.21	0.19	
Bradshaw Farms Limited	Longfield Grange, York Road - Solar PV Arrays	Solar Photovoltaics	0.25	0.23	06/10/2028
David Lloyd Leisure Ltd	David Lloyd Clubs, Windmill Lane - Solar Panels	Solar Photovoltaics	No data provided	0.00	
R S Cockerill Limited	R S Cockerill York Limited, Stamford Bridge Road - Solar	Solar Photovoltaics	0.69	0.65	

City of York Council's pipeline

30. Beyond the pipeline of projects where planning permission has been granted, City of York Council has a pipeline of projects at various stages of development that will contribute a total of 4.534 GWh annually.

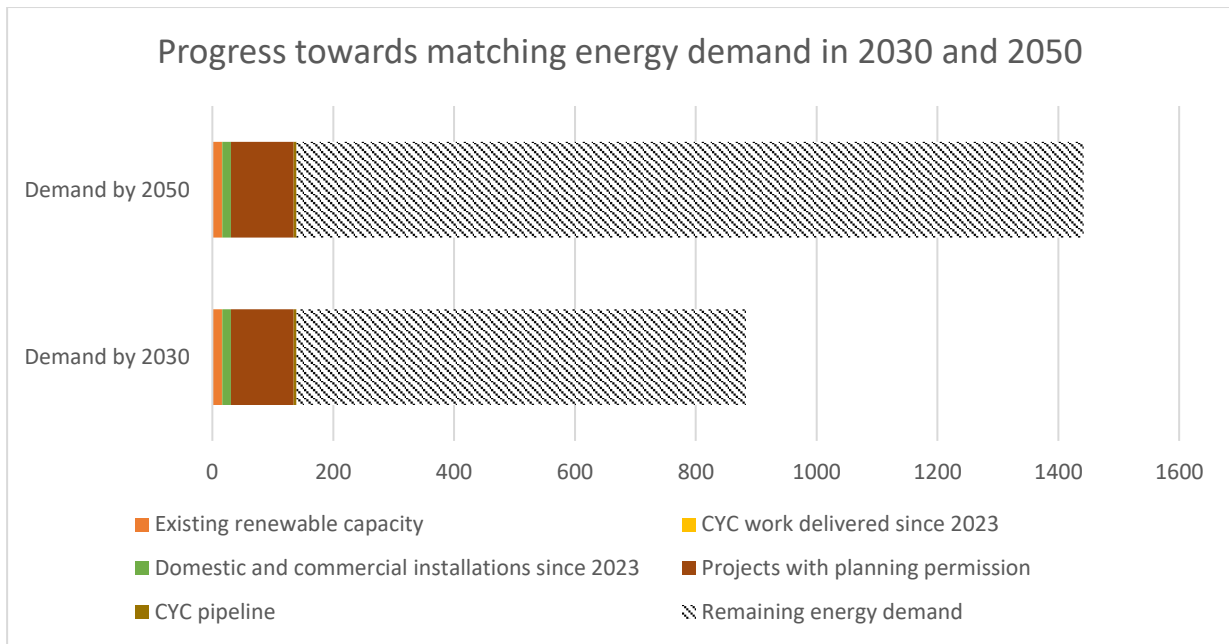
Project Name	Expected Annual Generation (GWh)
Union Terrace HyperHub	0.075
Askham Bar P&R Solar Carports	0.88
Monks Cross GM Solar & P&R Solar Carports	0.328
Grimston Bar GM Solar	1.35
Carr Infants Solar PV	0.054
Headlands Primary School	0.048
Huntington School (Main Building) (P)	0.105
St Oswald's Primary Solar	0.028
St Pauls CE VC Primary School	0.001
Wigginton Primary School Solar	0.021
Copmanthorpe Primary School	0.069
Ralph Butterfield Primary School (L)	0.077
York LNER Stadium Solar PV	0.382
Burnholme Sports Centre Solar PV	0.075
Moor Lane Youth Centre Solar PV	0.014
York Crematorium	0.004
Howe Hill Hostel Main Building	0.020
Central Library Solar PV	0.035
Poppleton Bar P&R Solar Carports	0.8
Acomb Explore Library	0.027
Burnholme Library	0.032

Summary of delivered and planned work

- The projects delivered since 2023 total 15.01GWh.
 - Projects with planning permission approved total 103.9GWh
 - Projects in the CYC pipeline not captured in the planning permission database total 4.53GWh
31. Once all planned work is complete York is expected to generate 139.16 GWh annually. This amounts to:
- 16.01% of total energy demand expected by 2030.
 - 9.75% of total energy demand expected by 2050.

32. Based on the projected wholesale electricity prices from DESNZ⁶, a scenario where no further work was planned beyond what is captured above would come at significant cost:

- £43,800,060.00 to purchase the remaining 729.97 GWh of energy as wholesale electricity.
- £141,730,710.00 to purchase the remaining 1,288.43 GWh of energy as wholesale electricity.



Beyond the planned pipeline

33. The graph above demonstrates that the current pipeline of work will not be sufficient in matching the scale of energy generation needed to achieve energy independence in York.

- A further 729 GWh of generation is needed annually to match expected energy demand in 2030.
- A further 1,288 GWh of generation is needed annually to match expected energy demand in 2050.

There are, however, additional opportunities for reaching energy independence.

Mass roll out of solar on council-owned buildings

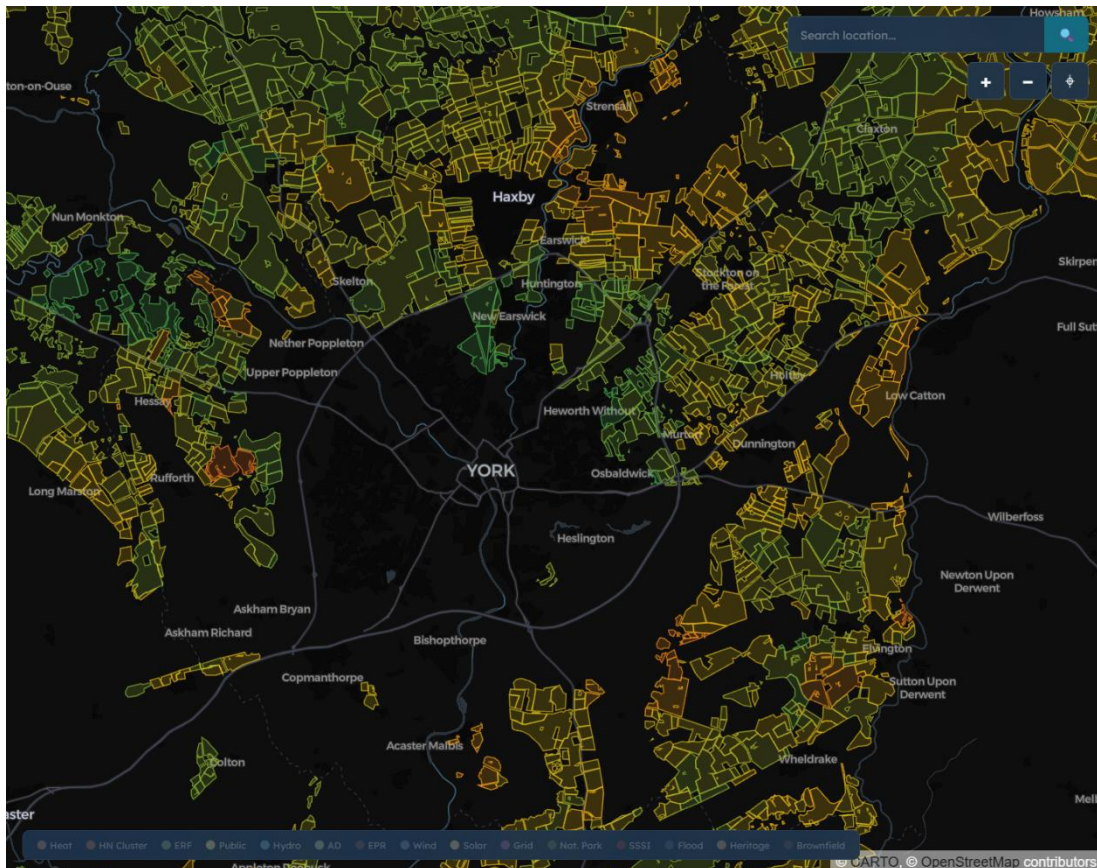
34. Work has been done to estimate the annual energy generation from the mass roll out of solar across council owned buildings, the

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-and-emissions-projections-2023-to-2050>

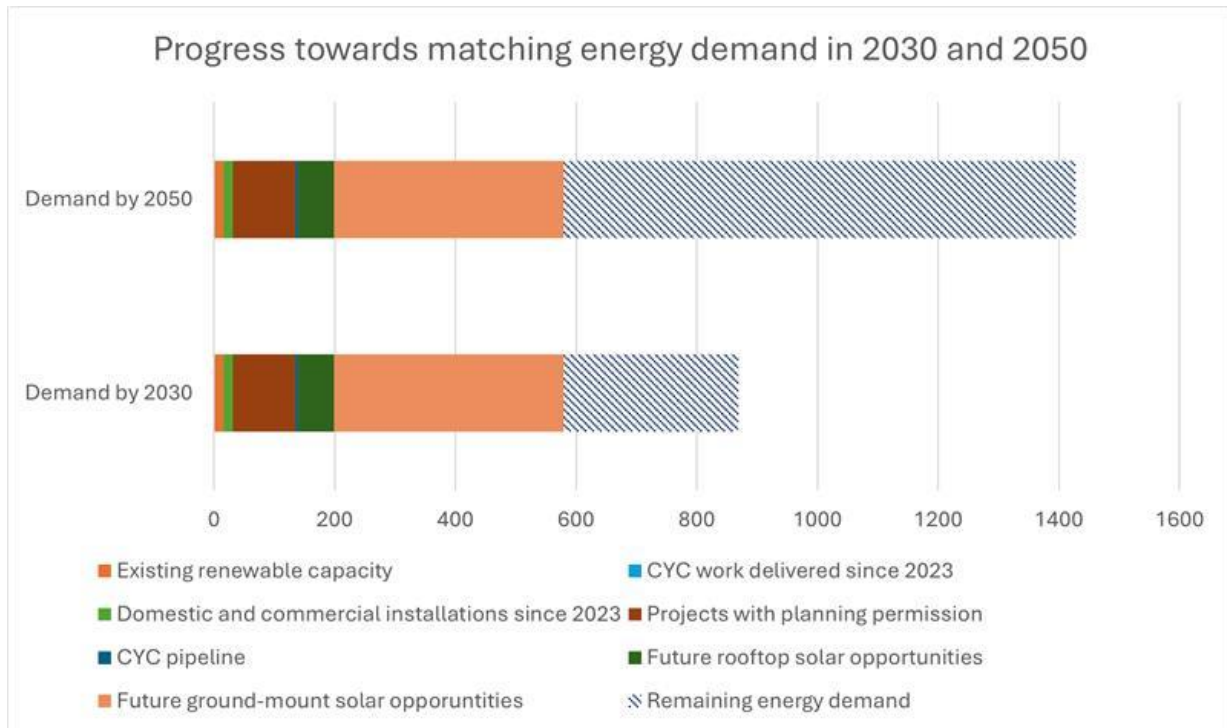
assessment found 175 additional rooftops where solar could be installed, on top of those covered above. The assessment did not rule out properties based on factors such as historical sensitivity. installing solar on the additional 175 council owned rooftops would result in a potential generation of 59.79 GWh annually. This would constitute 8.19% of the remaining generation needed to match demand in 2030 and 4.64% of the remaining generation needed to match demand in 2050.

Large scale renewable development

35. Large-scale renewable developments have the potential to contribute much greater capacity than numerous small-scale developments. Exploring options for further large-scale renewable projects could bring York significantly closer to energy independence than exclusively pursuing rooftop solar. Ongoing work under Energy Generation Accelerator Programme (EGAP) is identifying areas with potential for renewable energy development. This is beginning to provide insight into opportunities for larger-scale renewable projects that could deliver more substantial generation capacity and contribute to York's independent energy supply.



36. The green areas on the map above indicate locations where research has identified few anticipated constraints to the development of ground-mounted solar panels. Looking within the York local authority boundary, if all ground mount solar sites that had a constraint score of 3 or lower were installed this would generate 380.12 GWh annually. This would constitute 52.07% of the remaining generation needed to match demand in 2030 or 29.50% of the remaining generation needed to match demand in 2050, shown in the graph below.



Consultation and Analysis

37. Extensive consultation and stakeholder engagement were undertaken as part of the development of the York Local Area Energy Plan and York’s Growth Prospectus.
38. The Climate Change and Natural Capital Programme Board have been consulted on the content of this report.

Organisational Impact and Implications

Financial – The projects included in the recommendation are funded by grant from the YNYMCA and no Council funding is required. Any further projects associated with energy independence will be

assessed for financial viability and will need to allow for all Council support costs e.g. procurement and legal, if required.

Human Resources (HR) – No implications identified

Legal – No implications identified

Procurement – All works and/or services must be procured via a compliant, open, transparent, and fair process in accordance with the council's Contract Procedure Rules and where applicable, the Procurement Act 2023. Further advice regarding the procurement process and development of procurement strategies must be sought from the Commercial Procurement team.

Health and Wellbeing – Climate change has been declared by the Lancet Commission on Planetary Health as 'the greatest public health risk of the 21st Century'. The direction of travel this report sets out towards reduced levels of greenhouse gas emissions will have positive benefits for health and wellbeing in the city, including contributing to a reduction in air pollution, fewer extreme weather events, and protection from emerging zoonotic diseases.

Environment and Climate action – the energy system accounts for around 17% of our local emissions in York. Local renewable generation will support our ambition for net zero.

Affordability – energy prices are a key contributor to fuel poverty. Reducing household energy prices will have a direct benefit for residents.

Equalities and Human Rights – Please refer to the Human Rights and Equality impact Assessment (HREA) in Annex A

Data Protection and Privacy – No implications identified

Communications – No implications identified

Economy – Delivery of local renewable generation projects has the potential for green job creation and skills development. Local suppliers and contractors should be sought wherever possible.

Property – Opportunities for renewable generation across the council's estate will be sought in line with the Asset Management Strategy.

Risks and Mitigations

39. Grid connection costs and timescales could be prohibitive for some projects. In mitigation, projects will be prioritised where behind-the-meter connections are possible. Storage and flexibility will be appropriately used to reduce peak demand.
40. Competing land use pressures (food, housing etc...) reduce the viability for large-scale renewable generation. In mitigation, new developments will be developed strategically in line with the national Land Use Assessment and local priorities.
41. While new renewable generation has the potential to delivery significant benefits, it also has the potential to exacerbate existing inequalities. In mitigation, projects will be developed in direct consultation with communities, with opportunities for community ownership and wealth-building considered as standard.

Wards Impacted

42. All wards are impacted

Contact details

For further information please contact the author of this Decision Report.

Author

Name:	Shaun Gibbons
Job Title:	Head of Climate Change
Service Area:	Climate Change
Report approved:	Yes
Date:	23/04/2026

Background papers

York Local Area Energy Plan

https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s164228/Annex%20B_LAEP%20York%20Chapter.pdf

York's Growth Prospectus

<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s186081/Item%2015%20-%20Yorks%20Prospectus%20Going%20for%20Good%20Growth%20with%20Innovation%20Culture%20and%20Heritage%20at%20our%20headf>

York and North Yorkshire's Strategy for a Sustainable Future –
Consultation Draft

<https://yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/YNYS-Strategy-for-a-Sustainable-Future-Consultation-Draft.pdf>

Annex

Annex A - Human Rights and Equality Assessment Tool (HREA)

List of Abbreviations Used in this Report:

CO ₂ e	Carbon dioxide equivalent
CYC	City of York Council
DFERS	Distribution Future Energy Reference Scenario
DPIA	Data Protection Impact Assessment
EGAP	Energy Generation Accelerator Programme
GWh	Gigawatt hours
LAEP	Local Area Energy Plan
MCS	Microgeneration Certification Scheme
MWh	Megawatt hours
NPG	Northern Powergrid
YNYCA	York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority

City of York Council and Centre for Applied Human Rights

Human Rights and Equality Assessment Tool (HREA)

An Equality Assessment Tool is an evidence-based approach designed to help organisations ensure that any Policy, Criterion or Practice (PCP), is fair and does not create barriers or disadvantage any protected groups from participation. This covers both strategic and operational activities.

City of York Council (CYC) combines this approach with York's commitment as a Human Rights City to produce a Human Rights and Equality Assessment tool (HREA).

This document enables CYC to evidence its legal duty to give 'due regard' to those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act and consider Human Rights at the same time.

Whether a HREA is needed or not will depend on the likely impact that a PCP may have and relevance of the activity to Equality and Human Rights.

The HREA should be started when the need for a new PCP is first identified, or when an existing one is reviewed. It is essential to continue to update the HREA during the life of the PCP, as and when new information is learned. It is not complete until the PCP is complete.

Non-discrimination is a minimum standard. The development of the HREA should prompt critical discussion and highlight disproportionate impacts.

Balancing residents' rights and CYC duties can be very complex and sometimes there will be no 'win-win', so compromises or mitigations may need to be identified to ensure the best outcomes.

Finally, the value in a HREA is in both the short and long term, by investing in this process CYC will create robust, meaningful, and empowering policies that are more likely to stand the test of time.

Who is submitting the proposal?

Directorate	City Development		
Service Area	Climate Change		
Name of proposal	Energy Independence for York		
Lead Officer	Claire Foale		
Date Assessment Started	21/04/2026		
Date Assessment Completed	23/04/2026		
Names of those who contributed to the assessment			
Name	Job Title	Organisation	Area of Expertise
Shaun Gibbons	Head of Climate Change	City of York Council	Climate Change
Eliza Taswell-Fryer	Climate Change Project Officer	City of York Council	Climate Change
Paul McCabe	Climate Change Project Manger	City of York Council	Climate Change

Step 1 – Aims and intended outcomes

1.1	What is the purpose of the proposal
	Please explain your proposal in plain English avoiding acronyms and jargon. Consider using Age 9 English.
	<p>The report investigates York’s ability to generate its own energy through renewable sources. The report builds a picture of York’s journey to energy independence in three parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The report looks at the current renewable energy that is generated each year in York.• The report looks at how planned renewable energy projects will increase the amount of energy York produces.• The report looks at future opportunities for renewable developments, including rooftop solar, ground mount solar and wind. <p>Achieving energy independence in York through the roll out of renewable energy projects will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase energy security protecting York from chronic stresses like high energy costs and external energy shocks.• Help York reach its net zero 2030 goal.• Provide cleaner, cheaper energy to York’s residents and businesses
1.2	Are there any external considerations?
	Legislation / government directive / codes of practice etc.

	Climate Change Act 2008 National Planning Policy Framework 2012 Energy Act 2023 (Royal Assent granted) Great British Energy Act 2025 (Royal Assent granted)
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1.3	Who are the stakeholders and what are their interests?
	Consider both internal and external stakeholders.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of York citizens as consumers of energy • Business / organisations as consumers of energy • The Council as a consumer of energy • Elected members

1.4	What results / outcomes do we want to achieve and for whom?
	Explain what outcomes you want to achieve for stakeholders, staff and the wider community. Demonstrate how the proposal links to the Council Plan (2023- 2027) and other corporate strategies and plans. Highlight how the proposal meets the objectives of Equalities, Affordability, Climate and Health.

Local renewable energy generation will deliver significant benefits for residents and organisations across York, including:

- Lower energy costs: Shorter transmission distances reduce losses, while eliminating reliance on fuel purchases helps to stabilise and lower energy prices.
- Greater energy security and resilience: Locally owned renewable assets reduce exposure to national and international energy price volatility and increase resilience to grid disruptions.
- Environmental and health benefits: Clean renewable energy generation improves air quality and reduces greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to better public health outcomes.

Internal stakeholders, including the Asset Management team and managers of maintained schools, will also benefit from reduced building running costs through the installation of renewable energy technologies on council-owned assets. This directly supports progress towards reducing the Council's operational carbon emissions and achieving its net zero by 2030 ambition.

Progress towards Energy Independence through the mass roll out of renewable energy projects across the city addresses the Council Plan (2023-2037) in the following ways:

- Affordability: through the provision of free or cheaper energy as a result of renewable generation within York.
- Climate: by increasing the energy generation from renewables York would reducing its reliance on fossil fuels, helping to reduce carbon emissions, and bringing the city closer to its net zero 2030 goal.

Step 2 – Resources utilised

3.1	What sources of data, evidence and consultation feedback have you used to help understand the impact of the proposal on equality rights and human rights?	
Please consider a range of sources, including consultation exercises, surveys, feedback from staff, stakeholders, participants, research reports, the views of equality groups, as well your own experience of working in this area etc.		
Source of data / supporting evidence		Reason for using this source
Calvillo Munoz, C., Martiskainen, M. (2025). Understanding the barriers and impacts of green choices on people with protected characteristic. Energy Demand Research Centre (EDRC), Policy Brief 3.		Outlines potential barriers that people with protected characteristics may face to accessing the benefits of renewable energy.
Acceptance of Sustainable Solar energy systems is influenced by household age.		Outlines solar PV uptake variations by age.
Households in Fuel Poverty report		Data on fuel poverty by ethnic group.
Esther C. van der Waal, Local impact of community renewable energy: A case study of an Orcadian community-led wind scheme, Energy Policy, Volume 138, 2020		A study into the positive impacts of community renewable energy.
Extra Burden of Energy Among Disabled Households, SCOPE.		A study into the energy costs facing disabled households.
https://www.wbg.org.uk/article/women-are-on-the-front-line-of-the-climate-crisis-policy-must-catch-up/		Outlines the proportion of women-headed households experiencing fuel poverty.
Housing quality and affordability for lower-income households, IFS.		A study into housing challenges facing lower income households.

	Unpaid care ONS statistics, Census 2021	Statistics on the number of unpaid carers living in deprived areas.

Step 3 – Screening the impacts or effects.

3.1	Equality-related obligations derive from the Equality Act of 2010 and the Human Rights Act of 1998.
	<p>Once you have engaged with stakeholders you will need to identify how this proposal impacts on their human rights and equalities.</p> <p>Although table one looks complex, its purpose is to facilitate an initial screening of equalities and human rights impacts of your proposal.</p> <p>Many human rights and equalities will not be affected by the decision you are seeking Executive or Council approval for and so can be left blank. The aim here is to identify pressure points regarding human rights and equalities that require attention.</p> <p>Please see the Appendix for details of the protected characteristics and human rights to consider</p> <p>The rights listed below in the first column are the relevant ones from the Human Rights Act, and the York Human Rights City Network Indicator Report (non-discrimination, education, health and social care, housing, a decent standard of living). The human rights in the Indicator Report were selected by residents of York as their priority rights. In the first row the protected characteristics under the Equality Act are listed, to which 'Everyone' has been added to capture impacts that affect everyone without distinction.</p>

Step 3.1 Table 1 – Screening the impacts or effects

Equalities Human Rights	Everyone	Age including financial, digital exclusion impacts	Disability Including financial, digital exclusion impacts	Gender	Gender reassign- ment Including Trans, Non- binary, Intersex	Marriage and civil partnership	Pregnancy and maternity	Race	Religion and belief	Sexual orientation	Carers inc financial, digital exclusion impacts	Low- income groups inc financial, digital exclusion impacts	Veteran, armed forces community	Those with experience of Care
Right to life*														
Prohibition of torture*														
Prohibition of slavery and forced labour*														
Right to liberty, movement and security (including freedom of movement)***														
Right to a fair trial*														
No punishment without law*														
Right to private and family life***														
Freedom of thought, conscience, and belief***														
Freedom of expression***														
Freedom of assembly***														
Right to marry***														
Right to property***														

Right to education***													
Right to free elections***													
Right to housing***	x	x	x				x				x	x	x

David Smith 0110212024

Step 3.2 Table 2 – Assessing the impact of your proposal

Here you will need to record the details on all the impacts identified for both Human Rights and those with Protected Characteristics.

Where you have identified an impact on a protected characteristic/human right in the table above, please indicate whether this is positive or negative and give a description of this impact. If you run out of rows, please add as necessary.

Rights clashes and restrictions

Where rights clash or are being restricted, you will need to explain how the decision has been taken, that the limitation on human rights is provided by law, for a legitimate purpose (justified), and proportionate (the minimum necessary restriction on rights).

Use the following guidance to inform your responses:

First, think about what equalities or rights might be engaged by the proposal, and describe the likely impact of the proposal, and provide an evaluation.

Use the following questions to inform your responses if human rights or equalities are limited or qualified in any way:

- Why are a person's rights being restricted?
- What is the problem being addressed by the restriction on someone's rights?
- Will the restriction lead to a reduction in the problem?
- Does that restriction involve a blanket policy, or does it allow for different cases to be treated differently?
- Does a less restrictive alternative exist?
- Has sufficient regard been paid to the rights and interests of those affected?
- Do safeguards exist against error or abuse?

Table 2

Protected Characteristics or Human Rights	Key findings / impacts	Positive (+) Negative (-) (Neutral (0))	High (H) Medium (M) Low (L)
Age	<p>(+) As older people often have higher household energy needs supplying affordable renewable energy to those households could help protect pensioners from fuel poverty.</p> <p>(+) Children in fuel poor households will benefit from more resilient energy supplies at lower costs.</p> <p>(-) A study in Belgium found that adoption of renewable energy installations on homes increases with age up to age 65. Over-seventies are less likely to invest in renewables on their properties and there is a risk that without appropriate consideration, the most vulnerable elderly will not experience the full benefits renewable energy presents.</p>	<p>+</p> <p>+</p> <p>-</p>	<p>M</p> <p>H</p> <p>M</p>
Disability	<p>(+) People with disabilities tend to have higher energy needs so this population could stand to benefit from the cheaper energy that locally produced renewables could provide.</p>	<p>+</p>	<p>M</p>

	(-) Households with a disabled person are more likely to live in a flat and to rent. Those living in flats will find it harder to benefit from PV installation on their property. Those in rental accommodation are reliant on their landlord for any potential benefits that a renewable installation could have.	-	M
Gender reassignment	There is limited evidence on the impact of local renewable energy generation on transgender people, although all residents of York stand to benefit from access to cheaper, clean energy protected from external price shocks.	0	L
Marriage and Civil Partnership	There is limited evidence on the impact of local renewable energy generation dependant on people's marriage/civil partnership status, although all residents of York stand to benefit from access to cheaper, clean energy protected from external price shocks.	0	L
Pregnancy and Maternity	There is limited evidence on the impact of local renewable energy generation on pregnant people and people on maternity leave, although all residents of York stand to benefit from access to cheaper, clean energy protected from external price shocks.	0	L
Race	(+) Black, Asian or mixed heritage households are more likely to be in fuel poverty than white households. The provision of affordable clean energy could alleviate fuel costs in these households.	+	M
	(-) People from ethnic minority groups are more likely to live in a flat and to rent. Those living in flats will find it harder to benefit from PV installation on their property. Those in rental accommodation are reliant on their landlord for any potential benefits that a renewable installation could have.	-	M

Religion and Belief	There is limited evidence on the impact of local renewable energy generation on people based on their religion or belief, although all residents of York stand to benefit from access to cheaper, clean energy protected from external price shocks.	0	M
Sex	(+) Single-parent households, the majority headed by women, are significantly more likely to be in fuel poverty & economically deprived. The provision of affordable clean energy could alleviate fuel costs in these households.	+	M
Sexual Orientation	There is limited evidence on the impact of local renewable energy generation on people based on their sexual orientation, although all residents of York stand to benefit from access to cheaper, clean energy protected from external price shocks.	0	L

Other social – economic groups			
Carer	<p>Unpaid carers are more likely to live in deprived areas:</p> <p>(+) Renewable energy supply could provide more affordable energy to reduce the burden of fuel costs on those in more deprived areas.</p> <p>(-) Those on lower incomes or living in private rented housing may not be able to afford installations on their property or may not benefit from direct domestic generation if their landlord does not invest. There is a risk that without an appropriate policy response the roll out of renewable generation across domestic properties in York could exacerbate instead of alleviate income inequality.</p>	+	M
		-	M

Care Leavers	<p>Care leavers are more likely to live in insecure housing, be unemployed or on a low income:</p> <p>(-) This makes them more vulnerable to the potential negative impact outlined in the 'lower income groups' section.</p> <p>(+) Increasing local renewable energy generation could provide cheaper energy to reduce the financial burden of heating and running the homes of care leavers.</p>	0	M
Low-income groups	<p>(+) <u>Lower income groups spend a higher proportion of their earnings on energy</u>. Increasing local renewable energy generation could provide cheaper energy to reduce the financial burden of heating and running the home.</p> <p>(-) <u>Lower income groups are more likely to live in low quality, insecure rented accommodation and are reliant on their landlord for any potential benefits that a renewable installation could have</u>. They are less likely to own property and are less likely to be able to afford to install renewable energy generation on their properties where they do own them. There is a risk that without an appropriate policy response the roll out of renewable generation across domestic properties in York could exacerbate instead of alleviate income inequality.</p>	0	M
Veterans and armed Forces	<p>There is limited evidence on the impact of local renewable energy generation on people based on their veteran or armed forces status, although all residents of York stand to benefit from access to cheaper, clean energy protected from external price shocks.</p>	0	L
Other			
Human Rights (list any rights impacted)			
	Right to Housing	+	M

	The delivery of affordable, clean energy will have a positive impact on the ability of York residents to heat and power homes, decreasing the risk the risk of cold-related housing risks such as damp and mould.		
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Step 4 – Gaps in data and knowledge

4.1	What are the main gaps in information and understanding of the impact of your proposal?		
	<p>When conducting your screening, you may have discovered gaps in data or knowledge that make it difficult to assess whether your proposal had a positive or negative impact on human rights/equalities.</p> <p>Please indicate actions you will take to resolve this gap.</p> <p>As your proposal progresses you may be able to resolve this knowledge gap –please indicate when it was resolved.</p>		
	Gaps in data or knowledge	Action to deal with this	Date resolved

Step 5 - Maximising positive impacts

5.1	What has been done to optimise opportunities to advance equality / human rights or foster good relations?
	<p>No action has been taken at this point to optimise the opportunities to advance equality, actions relating to this should be taken during the planning of new renewable energy projects to ensure equitable access to the benefits of renewable installations.</p>

Step 6 – Recommendations and conclusions of the assessment

6.1	Having considered the potential or actual impacts you should be in a position to make an informed judgement on what should be done. In all cases, document your reasoning that justifies your decision.	
	Important: If there are any adverse impacts you cannot mitigate, please provide a compelling reason in the justification column. There are four main options you can take:	
	No major change to the proposal	The HREAT demonstrates the proposal is robust. There is no potential for unlawful discrimination or adverse impact, and you have taken all opportunities to advance equality / human rights and foster good relations, subject to continuing monitor and review.
	Adjust the proposal	The HREAT identifies potential problems or missed opportunities. This involves taking steps to remove any barriers, to better advance quality or to foster good relations.
	Continue with the proposal (despite the potential for adverse impact)	You should clearly set out the justifications for doing this and how you believe the decision is compatible with our obligations
Stop and remove the proposal	If there are adverse effects that are not justified and cannot be mitigated, you should consider stopping the proposal altogether. If a proposal leads to unlawful discrimination, it should be removed or changed.	

	Option Selected	Conclusion / justifications
	No major change to the proposal	<p>The HREAT demonstrates the working towards energy independence through renewable developments in York could have a positive impact, particularly on groups with protected characteristics.</p> <p>The HREAT does also demonstrate that there are risks that the roll out of renewable energy could deepen inequalities if a just approach to distribution implementation is not taken.</p>

		<p>To ensure that opportunities are being maximised and risks are being mitigated the approach to project prioritisation, the targeting of initiatives etc. should be structure in a way that helps ensure a just transition and should be monitored and reviewed to ensure they are being rolled out across the city in a way that ensures equity in access.</p>
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Step 7 – Summary of agreed actions resulting from the assessment

7.1	What action, by whom, will be undertaken as a result of the impact assessment.			
	List below the actions or mitigations that have been identified and who will be responsible to carrying them out. Add as many lines as you need.			
	Impact / Issue	Actions to be taken	Person Responsible	Timescale
	Older people are more vulnerable to energy shocks and fuel poverty but over seventies are less likely to invest in domestic renewables.	Ensure renewable energy schemes prioritise non-domestic, community or council-owned assets that deliver cost savings without requiring individual household investment.	Project / programme manager for renewable development schemes	TBC
	Disabled people have higher energy needs but are more likely to live in rented or flat accommodation, limiting access to domestic renewables.	Ensure projects include technologies and buildings that provide indirect benefits (e.g. energy tariffs, heat networks, communal PV) rather than relying on owner-occupier adoption.		
Children in fuel-poor households are adversely affected by high and unstable energy costs.	Target renewable energy installations on council-owned housing and schools in areas of high fuel poverty to reduce household energy costs and improve resilience.			
Ethnic minority households are more likely to experience fuel poverty but face barriers due to higher rates of renting and flatted housing.	Ensure equality considerations are embedded in project design, including site selection and benefit distribution, to avoid exclusion. Ensure projects include technologies and buildings that provide indirect			

		benefits (e.g. energy tariffs, heat networks, communal PV) rather than relying on owner-occupier adoption.		
	Low-income households may be excluded from renewable benefits due to lack of capital or property ownership.	<p>Prioritise models that do not rely on upfront household investment and explore mechanisms to pass savings directly to residents.</p> <p>Ensure projects include technologies and buildings that provide indirect benefits (e.g. energy tariffs, heat networks, communal PV) rather than relying on owner-occupier adoption.</p>		
	Renters and people living in flats are dependent on landlord engagement to benefit from renewables	<p>Engage with social housing providers and private landlords to encourage renewable installations and fair distribution of benefits.</p> <p>Ensure projects include technologies and buildings that provide indirect benefits (e.g. energy tariffs, heat networks, communal PV) rather than relying on owner-occupier adoption.</p>		

Step 8 - Monitor, review and improve

8.1	How will the impact of your proposal be monitored and improved upon going forward?
	Consider how will you identify the impact of activities on protected characteristics, other marginalised groups and human rights going forward? How will any learning and enhancements be capitalised on and embedded?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data on installation of domestic and commercial PV installations could be spatially analysed to evaluate distribution across LSOA areas. This could be monitored alongside LSOA IMD scores to ensure that more deprived neighbourhoods are not falling behind in access to renewable generation.• Conduct periodic surveys to understand the barriers to take-up of renewable energy.• Conduct periodic surveys to understand the benefits being delivered through the roll out of renewable energy sites in York.

Appendix A

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI): Protected characteristics

Under the public sector duties introduced by the Equality Act 2010 public bodies must have due regard for the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the act, such as the failure to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

These duties relate to the nine protected characteristic groups defined by the Equality Act 2010 (outlined in the table below).

The Council recognises that a person's socio-economic background and whether they live in a rural or urban location can be important factors in determining fair access to services, employment and treatment. When carrying out analysis, you must also consider socio-economic issues and rural / urban location issues. In addition to the nine protected characteristic the HREAT includes the following equality groups:

- Carers
- Low income groups
- Veterans, armed forces community
- Experience of care/Other (other groups that are impacted)

Human rights differ from equalities in two main ways:

- First, human rights apply to everyone and not just groups with protected characteristics.
- Second, they allow for the balancing of rights, priorities, and risks. Many rights are not absolute and can be limited or qualified in particular circumstances.

The following guidance identifies which rights are most likely to be engaged by proposals in certain policy areas. This does not mean that you should not consider whether other rights might be engaged.

There are three types of human rights in the Human Rights Act:

Absolute rights: Cannot be breached in any circumstances e.g. right to life and to protection from torture and inhuman or degrading treatment.

Limited rights: can only be restricted in specific situations e.g. a person can be deprived of their liberty if they are convicted of an offence and imprisoned.

Qualified rights: human rights can be restricted if it is in the interests of the wider community or to protect other people's rights e.g. freedom of movement and assembly were restricted during the Covid-19 pandemic in the interests of public health.

As limited and qualified rights are not absolute, they sometimes have to be balanced in decision making. In Table 1, absolute rights are indicated with an *; limited rights with a **; and qualified rights with a ***.

Right	Description	Focus Area
Right to life	<p>Nobody, including the Government, can take someone's life away. Public authorities must take appropriate measures to safeguard life including by protecting people whose life might be in danger.</p> <p>Public authorities should also consider the right to life when making decisions that might endanger or affect life expectancy.</p> <p>When public officials may be involved in an instance when someone died, public authorities must investigate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits and money • Births, deaths and marriages • Children and families • Environment and animals • Health and social care • Housing • Planning and building • Waste and recycling
Right to liberty and security	<p>It focuses on protecting individuals' freedom from unreasonable detention, as opposed to protecting personal safety. However, there is case law from other jurisdictions where this right also covers personal safety in conditions other than detention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to liberty and security

Freedom from torture and inhuman or degrading treatment	<p>Torture consists in causing very serious and cruel physical or mental pain or suffering.</p> <p>Inhuman treatment or punishment is treatment which causes intense physical or mental suffering. Degrading treatment means treatment that is extremely humiliating and undignified.</p> <p>Inhuman or degrading treatment could include:</p> <p>serious physical assault; very severe detention conditions or restraints; serious physical or psychological abuse in a health or care setting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and families • Health and social care
Right to marry and start a family	<p>Right of men and women of marriageable age to marry and to start a family.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Births, deaths and marriages
Prohibition of slavery and forced labour	<p>Slavery is when someone owns someone else like a piece of property.</p> <p>Servitude is when someone provides services to a person for no reward and is unable to stop due to coercion.</p> <p>Forced or compulsory labour is when someone is forced to do work to which they have not agreed to, under the threat of punishment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and families • Jobs, training and volunteering • People and communities
Right to a fair trial	<p>This right is triggered when someone is charged with a criminal offence and have to go to court, or</p> <p>a public authority is making a decision that has an impact on someone's civil rights or obligations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment and animals • Health and social care • People and communities • Streets, roads and pavements
No punishment without law	<p>No one can be charged with a criminal offence for an action that was not a crime when it was committed.</p> <p>Public authorities must explain clearly what counts as a criminal offence so that people know when they are breaking the law.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment and animals • People and communities • Streets, roads and pavements

Right to property	<p>No public authority, without very good reason can take away one's property, which may include things like land, houses, objects, shares, licences, leases, patents, money, pensions and certain types of welfare benefits. This right applies to companies as well as individuals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits and money • Business • Council tax • Environment and animals • Housing • Planning and building • Travel and transport • Streets, roads & pavements • Waste and recycling
Right to private and family life, home and correspondence	<p>This includes one's right to determine their sexual orientation, lifestyle, and the way one looks and dresses. It also includes the right to control who sees and touches one's body. It further covers one's right to develop their personal identity and to forge friendships and other relationships, the right to participate in essential economic, social, cultural and leisure activities. In some circumstances, public authorities may need to facilitate the enjoyment of one's right to a private life, including their ability to participate in society.</p> <p>It also means that personal information about anyone (including official records, photographs, letters, diaries and medical records) should be kept securely and not shared without their permission, except in certain circumstances.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits and money • Births, deaths and marriages • Children and families • Health and social care • Jobs, training and volunteering • Parking and permits • Planning and building • Schools and education • Sports and leisure
Right to free elections	<p>Public authorities must support the right to free expression by holding free elections at reasonable intervals. These elections must enable anyone to vote in secret.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Births, deaths and marriages • People and communities

<p>Freedom of thought, conscience and belief</p>	<p>This may include the right to change religion or beliefs, the right to put one's thoughts and beliefs into action, for example by exercising the right to wear religious clothing, the right to talk about one's own beliefs or take part in religious worship. Public authorities cannot stop anyone from practising their religion, without very good reason.</p> <p>This right protects a wide range of non-religious beliefs including atheism, agnosticism, veganism and pacifism.</p> <p>This includes the right to express views aloud (for example through public protest and demonstrations) or through published articles, books or leaflets, television or radio broadcasting, works of art, the internet and social media. It further protects the right to receive information from other people by, for example, being part of an audience or reading a magazine.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business • Schools and education
<p>Freedom of expression</p>	<p>This includes the right to express views aloud (for example through public protest and demonstrations) or through published articles, books or leaflets, television or radio broadcasting, works of art, the internet and social media. It further protects the right to receive information from other people by, for example, being part of an audience or reading a magazine.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business • Environment and animals • People and communities • Schools and education • Sports and leisure
<p>Freedom of assembly and association</p>	<p>This encompasses the right to form and be part of a trade union, a political party or any another association or voluntary group. Nobody has the right to force anyone to join a protest, trade union, political party or another association.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment and animals • Jobs, training and volunteering • People and communities • Travel and transport • Streets, roads and pavements

Right to education	<p>This right protects one’s right to an effective education within the UK's existing educational institutions. It relates to primary, secondary, and higher education. Parents have a right to ensure that their religious and philosophical beliefs are respected during their children’s education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and families • Environment and animals • Jobs, training and volunteering • People and communities • Schools and education • Sports and leisure
Right to housing	<p>Adequate housing must provide more than four walls and a roof. For housing to be adequate, it must, at a minimum, meet the following criteria:</p> <p>Security of tenure, that is legal protection against forced evictions, harassment and other threats; availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure; affordability, which means that housing is not adequate if its cost threatens or compromises the occupants’ enjoyment of other human rights; Habitability, which relates to physical safety or adequate space, as well as protection against the cold, damp, heat, rain, wind, other threats to health and structural hazards; accessibility, in that it must accommodate the specific needs of disadvantaged and marginalised groups; location, which means that it must not be cut off from employment opportunities, health-care services, schools, childcare centres and other social facilities, or it must not be located in polluted or dangerous areas; cultural adequacy, which means that it must respect and take into account the expression of cultural identity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits and money • Housing • People and communities • Planning and building • Waste and recycling