

**Climate Change Policy and Scrutiny
Committee**

16 December 2019

Report of the Assistant Director – Legal & Governance

Refreshing York’s Commitment to the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy

Summary

1. This report provides details and information regarding the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy which has been adopted by a number of cities across Europe and continues to grow.

Background

2. At its meeting on 29 August 2019, the Executive resolved to ask this Committee ‘to consider York refreshing its engagement with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy ‘.
3. The Covenant of Mayors was launched in 2008 in Europe with the ambition to gather local governments voluntarily committed to achieving and exceeding the EU climate and energy targets.
4. More than 9,000 local and regional authorities across 57 countries have signed up, including Bath, Birmingham and Dublin from the United Kingdom.
5. This is in line with committee’s remit to support and help deliver the ambition made in the climate emergency motion at Full Council on 29 March 2019.

Purpose of Covenant

6. In the terms of the Covenant, signatories to it endorse a shared vision for 2050 of accelerating the decarbonisation of their territories, strengthening their capacity to adapt to unavoidable climate change impacts, and allowing their citizens to access secure, sustainable and affordable energy.

7. Signatories also pledge action to support implementation of the EU 40% greenhouse gas-reduction target by 2030 and the adoption of a joint approach to tackling mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
8. There are three steps required in signing up to the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy:

Step 1: Present the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy initiative to Full Council. The commitment document is attached at Annex A.

Step 2: Once an official resolution has been adopted by Council, the Mayor or equivalent representative of the council must sign the Covenant adherence form. The covenant adherence form is attached at Annex B.

Step 3: After this has been completed, the signed adherence form must be uploaded to the Covenant of Mayors website.

Consultation

9. No consultation has been necessary to produce this report.

Options

10. Members can recommend that Full Council sign up to the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy or choose not to take this further.

Analysis

11. The Covenant asks the Local Authority to agree to commit to cutting CO₂ and greenhouse gases by 40% by 2030 and therefore it's aims align with that of this committee and with the declaration and commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030, as agreed at Full Council in March 2019.
12. The Covenant also asks the Council to commit to a Baseline Emissions Inventory, Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment and a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan. The committee should consider the feasibility of these commitments prior to recommending to Full Council.

Council Plan

13. The issues raised in this report are linked to Council Plan themes of 'A Greener and Cleaner City' and 'Getting Around Sustainably' as set out in the Council Plan 2019-23.

Risks and Implications

14. There are no risks or implications arising from the recommendations in this report, as recommendations only request its submission to Full Council.

Recommendation

15. As stated above, the commitments within the Covenant seem to align with Council's commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030. With this in mind, it is recommended that the committee invite Full Council in December to consider signing up to the Covenant.
16. Reason: To ensure that the committee continues to support the Council's pledge to becoming carbon neutral by 2030,

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Report
Approved



Date 06/12/2019

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

Annex A – Covenant of Mayors – Commitment Document
Annex B – Covenant of Mayors – Adhesion Form