

**Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy &
Scrutiny Committee**

5 September 2016

Report of the Assistant Director Governance & ICT

One Planet York Scoping Report

Summary

1. This report informs the Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy & Scrutiny Committee (CSMC) how York might best balance economic, social and environmental factors to realise its goal of being a more sustainable and resilient “One Planet” city.

Background

2. At a meeting of CSMC in early May 2016 the Committee considered a Council motion on a proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) which had been referred to the Committee for further consideration. The Committee agreed that parts of the motion be referred back to Council but that more local implications included in the TTIP be considered for cross-party scrutiny.
3. In June 2016 this was considered as a potential topic for review and members considered elements of the TTIP motion to support the work of One Planet York. It was agreed that rather than focus solely on one aspect of One Planet York the review should focus on putting in place a framework to help achieve the objectives of the strategy.
4. The Council Plan contains commitments to *‘put sustainability at the heart of everything we do’* and to *‘work towards One Planet living’*.
5. In March 2016, Executive endorsed the vision of ‘a sustainable, resilient and collaborative One Planet York’ and agreed to get alongside city partners showing leadership towards this vision. They also agreed to work towards being a sustainable, resource efficient ‘One Planet’ Council.

6. A sustainable city is one that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
7. Cities across the globe share common challenges in the areas of job creation, environmental resilience and improving the quality of life of local residents. A key challenge for city leaders is finding ways to balance the demand for a strong economy and an attractive place to live whilst also limiting damage to the environment. It is clear no utopian city exists, yet some cities are more advanced in their sustainability journeys than others¹.
8. The key to developing a sustainable local economy – a resilient “One Planet” city – is growing the circular economy to keep money flowing around the city as much as possible by procuring, spending and trading locally.
9. One Planet York is a growing network of local organisations and businesses working towards a more sustainable and resilient ‘One Planet’ future. Action is being taken across 10 key principles:
 - i. Zero Carbon – making buildings more energy efficient and delivering all energy with renewable technologies.
 - ii. Zero Waste – reducing waste, reusing where possible, and ultimately sending zero waste to landfill.
 - iii. Sustainable Transport – encouraging low carbon modes of transport to reduce emissions, reducing the need to travel.
 - iv. Sustainable Materials – Using sustainable healthy products, with low embodied energy, sourced locally, made from renewable or waste resources.
 - v. Local and Sustainable Food – choosing low impact, local, seasonal, organic diets and reducing food waste.
 - vi. Sustainable Water – using water more efficiently in buildings and in the produce we buy, tackling local flooding and water course pollution.

¹ Arcadis Sustainable Cities Index 2015 seeks to rank the world’s top 50 most sustainable cities

<http://www.sustainablecitiesindex.com/>

- vii. Land Use and Wildlife – protecting and restoring biodiversity and natural habitats through appropriate land use and integration into the built environment.
- viii. Culture and Heritage – reviving local identity and wisdom, supporting the arts.
- ix. Equity and Local Economy – creating bioregional economies that support fair employment, inclusive communities and international fair trade.
- x. Health and Happiness – encouraging active, sociable, meaningful lives to promote good health and well being.

Specific Topic Areas

10. Whilst recognising there is no easy answer to balancing economic, social and environmental needs it is proposed any review looks to formulate specific recommendations on the following areas:
 - Ensuring a balance between economic, social and environmental needs that is right for York and delivery reflects best practice
 - Ensuring key decisions and strategic plans take account of economic, social and environmental factors
 - Ensuring decisions and strategic plans are informed by both short term priorities and anticipated longer term impacts

Suggested Approach

11. To help formulate the recommendations above it is suggested that if the Committee wish to proceed with a scrutiny review they should appoint a Task Group to:
 - Review what leading sustainable cities, and those similar to York, are doing in seeking to balance economic, social and environmental needs
 - Explore potential of the One Planet York framework to:
 - Enable benchmarking with other cities through a new One Planet York 'city scorecard' (basket of measures)

- Increase understanding and wider awareness about what makes cities sustainable and resilient
- Review statutory and local decision making tools, engagement and collaboration methods to help cities best balance economic, social and environmental needs
- Explore how the city's Urban Living Pilot project – 'York City Environment Observatory' – could bring new knowledge and insight regarding economic, social and environmental interdependencies

Consultation

12. This report has been compiled with the support of CYC's Strategic Manager – sustainability and transformation.

Options

13. Having considered the information provided in this report and by Officers, Members can decide if there is value in considering further work to support the work being undertaken by One Planet York.

Council Plan

14. This report links to the focus on frontline services, a council that listens to residents and a prosperous city for all elements of the Council Plan 2015-19.

Risks & Implications

15. There are no direct risks or implications associated with the recommendation in this report.

Recommendations

16. The Committee needs to consider whether there will be added value in undertaking a scrutiny review to support the work of One Planet York

Reason: To decide if members want to initiate a scrutiny review.

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Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Abbreviations

CSMC – Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy & Scrutiny Committee.

TTIP – Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership