

**Cabinet Member for Transport,
Planning and Sustainability Decision
Session**

13 March 2013

Report of the Assistant Director of City Development and Sustainability
Sustainable City Progress Report

Summary

1. The purpose of the report is to provide comprehensive update on progress against the Sustainable City actions set out across the Council Plan 'Protect the Environment Theme', The WoW City Plan and the Climate Change Framework and Action Plan.

Recommendations

2. The cabinet member is asked to note the significant progress made towards the headline objective of being a leading sustainable city where activity is being led by City of York council.

Background

3. The City of York is committed to being a sustainable city that reduces its carbon emissions by 40% by 2020. Full details of the City's commitments are detailed in annex 1.
4. The Council has a sustainability team who are directly responsible for the sustainability agenda. This team works closely with colleagues in waste, housing and transport and external partners to help deliver the sustainable city ambitions.
5. To date existing staff have had to balance delivery of internal and outward facing programmes to tackle the climate change element of the sustainable development agenda within existing resources and budgets.

6. The following summary confirms the progress made in 2012/13:

City-wide Climate Change, Energy, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy work in 2012

7. **Wrapping up York** (funded by external CERT funding) has successfully installed **over 1600 energy efficiency measures** in homes across York.
8. Completed an **energy efficiency area based CESP programme** in the Hull Road area of the city and **installed over 350 energy efficiency measures in homes.**
9. A successful secured Department of Health funding for City of York Council in partnership with Age UK, York and Yorkshire Energy Partnership for **Winter Warmth Funding** to assist and give advice to older people on how to keep warm over the winter period. A grant of £18K ensured that the partnership could offer a range of measures to vulnerable older people.
10. A successful bid through the Leeds City Region which accessed funding from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to test key elements of the new Green Deal framework. This **solid wall pilot** sees the Council in partnership currently working in three areas in the city helping private residents to insulate hard to treat homes (i.e external wall insulating render). The owners of the homes will be offered loans to top up any utility subsidy that they can obtain to install external wall insulation. **Residents are being helped by the Yorkshire Energy Partnership** to identify the need for the work by the provision of a free Energy Performance Certificate assessment and are being helped through the Planning process.
11. Under a recent DECC Local Competition http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/funding/funding_ops/lacomp/lacomp.aspx.CYC were success in securing the following:
 - £447k worth of funding to install heating systems and insulation in the homes of vulnerable local

residents in York and North Yorkshire. Delivery is carried out by Yorkshire Energy Partnership.

- A pilot collective energy switching scheme. The Council with regional partners CO2Sense and CED, secure just under £300,000 to pilot six community energy collective switching schemes in the region (including one pilot for York). The pilot will target those in fuel poverty (but will be open to anyone in York). The aim of this scheme is to encourage consumers to group together and use market power to negotiate lower energy bills and save money. York's pilot will see a local energy smart club set up through existing communities, and members will be able to switch energy suppliers and on average could save up to £115 on their fuel bills through the switch.
12. The Council has also been exploring the opportunities surrounding the Government's flagship Energy Efficiency scheme the **Green Deal**. The Green Deal will operate by providing energy efficiency and other works at no up-front cost to the householder across all tenures and businesses.
 13. Since the 8th February 2013 other forms of funding streams as Warmfront, Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT) and Carbon Energy Saving Programme (CESP) are no longer available to fund energy efficiency improvements to householders.
 14. The most developed option being evaluated by the Council aims to deliver Green deal packages to up to 19,000 homes in the region through the procurement of a Leeds City Region green deal provider. Other options are still being evaluated and a paper on the preferred options to maximising the Green Deal in York will be presented to Cabinet on 2nd April 2013.
 15. Through the Leeds City Region Strategic Heat Programme, York will have Heat Mapping carried out for City to identify strategic opportunities for low carbon heat generation and distribution networks in the city.

16. To support this work in paragraph 15 above, the Council is bidding for DIF funding to carry out pre-feasibility work on any opportunities highlighted from the heat mapping work above. This will enable the council to then try to lever in private / public finance to develop opportunities further.
17. A **low carbon investment pipeline** of projects has been developed for York and fed into the Leeds City Region Low Carbon Investment Pipeline. The aim of this work is to develop a portfolio of commercially viable low carbon priority projects across the region. The aim is to use this pipeline to lever in public and private finance and accelerate low carbon energy generation in the region.
18. **City of York Council has installed over 200 Photovoltaic (PV) panels on its new Head Quarters at West Offices.**
19. **City of York Council has installed PV arrays on over 400 CYC Council owned homes.**
20. Across the City, between April 2010 and December 2012 1,430 renewable energy generating installations were registered under the governments Feed-In-Tariff. This equated to a total installed capacity of 4.9MW of energy. Of these installations, 1,403 were domestic.

City-wide Community Engagement

21. In March 2012 the council coordinated Climate Week 2012. This included a week of events to help raise awareness of climate change and what actions we can all take to help tackle it. Events include organised bike rides, a climate week market and renewable energy centre open days.
22. In September 2012 the council in partnership with the York Environment Forum launched **York is ENGAGED**. York is ENGAGED! will see York joining major cities across Europe (and only one other city in UK) in a new poster campaign of local people and businesses that are ENGAGED and pledging to take real action(s) to tackle climate change. To date the city has over 20 pledges.

Sustainable Schools

23. The City of York Education Service has employed an Advanced Specialist Teacher (AST) for Sustainable Schools for one day a week since September 2008. During this period, the AST has significantly raised the profile of Education for Sustainable Development and embedded sustainable lifestyles across York's children (over 20,000 + families). It has also contributed to delivering the protecting environment corporate priority. For example:
- 36 CYC schools have registered for Eco Schools Status
 - 20 out of 51 Primary schools clearly describe Sustainable School related activities on their website. All other schools describe related activities in their newsletters, available online. All secondary Schools describe Sustainable School related activities on their website.
 - 13 Schools attended the 'Be a Saver!' (Save energy) teacher training session in October 2012.
 - 20 Schools registered for 'Switch Off Fortnight' 2012 and 8 were visited by *Captain Flash* during this time.(Energy Saving Super Hero created by the AST
 - 16 schools registered to attend the York Edible Schools Teacher Training session in February 2013.
 - 17 Schools have attended the Sustainability Day at the York Food and Drink Festival over the last two years run by York Edible Schools.
 - 29 Schools attended the launch of York Edible Schools in June 2011.
24. Annex 2 gives further details of this work.
25. ACES are unable to fund this work from July 2013 so it will cease to be carried out in schools from September 2013.

Internal Carbon Management

26. Through the council's internal carbon management programme the target to reduce the Council's own carbon emission by 25% between 2008 - 2013 approximately 5,810 tCO₂ has been

achieved by 31st March 2013, with a further 1,200 tCO₂ of savings identified to be saved through future projects.

27. The commitment to undertake a Green Audit of the Council's buildings as set out by the Labour Party election manifesto, has now been delivered. The audit has identified further opportunities for reducing energy costs and installing renewable energy.
28. Phase one of the audit was completed early in 2012 with Phase Two carried out during September and October 2012. The audit was undertaken for ten schools. A number of interventions were identified as appropriate for implementation, including renewable energy installations, and are now being investigated in more detail to determine the exact opportunity.
29. The council has a £500,000 energy efficiency invest-to-save programme. To date this fund, part funded through Salix (external funding), has delivered 38 projects, with more in the pipeline.

Internal Environmental Management

30. In the council plan '*Protect the Environment*' priority there is commitment to the implementation of a flexible environmental management system (EMS) for the Council. The aim of the EMS is to allow the Council to manage any negative environmental impacts in a more systematic manner and improve performance and minimise future impacts.
31. A Flexible EMS has been adopted by the Council based on the framework developed through the national Investors in the Environment (IiE) scheme.
32. The Council will work towards a Bronze accreditation through the IiE scheme and develop and implement a new environmental policy; identify targets for improving resource efficiency; implement mechanisms for the recording of resource use quarterly; and, develop an action plan to achieve targets.
33. In addition to support this work an Environmental Protection Assessment (EPA) has been integrated into evaluation of

projects put forward through the Council's capital programme. This will embed sustainability into all major projects.

Planning

34. Sustainable design and construction advice is given through the planning process through the Sustainability Team on major developments. All applications are evaluated against the Interim Planning Statement on Sustainable Design and Construction 2007.
35. To support the up-skilling of CYC's development management team and of Planning Committee members, officers and members have been offered, through the regional Climate Change Skills Fund access to a year long programme of training events on climate change skills for planners.
36. To support the development of the Local Plan, and through the regional Climate Change Technical Support Programme, CYC has secured a secondee from Hambleton District Council to support embedding climate change within the new draft Local Plan.
37. This additional capacity will support the Sustainability Team and Integrated Strategy Team, and will review the previous Core Strategy chapter on Sustainable Design and Construction (and wider climate change issues). As part of this work a full review of the previous targets and policies has been undertaken and the implications of forthcoming changes to Building Regulations 2013 looked at. Financial viability and required standards within the policies will also be investigated.

Consultation

38. The content of this paper has been derived from updates to recent Sustainable Development Board and Environment Partnership Board meetings and reflects any comments.

Options

39. This paper is for information only and details progress towards our Sustainable City objectives.

Analysis

40. This paper is for information only and details progress towards Sustainable City objectives.

Corporate Strategy

41. The work detailed in this paper directly contributes to the following outcomes of the 'Protecting the Environment' corporate priority. Specially the following outcomes:
 - a. York will be better prepared and more resilient in the face of a changing climate and will steadily reduce its carbon emissions
 - b. York will have a clear energy strategy which prioritises local renewable energy generation
 - c. In addition it also contributes to elements of other city strategy including the Climate Change Framework and Action Plan (2010-2013), Sustainable Energy Action Plan for York (2011), The City's City Action Plan, and City's Strategy for York (2011 – 2025).
 - d. Some of this work also helps to support economic growth and fuel poverty priorities.

Implications

42. This paper is for information only and details progress towards our Sustainable City objectives.

Risk Management

43. This paper is for information only and details progress towards our Sustainable City objectives.

Contact Details

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	Report Approved	✓	Date 5/03/13
Specialist Implications Officer(s) <i>List information for all</i>			

Wards Affected:	All	✓
For further information please contact the author of the report		

Background Papers: n/a

Annexes:

Annex 1 Sustainable City Commitments
Annex 2 Sustainable Schools Newsletter