

Climate Change Policy and Scrutiny Committee

15 October 2019

Report of the Assistant Director – Legal & Governance

Baseline Data and Funding Opportunities

Summary

1. This agenda item is to inform the Committee of the Baseline Date and Funding Opportunities available to help the Council achieve its goal of delivering a carbon neutral city by 2030.

Background

2. At Full Council in March 2019, a climate emergency was declared and within the creation of the new administration, it was agreed that a Climate Change Policy and Scrutiny Committee would be established.
3. The Committee's remit is to recommend to the Executive actions that will deliver the ambitions approved in the Climate Emergency Motion at Full Council in March 2019.
4. The terms of reference were created in consultation with the Chair, Leader and Monitoring Officer and Committee's objectives are:
 - Produce a ten-year Climate Emergency Action Plan and a Sustainable Energy Action Plan that engage and involve all departments within the Council and the wider city;
 - Review the Council's practices, policies, and procedures to develop an understanding of emission impacts on the city;
 - Seek advice from experts to recommend 5-year carbon budgets, across all the Council's activities;
 - Establish a carbon emissions baseline for the city that can be maintained to quantify the challenges that York faces and to provide annual reports on citywide progress towards the 2030 target;

- Develop mitigation strategies to enable communities to become more resilient in the face of climate change;
 - Learn from best practice in other cities;
 - Review best practice across major UK institutions and local authorities on moving away from holding investments in fossil fuel companies that have not aligned their businesses with the Paris Climate Accord by 2023;
 - Identify external funding streams, locally, nationally and EU-wide, that may help us deliver a carbon neutral York;
 - Consider how our recommendations would reduce carbon emissions, to be developed in the context of environmental responsibility, economic prosperity, social equity and cultural vitality;
 - Endeavour to ensure that our ten-year Climate Emergency Action Plan obtains cross-party support and commitment to guarantee its delivery.
5. The Committee met for the first time on 10 September 2019 when Members considered the best way the Committee can approach its work and sought to identify its priorities.
 6. The Committee agreed there was a lack of both baseline data and an overarching strategy and there was a need to fully understand the challenges and adopt a coherent approach from the very beginning. With this in mind it was agreed that the Committee should invite experts to share their views on what data was available in order for the Committee to make informed proposals.
 7. Member also agreed that funding was key to addressing many of the issues facing the Committee and they needed a genuine understanding of what public or private funding could be available.
 8. It was resolved that a decision on who should be invited to the next meeting be left to the Chair, in conjunction with the Scrutiny Officer, and it was subsequently decided that these should be experts from the University of York and the Head of Energy and Sustainability from West Yorkshire Combined Authority. The University later confirmed that colleagues from the Stockholm Environment Institute at York would be best placed to act as the University's representatives.

Consultation

9. There was no consultation necessary in the production of this report.

Options

10. Members can highlight any areas they would like to take forward into the work plan for this committee or ask for reports on specific areas of interest.

Analysis

11. There is no analysis at this stage.

Council Plan

12. The new Council Plan is to be considered by the Executive on 24 October 2019 but it is likely the climate change agenda will impact on most aspects of Council activity, most specifically in support of the Cleaner and Greener City.

Implications

13. There are no implications associated with the recommendation in this report

Risk Management

14. There are no risks associated with the recommendation in this report.

Conclusions

15. There are no conclusions at this stage.

Recommendation

16. Members are asked to consider the information provided during the meeting and agree specific issues they wish to take forward.

Reason: To further inform the Committee's work plan

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Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report