

**BRIEFING NOTE**

**Subject:** Proposed Scrutiny Topic – Renewable energy generation within the city of York

## 1 Purpose of this Briefing Note

This briefing note sets out the current ongoing work across the city to generate an increasing amount of renewable energy and reduce the city's carbon dioxide emissions.

## 2 Background to the issue

In 2010, the City developed its first Climate Change Framework and Action Plan (CCFAP). The headline target of the CCFAP is to:

- **Reduce CO2 emissions (end user) by 40 per cent by 2020 (based on a 2005 baseline) and 80 per cent\* by 2050 (based on a 1990 baseline)<sup>1</sup>.**

The CCFAP also incorporates the City's other climate change commitments including the Friends of Earth 'Get Serious' campaign on climate change and the EU's Covenant of Mayors (CoM) campaign (which required at least a 20% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020).

To determine how the city might reach the 2020 targets, carbon modelling was undertaken to identify plausible mixes of measures that could achieve the target.

In particular the role of renewable energy generation such as Combined Heat and Power (CHP) wind and solar energy were highlighted as crucial in order to meet the CCFAP targets.

## 3 Current work

- There has been a 21% reduction in carbon emissions in York (from 2005-2009).

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<sup>1</sup> (Full details are available from

[www.york.gov.uk/environment/sustainability/climatechange/2framework/](http://www.york.gov.uk/environment/sustainability/climatechange/2framework/))

- In 2010, just under 10 MW of renewable energy were generated (or planned) in the City (source: Strategic Renewable Energy Strategic Viability Study) See Annex A.
- Since 2010 just over 700 renewable energy schemes registered under the Feed-in-Tariff scheme have been installed in York (see Annex A).
- a high-level Strategic Renewable Energy Strategic Viability Study has been completed highlighting potential for wind and hydro-electricity and the need for further studies on opportunities surrounding CHP with district heat networks.
- A Low Carbon Energy Strategy for York North West has been carried out.
- Current IPS on Sustainable Design and Construction 2007 requires large development sites to generate 10% of the sites energy demand from renewable energy generation.
- The LDF's Core Strategy included a policy for reducing carbon emissions on site and for CHP / district heat network feasibility study to be carried out for all large developments
- A York district heat network opportunities map is being created.
- A Public Sector Investigating Renewable Energy group is looking for shared renewable energy opportunities in the city.
- A possible partnership bid for an 18mth post is being developed to accelerate CHP with district heat networks across the city.
- CYC has current and planned installations across the estate. See annex A.
- The Council is currently going through a Green Audit process across its estate. Part of the purpose of the audit is to propose a forward plan of renewable energy installation projects.

#### **4 Pros and Cons**

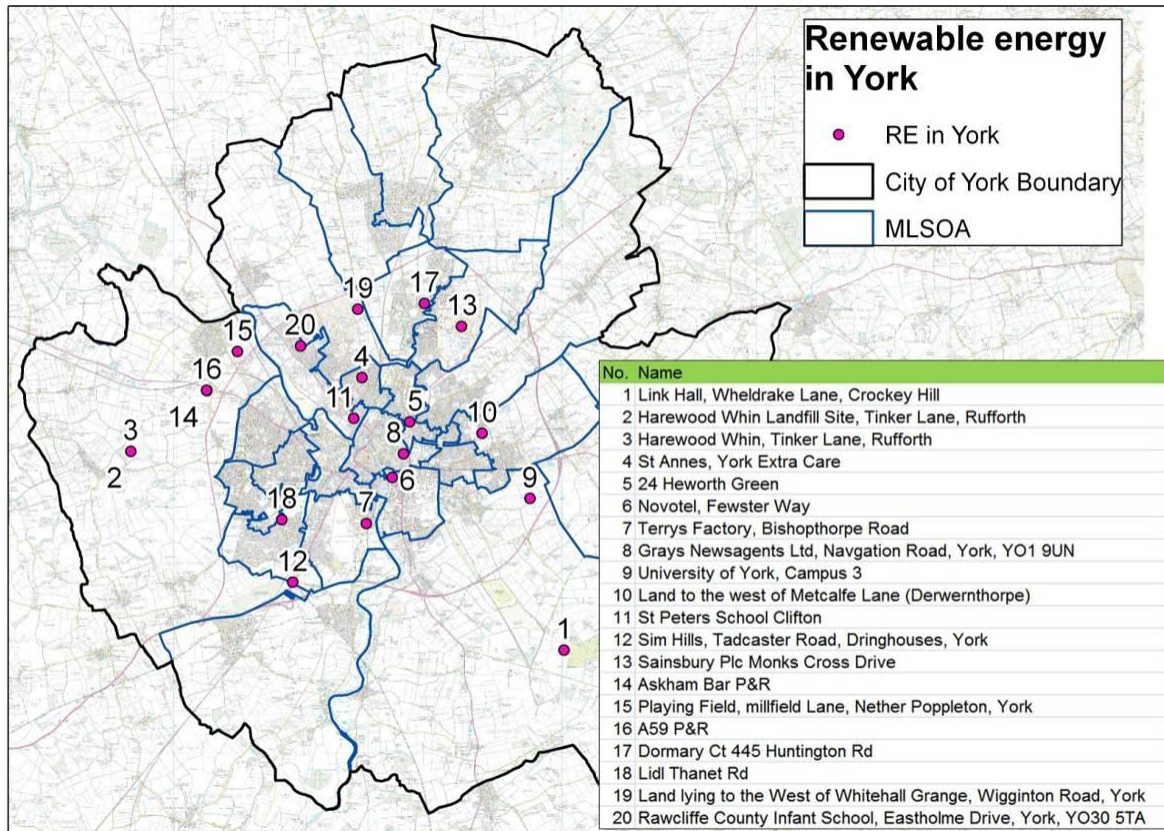
A review of the work could help to raise the profile of the good work happening across the city, and could also act to accelerate new projects. However, resources are very limited and a review could effect and even restrict the current programme of delivery (as above).

#### **Summary / Recommendation**

Based on the information above, Members are recommended to note the good progress and to consider no further action at this time.

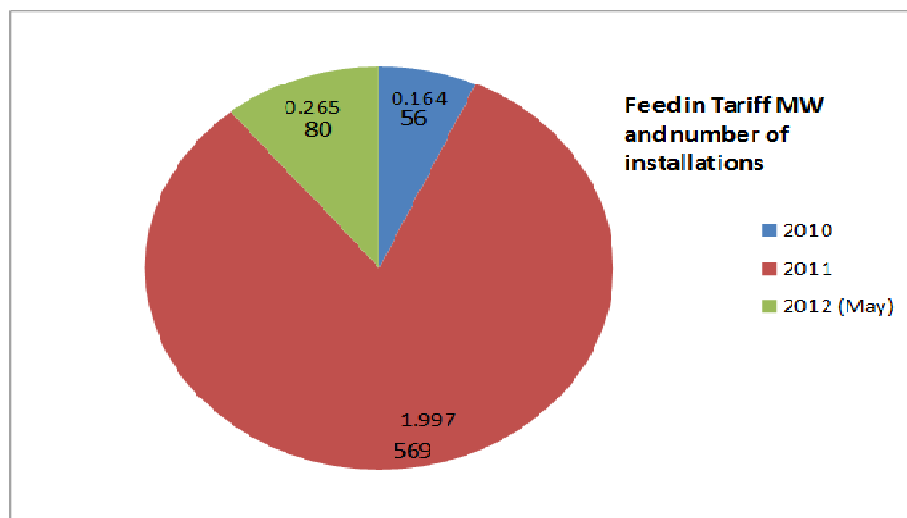
**Annex A**

City wide renewable installations in 2010



Source: Renewable Energy Strategic Viability Study for York  
<http://www.york.gov.uk/environment/Planning/ldf/evidencebase/RenewableEnergyStrategicViabilityStudyforYork/>

Current numbers of installations through the Feed In Tariff scheme 2010 - 2012



Source: Ofgem 2012

## **Current or planned City of York renewable energy installations**

### **CYC Schools**

- York High School & Energise Leisure Centre (same site) – biomass boilers
- Joseph Rowntree Secondary School – biomass boilers with gas back-up
- Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School – biomass boilers
- Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Primary School – ground source heat pump
- Wheldrake with Thorganby Primary School – solar thermal
- Danesgate Skills Centre – biomass boilers

### **CYC Buildings**

- Acomb Library – biomass boilers
- Hazel Court (EcoDepot) – solar PV
- West Offices – solar PV (208 panels)

### **CYC Social Housing**

- Solar PV (retrofit) for 700 dwellings delivered in partnership with Community Energy Solutions
- Solar PV for 19 new build social houses at Lilbourne Drive
- Air to water source heat pump for 8 off gas properties in Wheldrake