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## Selby District Council



# Agenda

Meeting:	Executive
Date:	Thursday, 7 October 2021
Time:	4.00 pm
Venue:	Council Chamber - Civic Centre, Doncaster Road, Selby, YO8 9FT
To:	Councillors M Crane (Chair), R Musgrave (Vice-Chair),
	C Lunn, D Buckle and T Grogan

## 1. Apologies for Absence

#### **2. Minutes** (Pages 1 - 10)

The Executive is asked to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2021.

## 3. Disclosures of Interest

A copy of the Register of Interest for each Selby District Councillor is available for inspection at <u>www.selby.gov.uk</u>.

Councillors should declare to the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest in any item of business on this agenda which is not already entered in their Register of Interests.

Councillors should leave the meeting and take no part in the consideration, discussion or vote on any matter in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

Councillors should also declare any other interests. Having made the declaration, provided the other interest is not a disclosable pecuniary interest, the Councillor may stay in the meeting, speak and vote on that item of business.

If in doubt, Councillors are advised to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer.

4. Policy Review Low Carbon Working Group - Low Carbon Strategy 2021 - 2030 (Pages 11 - 62)

Report E/21/22 asks the Executive to approve the Low Carbon Strategy 2021-2030 and provide support for targets for the Council to achieve carbon neutrality.

## 5. Private Session - Exclusion of press and public

That, in accordance with Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the meeting be not open to the Press and public during discussion of the following items as there will be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act.

6. Selby Station Gateway: Acquisition of Selby Business Centre (Pages 63 - 70)

Report E/21/23 recommends Executive approves the purchase of Selby Business Centre, to enable the full vision for the Selby Station Gateway area to be delivered.

Sanet Waggott

Janet Waggott Chief Executive

Date of next meeting Thursday, 11 November 2021 at 4.00 pm

For enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Palbinder Mann, on 01757 292207 or pmann@selby.gov.uk

## Recording at Council Meetings

Recording is allowed at Council, committee and sub-committee meetings which are open to the public, subject to: (i) the recording being conducted with the full knowledge of the Chairman of the meeting; and (ii) compliance with the Council's protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at meetings, a copy of which is available on request. Anyone wishing to record must contact the Democratic Services Manager using the details above prior to the start of the meeting. Any recording must be conducted openly and not in secret.

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# Agenda Item 2

# Selby District Council



# Minutes

## Executive

Venue:	Council Chamber - Civic Centre, Doncaster Road, Selby, YO8 9FT
Date:	Thursday, 9 September 2021
Time:	4.00 pm
Present:	Councillors R Musgrave (Chair), C Lunn, D Buckle and T Grogan
Also Present:	Councillors W Nichols and R Packham
Officers Present:	Janet Waggott (Chief Executive), Dave Caulfield (Director of Economic Regeneration and Place), Suzan Harrington (Director Corporate Services and Commissioning), Karen Iveson (Chief Finance Officer (s151)), Glenn Sharpe (Solicitor), Aimi Brookes (Contracts Team Leader), Stephanie Dick (Economic Regeneration and Projects Lead), Julian Rudd (Head of Economic Development and Regeneration), Duncan Ferguson (Regeneration Manager), Michelle Dinsdale (Senior Policy and Performance Officer), Peter Williams (Head of Finance), June Rothwell (Head of Operational Services), Leanne Cahill (Communications Officer) and Palbinder Mann (Democratic Services Manager)

NOTE: Only minute numbers 110 to 116 and 118 are subject to call-in arrangements. The deadline for call-in is 5pm on Tuesday 21 September 2021. Decisions not called in may be implemented from Wednesday 22 September 2021.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mark Crane.

#### 107 MINUTES

The Committee considered the minutes from the meeting on Thursday 8 July 2021.

#### **RESOLVED:**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8 July 2021.

#### 108 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

#### 109 CHURCH FENTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020-2027 (CFNDP)

The Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping presented the report which sought approval that the Church Fenton Neighbourhood Development Plan be made part of the Development Plan for Selby District following a positive outcome of the referendum held on 3 August 2021.

The Executive was informed that 88% of the people voting had voted in favour of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

#### **RESOLVED:**

To recommends that Council formally makes the Church Fenton Neighbourhood Development Plan 2020-2027 as part of the Development Plan for Selby District following the positive outcome of the referendum held on 3 August 2021.

## **REASON FOR DECISION:**

The Executive is asked to agree the recommendation to enable the Church Fenton Neighbourhood Development Plan to be made part of the statutory Development Plan under the provisions of s38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) which requires that the Council must adopt or 'make' the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the Plan.

#### 110 REPORT ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE CHANGE TO WHEELED BINS FOR RECYCLING

The Lead Executive Member for Health and Culture presented the report which appraised the Executive of the positive outcomes of the decision in September 2019 to implement a wheeled bin recycling service.

The Lead Executive Member for Health and Culture praised the work of officers in the implementation of the new service and reported that following benchmarking with other authorities in the North Yorkshire area, it had the highest increase in dry recycling tonnage.

In response to a query concerning the shortage of Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) drivers, the Contracts Team Leader explained that Urbaser had trained extra people as drivers in the event there was a shortage of drivers however this had not been an issue to date.

#### **RESOLVED**:

## To note the contents of the report and the success of the new service.

## **REASON FOR DECISION:**

For the Executive to understand the positive outcomes of the decision in September 2019 to implement a wheeled bin recycling service from April 2020.

## 111 PLACES AND MOVEMENT STUDY

The Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development presented the report which updated the progress of the Places and Movement Study and recommended next stages of work.

Discussion took place on the proposals including ensuring the results of the study were received and that evidence was needed to back any proposals up.

In response to a query concerning small Highways changes, it was explained that these needed to be taken up with North Yorkshire County Council.

## **RESOLVED**:

- i) To note the progress of the study and outcomes of public consultation.
- ii) To endorse the findings of the study, as presented in a draft strategy document and accompanying technical report.
- iii) Agree to contribute up to £80k towards the next stage of the study (as detailed in Section 5 of this report), to be commissioned jointly with North Yorkshire County Council.

## **REASON FOR DECISION:**

The identified projects for Selby and Sherburn now require further refinement following consultation to develop schemes that are bid ready for future funding opportunities. Delivering these schemes would enable centres to transform their experience for residents and visitors, improving their quality of place and reducing the impact of poor air quality and congestion in key locations. The centres would be safer and more attractive, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists.

## 112 TOWN CENTRES REVITALISATION PROGRAMME

The Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development presented the report which outlined how the budget would be allocated to a pipeline of capital-based projects using outline budget estimates from the funding agreed for town centre revitalisation from the Programme for Growth.

In response to a query concerning the grant funding scheme policy, it was explained that work was currently progressing on this.

Discussion took place on how business cases for proposals would be considered and ensuring the financial figures were accurate. The Executive was informed that the recommendation was for delegated authority to approve business cases for projects to the Director of Economic Regeneration and Place in conjunction with the Lead Executive Member for Communities and Economic Development. Additionally, it was noted that should project costs increase through established budget, then the Executive would refer those projects to Council for consideration.

## **RESOLVED:**

- 1) To approve the projects list and proposed budget allocation to each project.
- 2) To approve delegation to progress and deliver the identified projects to the Director of Economic Regeneration and Place in conjunction with the Lead Executive member for Communities and Economic Development, S151 and Solicitor to Council subject to budget, with no revenue consequences. If, through the Business Case process, project costs increase beyond established budgets,

## Executive will refer approval to Council.

#### **REASON FOR DECISION:**

The three main centres in Selby District are a strategic priority for regeneration. Approval of the priority projects detailed below, establishes the programme of revitalisation activity within our three main centres. Projects will be delivered in partnership with the key stakeholders for each project.

#### 113 SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

The Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping in the absence of the Leader of the Council presented the report which asked the Executive to agree the contents of the Annual Report for 2020/21.

The Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping thanked officers and members for their work during 2020/21.

#### **RESOLVED**:

To agree the content of the attached Annual Report 2020/21.

#### **REASON FOR DECISION:**

The Executive is asked to approve publication of the annual report in order for it to be used as a document to explain how the Council has performed and used its money; this also enables the Council to use information within the report to support a range of other public and internal communications.

## 114 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTER 1, 2021-22 (APRIL TO JUNE)

The Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping in the absence of the Leader of the Council presented the report which provided a progress update on the delivery of the Council Plan 2020-23 as measured by a combination of progress against priority projects/high level actions and performance against key performance indicators.

A query was raised regarding the performance indicators relating to housing repairs and planning. The Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping reported that the performance indicator relating to housing repairs was positive and that the figure should be shared with all Members so they were aware. With regard to the performance indicator relating to planning, the Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping reported that there was a backlog of planning applications due the increase in the number of planning applications submitted however improvements to the figures had been made.

## **RESOLVED**:

## To note and approve the report.

## REASON FOR DECISION:

The reporting of performance data enables the Council to demonstrate progress on delivering the Council Plan Priorities to make Selby District a great place.

## 115 FINANCIAL RESULTS AND BUDGET EXCEPTIONS REPORT TO 30TH JUNE 2021

The Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources presented the report which outlined the financial results and budget exceptions to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

Discussion took place regarding the Programme for Growth and it was emphasised that implementation of the projects listed in the programme was important to ensure the Council moved forward.

A query was raised regarding the figure relating to car parking income which was expected to be £55k below budget. The Head of Operational Services explained that it was difficult to provide a breakdown of the income at present as card payments were not able to be broken down however work was being done to ensure this was possible in the future.

## **RESOLVED:**

- 1) To endorse the actions of officers and note the contents of the report;
- 2) To approve re-profiled capital programmes and Programme for Growth as set out at Appendices C and D.
- 3) To approve the virement of £222.658k from the additional resource contingency of £500k to help with the planning backlog and to deal with new major renewable energy applications

and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects as outlined in section 3 and point 3.7 of the report.

4) To approve the virement of £130k from the additional resource contingency of £500k to help with exceptional pressures associated with gypsy and traveller applications and enforcement appeals as outlined in section 3 and point 3.8 of the report.

## **REASON FOR DECISION:**

To ensure that budget exceptions are brought to the attention of the Executive in order to approve remedial action where necessary.

#### 116 TREASURY MANAGEMENT - QUARTERLY UPDATE Q1 2021-22

The Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources presented the report which asked the Executive to note the actions of officers on the Council's treasury activities for Quarter one, 2021-22 and approve the revised Prudential Indicators.

The Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources explained that the interest forecast would be kept under review and that a capital gain of 2.5% was reported during quarter one.

#### **RESOLVED:**

To note the actions of officers on the Council's treasury activities for Q1 2021/22 and approve the revised Prudential Indicators set out at Appendix A to the report.

#### **REASON FOR DECISION:**

To comply with the Treasury Management Code of Practice, the Executive is required to receive and review regular treasury management monitoring reports.

## 117 PRIVATE SESSION - EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Lead Executive Member for Place Shaping explained that he had received a query concerning all Members having access to private reports being considered by the Executive. It was noted that this would be looked into further.

It was proposed, and seconded, that the Executive sit in private session for the following business due to the nature of the business to be transacted.

#### **RESOLVED**:

That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the nature of business to be transacted the meeting be not open to the press and public during discussion of the following items as there will be disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraphs 3 and 6 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act.

#### 118 DISPOSAL OF EDGERTON LODGE, TADCASTER

The Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources presented the report which updated the Executive and sought authorisation for actions relating to the disposal of Edgerton Lodge, Tadcaster.

Discussion took place regarding the proposals in the report and the Executive asked questions on a range of matters of the officers present.

#### **RESOLVED**:

- 1) To confirm that Edgerton Lodge, Tadcaster indicated on Appendix 1, is declared surplus to the Council's requirements.
- 2) To agree that Edgerton Lodge, indicated on Appendix 1, be disposed of for residential conversion or redevelopment and that delegated authority be provided to the Director of Corporate Services and Commissioning, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Lead Executive Member for Finance and Resources, to dispose of the property by either open market sale or sealed bids, subject to ensuring that best consideration is achieved.
- 3) To authorise the Head of Operational Services

to finalise the terms of the transaction in consultation with the Lead Executive Member for Finance & Resources, the Solicitor to the Council and the Section 151 Officer to give effect to this in principle decision.

## **REASON FOR DECISION:**

To enable the Council to make the best use of assets, to obtain capital receipts and potentially bring forward empty homes back into use or support the improvement and development of housing.

The meeting closed at 5.27 pm.

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## Agenda Item 4





Report Reference Number: E/21/22

To: Date: Author: Executive Member: Lead Officer: Executive 7 October 2021 Catherine Hickford, Low Carbon Project Officer Cllr Musgrave, Executive Member for Place Shaping Dave Caulfield, Director of Economic Regeneration and Place

**Title:** Policy Review Low Carbon Working Group – Low Carbon Strategy 2021 - 2030

## Summary:

The Council Plan includes a commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, but in line with other local councils including North Yorkshire County Council, we are aspiring to achieve this by 2030, or as near to that date as possible. As a first step towards this ambition, a Policy Review Low Carbon Working Group (LCWG) was formed in January 2020. The group met on a number of occasions to discuss ways in which the Council can contribute to the low carbon agenda. Work included calculating the Council's annual direct carbon footprint for the baseline year of 2018-19. Work was undertaken to develop a range of potential projects and initiatives to feed into a Low Carbon Action Plan but feedback from the Portfolio Lead was that a Strategy should be brought forward for approval first. Further work should then be undertaken on the Action Plan with the LCWG to refine actions and develop the business case for key projects that could deliver early wins, taking into account the implementation of Local Government Reorganisation across North Yorkshire in 2023. A draft Low Carbon Strategy (Appendix B) has been prepared to capture the scale of problem and outline the steps we will take to achieve carbon targets.

## **Recommendations:**

• Executive to approve the Low Carbon Strategy 2021 – 2030 and provide support for targets for the Council to achieve carbon neutrality before 2050 as outlined in the Council Plan, but with the aspiration of achieving this by 2030.

## **Reasons for recommendation**

• To provide the Executive with the opportunity to comment on work before it is considered by Council.

## **1.0** Introduction and background

- 1.1 At the Council meeting held on 16th July 2019 the Leader of the Council set out a proposal in his report to address the low carbon agenda by setting up a cross party working group of Members who with support from officers would report their recommendations to the Executive. Cllr Musgrave is the Executive member taking this work forward.
- 1.2 At the Council meeting held on 17 September 2019 Cllr Musgrave proposed to ask Policy Review Committee to lead on the development of the Council's carbon reduction policy and to report to Executive with recommendations for actions with targets for delivery in line with the Government's 2050 target.
- 1.3 The Executive will then report to Council their recommendations, including justification if they differ from the views of the Policy Review Committee Working Group, so that the Council can agree and adopt the Low Carbon Strategy 2021 2030.
- 1.4 Following further work and feedback from the Portfolio Lead, a draft Low Carbon Strategy 2021 2030 has been prepared. This strategy aims to understand the scale of the Council's carbon emissions, what steps can be taken to reduce them and also takes into consideration the impacts of local government reorganisation (LGR).

## 2.0 Policy Review Low Carbon Working Group

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Policy Review Committee held on 15 October 2019, it was agreed that all members of the committee would be part of the Low Carbon Working Group (LCWG).
- 2.2 The Director of Economic Regeneration and Place is the lead officer and is supported by the Low Carbon Project Officer, as well as a wider officer team drawn from a number of service areas, including Policy and Performance, Planning Policy, Housing, Property & Assets and Environmental Health.
- 2.3 The group has met on eight occasions (16 January 2020, 27 February 2020, 23 June 2020, 28 July 2020, 6 October 2020, 15 April 2021, 6 July 2021 and 23 August 2021). Updates from these meetings are a standing agenda item on Policy Review Committee meetings.

## 3.0 Selby District Council's Carbon Baseline

3.1 The LCWG were keen to understand the Council's operational carbon baseline before identifying any potential measures. APSE Energy (Association of Public Service Excellence) were therefore commissioned to undertake work on calculating the Council's baseline carbon footprint for the financial year 2018-19.

- 3.2 Because of the challenges in gathering comprehensive Scope 3 emissions the LCWG agreed that in the first instance we should focus on understanding the Council's Scope 1 and 2 emissions. The definitions are set out below:
  - Scope 1 (direct emissions) are from activities owned or controlled by the Council. Examples include emissions from combustion in Council owned or controlled boilers, furnaces and vehicles.
  - Scope 2 (Energy indirect emissions) are associated with purchased electricity, heat, steam and cooling. They are a consequence of the Council's energy use but occur at sources that the Council do not own or control. Examples include grid supplied electricity and heat provided through a heat network.
  - Scope 3 (Other Indirect Emissions) are associated with purchased goods and services (including key contracts), waste disposal, transportation and distribution and employee business travel.
- 3.3 The LCWG were keen that after understanding our scope 1 and 2 emissions we then move on to capturing our wider Scope 3 emissions.
- 3.4 We discussed and agreed a scope with APSE for calculating the Council's scope 3 (other indirect emissions). The priority was to calculate and understand the impact of our major contracts: waste, street scene and leisure. Data was submitted to APSE for calculation at the end of July. The report from APSE summarising the results of the scope 1, 2 & 3 carbon emissions calculations is provided in Appendix A.

Emissions Source	Scope	% Split	Tonnes CO <sub>2e</sub>
Natural Gas	1	2%	64.11
Council Vehicles <sup>1</sup>	1	34%	873.30
Leased Vehicles	1	6%	152.82
Electricity	2	9%	244.98
Heat	2	0.5%	12.48
WTT <sup>2</sup> Gas	3	0.3%	8.91
WTT <sup>2</sup> Electricity	3	2%	39.43
Transmission & Distribution Electricity	3	1%	20.88
WTT <sup>2</sup> Heat and Steam	3	0.1%	1.64
Water Supply	3	0.01%	0.30
Water treatment	3	0.02%	0.59

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Council vehicles include council owned refuse collection vehicles

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> WTT' stands for Well-to-Tank which are the emissions associated with extraction, refining and transportation of raw fuel from out the ground to site.

Waste from council buildings	3	0.1%	2.62
Business Travel	3	2%	44.51
Leased Assets	3	43%	1,125.34
Total		<u>100%</u>	<u>2,592</u>

- 3.5 The results of the APSE calculation following data provision for scope 3 emissions is summarised above. Our total estimated carbon footprint for 2018/2019 is 2,592 tonnes.
- 3.6 You can see from the table above that council vehicles and leased vehicles make up 40% of the total carbon footprint; the other significant emissions contributor is our leased assets (i.e. buildings including the leisure centres) which make up 43% of the emissions.
- 3.7 Emissions from vehicles are from fuel usage, and emissions from our leased assets are from energy use electricity and gas. This clearly shows that we need to focus on our owned and leased built assets and improve their energy efficiency in order to reduce our carbon footprint significantly.

## 4.0 Draft Low Carbon Strategy 2021 - 2023

- 4.1 The aim of the Strategy is to identify how the Council can reduce its own emissions (as identified in section 3) whilst supporting the wider district to also reduce their emissions.
- 4.2 The low carbon work of other local authorities, including North Yorkshire County Council was researched and discussed and contributed towards the development of the draft Low Carbon Strategy. Actions are aligned with NYCC low carbon work including their Carbon Reduction Plan and commitment to achieve net carbon neutrality by 2030, which was approved in July 2021. Opportunities to jointly work on low carbon projects will be explored through the Better Together arrangements.
- 4.2 The Strategy focuses on those actions which the Council can directly deliver to reduce its own emissions, as well as those emissions of the district it can influence, through collaboration with others.
- 4.3 The importance of collaborating at a greater scale with others is significant when you consider the different carbon footprint statistics for the area:
  - The carbon footprint of the Selby District area was 783,500 tonnes in 2019 according to UK Government estimates but has been predicted to be up to 1.2m tonnes per year.
  - North Yorkshire County Council's (NYCC) footprint is 13,492 tonnes per year (40,000 tonnes if you include Ringway contract and school's property)

- The York & North Yorkshire sub-region footprint is 7.7m tonnes per year.
- 4.4 However, it is important that the Council shows leadership by firstly addressing its own carbon footprint and focussing on projects it can directly deliver to reduce this footprint.
- 4.5 A number of the potential measures identified in the Strategy will need to be subject to further investigation into feasibility and resources. Actions requiring significant investment will be subject to a detailed business case and will need to take into account pending local government re-organisation in North Yorkshire in 2023.
- 4.6 To help oversee and deliver the actions considered in the Strategy, an Action Plan will be further developed to capture the detail of each individual project. The Low Carbon Working Group have been asked to review their good work to date on a Low Carbon Action Plan to identify those measures that can be implemented within the timescales of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).
- 4.7 The Council's low carbon ambitions and any agreed actions, to be successfully delivered, will also require the direct input and lead from a number of key services including Property & Assets, Procurement, Legal, Finance, HR, and Planning. It is also important that this work is driven forward politically and the engagement of a cross-party LCWG was a good first step.
- 4.8 The Strategy has been shared with the internal Low Carbon Officer Working Group for input and feedback and has been considered and reviewed by the Leadership Team. It will also be shared with the Policy Review Low Carbon Working Group for members to provide comment.
- 4.9 Whilst the strategy has tried to focus on a timescale to 2023 due to LGR, many project suggestions could be developed into long term opportunities which the new North Yorkshire Council could adopt and take forward.

## 5.0 Carbon Offsetting

- 5.1 As Selby District Council will not exist as a sole organisation after 2023, the options for offsetting emissions have been considered. This has been suggested as a key goal in the Strategy to demonstrate a commitment to reducing our carbon emissions in the time that we have, alongside other projects that will reduce emissions at the source in the long term.
- 5.2 When considering offsetting schemes, one option is through a donation to The Woodland Trust where they suggest a donation of £25 per tonne of carbon to

be offset. This cost pays for tree planting and ongoing maintenance ensuring trees reach maturity. Based upon this cost, one of the following offsetting options could be considered depending on how broad we want this commitment to be:

- Offset only our scope 1 & 2 emissions from 2018 to 2023 based upon the APSE calculations, the assumption can be made that this would cover 2018 to 2023, and each year the emissions would be the same as the baseline year i.e. five years' worth of the baseline annual carbon footprint. Scope 1 & 2 emissions for the baseline year are 1,348 tonnes, for five years' worth this would be 6,740 tonnes = £168,500
- Offset our scope 1 & 2 emissions and also explore the potential to reduce or offset scope 3 emissions through existing key contracts and suppliers from 2018 to 2023 this would be a similar cost to the option above but would involve further work with the procurement team to encourage carbon reduction from our suppliers. This would involve discussions with IHL, Urbaser and other key contracts to explore the scope within the existing contracts to reduce or offset their carbon emissions.
- Offset our projected scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions from 2021 to 2023 This would cover a 2 year period i.e. 2021/2022, 2022/2023. Based upon the APSE calculations, assuming our emissions annually are the same as the baseline year, two years would total 5,184 tonnes = £129,600.

## 6.0 Alternative Options Considered

None

7.0. Implications

## Legal Implications

7.1 On 12th June 2019 the Prime Minister committed the UK to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. It was enshrined in law through an amendment to the Climate Change Act laid in parliament on that day. The Low Carbon Strategy 2021 - 2030 will help to ensure that the Council plays its part in supporting this commitment.

## Financial Implications

7.2 Delivery of the Low Carbon Strategy 2021 – 2030 and the subsequent Action Plan will require financial resources, including a dedicated resource to coordinate delivery, and in the case of more detailed/large scale projects funding will be necessary to carry out feasibility studies and then dedicated business cases where required. Where possible, options to apply for external funding for specific projects will be explored, and there could be significant matchfunding opportunities or grants we could secure or bid for.

7.3 APSE recommend that a detailed energy audit and feasibility study is carried out for all assets to determine the site-specific initiatives. This will provide an indication of the realistic interventions that could be provided and the likely cost savings, capital cost and carbon savings.

## Policy and Risk Implications

7.4 The Low Carbon Strategy provides direction on how the Council will address climate change and will ensure a coordinated approach across the Council.

## **Council Plan Implications**

7.5 The Council Plan 2020-2030 priorities include Selby district as 'a great place to enjoy life', and one of the objectives of this priority is improved environmental quality. The headline delivery priority is to respond to our developing understanding of the impacts of climate change to foster local resilience and assurance through identifying and promoting low carbon – including aiming for the Council to be carbon neutral before 2050. This work will enable the council to progress with this priority.

## **Resource Implications**

7.6 The working group is currently being delivered within existing resources. However, a dedicated resource will be required to deliver the Council's low carbon ambitions, for which funding has been agreed and the post has now been recruited to. The Low Carbon Strategy is corporate and success in delivery will also require the direct input and lead from a number of key services including Property & Assets, Procurement, Legal, Finance, HR, and Planning.

## Other Implications

7.7 No other implications identified at this stage.

## Equalities Impact Assessment

7.8 None at this stage. An Equality, Diversity and Community Impact Assessment screening will be undertaken for individual actions where appropriate, prior to commencement.

## 8.0 Conclusion

8.1 Following the work of the Policy Review Low Carbon Working Group and feedback from the Portfolio Lead, a draft Low Carbon Strategy has been

developed for 2021 - 2030 which details actions which the Council can take in order to reduce its own carbon footprint and positively influence the wider district carbon footprint. The Strategy focuses on those actions which the Council can directly deliver, as well as those it can influence, through collaboration with others. It is anticipated that once the Strategy is approved, an Action Plan can be further developed to provide further detail on proposed projects.

## 9.0 Background Documents

Appendix A: APSE Energy - Selby DC Carbon footprint baseline report Aug 2021 Appendix B: 2021.09.08 Draft Low Carbon Strategy 2021 - 2030 v4

## **Contact Officer:**

Catherine Hickford Low Carbon Project Officer chickford@selby.gov.uk 01757 705101

APPENDIX A





# Selby District Council Consultancy Support – Scope 1, 2 and 3 Carbon Emissions

Report produced on August 2021



APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) is a not for profit local government body working with over 300 councils throughout the UK. Promoting excellence in public services, APSE is the foremost specialist in local authority front line services, hosting a network for front line service providers in areas such as waste and refuse collection, parks and environmental services, leisure, school meals, cleaning, housing and building maintenance.

APSE Energy is APSE's local authority energy collaboration. The vision for the collaboration is to form an "effective collaboration of a large number of local authorities to enable and facilitate the local municipalisation of energy services. By this we mean the public and community, as well as private, ownership and managerial control of local energy generation, supply networks and delivery of energy efficiency works. Local authorities working together in this way would have great influence and would be able to deliver economies of scale in green energy to promote economic growth and combat fuel poverty.

> Association for Public Service Excellence 3rd floor Trafford House Chester Road, Old Trafford Manchester, M32 0RS Telephone: 0161 772 1810 fax: 0161 772 1811 Email: <u>enquiries@apse.org.uk</u> Web: www.apse.org.uk

## SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL

# CONSULTANCY REPORT – ESTABLISHING THE COUNCIL'S CARBON FOOTPRINT FOR SCOPE 1,2 AND 3 EMISSIONS

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## 1 Introduction

This report provides the results of the carbon footprint calculations for Selby District Council which can be used as a benchmark to monitor future emissions. The carbon footprint has been undertaken in accordance with best practise guidance by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and calculated using 2018 conversion factors for the carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) published by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

The reporting baseline year is nominated as the financial year of 2018/19.

The carbon footprint is categorised into scopes, which cover:

**Scope 1 (direct)** emissions are from activities owned or controlled by the Council. Examples of Scope 1 emissions include emissions from combustion in council owned or controlled boilers, furnaces and vehicles.

**Scope 2 (indirect)** emissions are associated with purchased electricity, heat, steam and cooling. These indirect emissions are a consequence of the Council's energy use, but occur at sources that the Council do not own or control. Examples include grid supplied electricity and heat provided through a heat network.

**Scope 3 (other indirect)** emissions are a consequence of the Council's actions that occur at sources the Council do not own or control and are not classed as Scope 2 emissions. Examples of Scope 3 emissions include business travel by means not owned or controlled by the Council (grey fleet), disposing of the Council's own waste and purchased goods in the supply chain etc.

The carbon footprint has been calculated based on data provided by the Council. Emissions included within Scope 1 and 2 essentially cover assets where the Council are responsible for paying the fuel bills. Based on the property addresses, it is assumed that this includes the electricity usage for the lighting in several landlord areas in housing blocks but excludes individual dwellings.

## 2 Carbon Footprint

## 2.1 Carbon Reporting Boundaries

The organisational boundaries determine what emission are the responsibility of the Council or others. This can be based on who owns, operates, or exerts control over certain assets. The buildings categorised under Scope 1 & 2 within this reporting are those where energy is purchased or acquired and consumed by the Council. The vehicles categorised under Scope 1 are vehicles that the Council own, lease and operate purely for the Council's own operations.

Scope 3 emissions are classified under 15 different categories as detailed under Appendix B. As Scope 3 emissions are under the influence of the Council, but not under its direct control, it can be difficult to obtain the necessary data to calculate the associated carbon emissions from some Scope 3 sources. One of the larger contributors to carbon emissions is purchased goods and services.

Emissions from assets a company owns and leases to another entity, but does not operate, can either be included in Scope 3 or excluded from the inventory.

Table 1 titled shows all of the sources that make up the reporting boundary for the Council.

The emissions from these sources represents a good data set for a Council, as it is not uncommon for councils to only have data available for electricity and gas.

There are sources that are missing from the reporting and the largest contributor is likely to be from purchased goods and services, which is generally very difficult to gather data and calculate emissions. This category includes all upstream (i.e. cradle-to-gate) emissions from the production of products purchased or acquired by the Council in the reporting year. Products include both goods (tangible products) and services (intangible products).

Cradle-to-gate emissions include all emissions that occur in the life cycle of purchased products, up to the point of receipt by the Council. Relevant purchases to the Council may include capital goods, such as office supplies, office furniture, computers, telephones, travel services, IT support, outsourced administrative functions, consulting services, janitorial, landscaping services, maintenance, repairs and operations.

The Council should set up procedures to record all emission sources related to its operations for future reporting.

## 2.2 Scope 1, 2 & 3 Carbon Emissions

The carbon footprint has been calculated using data that was available to the Council during the reporting year.

Emissions Source	Scope	% Split	Tonnes CO2e
Natural Gas	1	2%	64
Council Vehicles	1	34%	873
Leased Vehicles	1	6%	153
Electricity	2	9%	245
Heat	2	0.5%	12
WTT Gas	3	0.3%	9
WTT Electricity	3	2%	39
Transmission & Distribution Electricity	3	1%	21
WTT Heat and Steam	3	0.1%	2
Water Supply	3	0.01%	0.3
Water treatment	3	0.02%	0.6
Waste from council buildings	3	0.1%	3
Business Travel	3	2%	45
Leased Assets	3	43%	1,125
Total		<u>100%</u>	2,592

## Table 1: Carbon emissions by source for 2018/19



## Chart 1: Carbon emissions by source for 2018/19

Emissions Source	% Split	TonnesCO2e
Scope 1	42%	1,090
Scope 2	10%	258
Scope 3	48%	1,244
Total	<u>100%</u>	2,592

Appendix 1 is an Excel spreadsheet that shows a breakdown of the emissions by source. This can be used to develop a carbon strategy by identifying and approaching sources with the highest emissions.

## 3.1 Notes and Observations - Scope 1 & 2

Scope 1 and 2 emissions were initially calculated in June 2020. The emissions data for gas and electricity remains the same, but emissions data for vehicles has increased as more vehicles have been added to include council owned vehicles and leased vehicles. Although the council does not own the leased vehicles, these are categorised under Scope 1 as the Council has financial and operational control of the vehicles.

In following years, vehicle size (tonnage) and/or volume of fuel should be recorded for each vehicle to allow for more accurate carbon conversion factors.

It is unknown what exact period is covered for the consumption data for electricity as most sites are billed quarterly. Going forward, the consumption period should be included so that calculations ensure that the emissions are captured during the reporting year i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March.

More information is required on the source of generating the electricity and heat for the Civic Offices. Monthly data has been provided which shows that heat and electricity is recharged from Selby War Memorial Hospital however, the heat consumption is the same every month at 8,237.6kWh. It is highly unlikely that the Civic Centre will use the same amount of heat every month and this is assumed to be an error. Also, a CHP is present at the hospital and it is unclear if the CHP contributes towards providing the heat and electricity at the Civic Offices. Carbon reporting calculations assume that the electricity is grid supplied and the heat is generated from gas boilers with an applied efficiency factor 0.85 to allow for boiler efficiency and distribution losses. Going forward, more favourable carbon conversion factors could be applied if evidence is provided on the proportion of heat and electricity that is provided by the CHP.

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A sense check should be carried out on the asset list provided to ensure that all council owned vehicles and buildings have been accounted for. The electricity supplier shows that the Council are responsible for 81 electricity meters which gives a good indication for the number of assets under the control of the Council. A review should be carried out of each asset to determine if the Council are responsible for paying the electricity and gas usage and taking ownership for the associated carbon emissions. It is not uncommon for assets to be sold, leased or decommissioned yet the Council continue to pay for the utilities. Similarly, the sense check should identify if any other assets are missing from the list that should be included.

## 3.2 Notes and Observations - Scope 3

## 3.2.1 WTT and T&D

The gas, electricity and heat supplied to council buildings all have scope 3 emissions associated with them. The Well-to-Tank (WTT) emissions are the  $CO_2e$  emissions resulting from the extraction, refining and transportation of the raw fuel to the site and gas, electricity and heat all have these associated emissions. Electricity also has losses through the Transmission and Distribution (T&D) which are the  $CO_2e$  emissions associated with grid losses from the power station to the end user.

## 3.2.2 Business Travel

For business travel the CO<sub>2</sub>e was calculated for two modes of transport (car and rail). As there was not enough data provided for vehicles used, the CO<sub>2</sub>e for car transport was calculated by assuming all vehicles were averaged sized petrol cars.

For rail, the average cost per mile was calculated assuming the total price was attributed to rail at 15p/km (source for data: <u>UK rail industry financial information</u> <u>2018-19 | Office of Rail and Road (orr.gov.uk )</u>.

Data has been provided for business mileage but has not been split into vehicle or fuel type. The carbon emissions have been based on calculations for an average sized petrol car.

## 3.2.3 Water Supply and Treatment

For many of the council owned buildings there was a lack of water data given so the total CO<sub>2</sub>e for water supply and treatment could only be calculated with the data available. From the data given the data was split into 3 separate tables for supply and treatment. This was done based on account number and whether there was water data given. For one of the account numbers no specific address was supplied and the only data supplied was for water usage in the months of June 2018 and March 2019. Information was not provided on the building name and, based on the Bill Account Number there appears to be consumption data available only for June 2018 and March 2019. There are only two Bill Account Numbers for St James Street and a consolidated statement.

For subsequent reporting it is recommended to gain a breakdown off all sites separately and ensure that this covers a 12 month period. It is likely that the carbon emissions from water will increase once the data quality improves.

## 3.2.4 Leased Assets

Energy data for the 3no. leisure centres were taken from the Display Energy Certificates (DEC) and energy data for Leased Operational/Non-Operational Assets were taken from the Energy Performance Certificates (EPC's) which only included 6no. buildings. The tables were divided into buildings that had been provided with and EPC rating and those without. Actual energy consumption data should be provided in subsequent years for all leased assets which will result in an increase in carbon emissions due to improved data quality.

The energy usage of the Selby Leisure Centre seems particularly high, and it is advised to check if the energy usage is accurate.

## 3.2.5 Waste from Council Buildings

Data was provided for 2018/19 and 2020/21, however the data appears to be duplicated so only CO<sub>2</sub>e values for 18/19 have been calculated.

Refuse and recycling data was provided for 11no. sites.

It is likely that the emissions from waste will increase as data quality improves in subsequent years.

## 3.2.5 Operations Waste

Data has been provided for all waste streams for the whole district. The Energy from Waste plant is owned by North Yorkshire County Council and the City of York and operated by a third party waste operator. As the Council does not have any financial or operational influence over the facility it is deemed that these emissions are not within the boundary of reporting under Scope 3.

However, the carbon emissions have been calculated as being 780tCO<sub>2</sub>e and the breakdown is included in Appendix B for reference purposes.

## 4 Carbon Offsetting

A "net zero" target refers to reaching net zero carbon emissions by a nominated year, as chosen by the Council, but differs from zero carbon, which requires no carbon to be emitted at all.

Net-zero refers to balancing the amount of emitted greenhouse gases with the equivalent emissions and a carbon offset is a reduction in emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>e made to compensate for emissions made elsewhere. There are several ways of offsetting carbon emissions such as carbon capture and storage however, this is not deemed financially or technically feasible to the Council. More typical options available to the Council to directly offset emissions include renewable energy generation projects and rewilding/tree planting. However, the effectiveness of tree planting to quickly offset emissions can be questioned as it can take many decades for trees to reach maturity.

Emissions Source	% Split	TonnesCO2e
Scope 1	42%	1,090
Scope 2	10%	257
Scope 3	48%	1,244
Total	<u>100%</u>	2,592

Based on the 2018/19 baseline data the emissions that need to be offset are:

Scope 3 emissions can be reduced through policy changes, but it is more difficult to reduce Scope 3 emissions as these are not under direct control of the Council.

The two main offsetting options available is to install offsite renewables and sequestration through planting. A full detailed feasibility study is required to identify the potential generation capacity for renewables, but for referencing purposes it is possible that the Council could install 1MW of solar PV generation capacity (a solar farm) on available land and as a canopy above car parking spaces.

Electricity that is generated locally and exported to the gird is considered a carbon offset as the Council do not directly benefit from using the electricity onsite. Power generation would be a direct carbon saving if it were used on site as this will mean that less grid supplied electricity will be used.

The offsetting from PV is by way of generating electricity and exporting it to the electricity grid. The carbon offsetting savings are equivalent to the carbon emissions of grid supplied electricity at that point in time. As grid supplied electricity is decarbonised over time it means that the carbon offsetting of PV will proportionally reduce and the carbon offsetting of 1MW of PV in 2018/19 will be 269tCO<sub>2</sub>e and will be 121tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2030.

Tree planting can then be introduced to offset the remaining emissions however, the extent of tree planting will be dependent of the carbon emissions in that year.

The table below shows the requirements based on the 2018/19 baseline data and no reductions up to 2030:

	2018	2030
Scope 3 Emissions (tCO2e)	1,244	1,244
Carbon Offsetting from 1MW PV (tCO2e)	269	121
Carbon offsetting required from planting (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	975	1,123
Cost for 1MW PV	£900,000	£900,000
Cost for offsetting from planting	£24,375	£28,075

\*The costs provided are based on 2021 costs

The offsetting required from planting is to bring emissions to net zero. The Woodland Trust states that it costs  $\pm 25$  to offset 1 tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> in British woodlands.

There are other schemes that provide carbon offsetting through international planting schemes such as <u>One Carbon World</u> which contributes funding towards large scale forestry schemes for as much as £1.20/tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

A detailed feasibility study is required to determine the impact that planting will have to act as a carbon sink to gauge an understanding of the stages that the planting will need to take place so that mature trees are in place to absorb the appropriate amount of CO<sub>2</sub> by 2030.

## 4 Recommendations for Gathering Data Going Forward

The Council should develop a procedure for gathering and storing data as it is made available. The benefit of this is that the carbon reporting process is streamlined and progress towards targets can be tracked. This can help smooth out any gaps in the data.

APSE Energy can support by gathering data on behalf of the Council and storing it on energy management software. The Council will be provided with password protected access to the cloud-based database so it can access the data and generate cost and carbon reports. APSE Energy can use this data to provide streamlined reporting to the Council in subsequent years.

## 5 Conclusion and Recommendations

- Use carbon footprint data and Appendix A to develop a strategy to become net zero carbon. APSE Energy can provide a desktop investigation to provide a trajectory up to the zero carbon target year and give an indication of what measures could be taken and their potential capital cost and cost/carbon savings.
- Sense check all data to confirm accuracy.
- Provide a more detailed description of the vehicle type.
- Develop policies and procedures for improving the capturing of data going forward to report on Scope 3 emissions.
- Develop policies to request emissions data from suppliers to gather Scope 3 data.

## 6 Glossary

Term	Definition
Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO <sub>2</sub> e)	The carbon dioxide equivalent ( $CO_2e$ ) allows the different greenhouse gases to be compared on a like-for-like basis relative to one unit of $CO_2$ and includes the six greenhouse gases with the greatest global warming potential (GWP).
Carbon footprint	A carbon footprint measures the total greenhouse gas emissions caused directly and indirectly by a person, organisation, event or product. A carbon footprint is measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2e).
Council Vehicles	Vehicles that are owned or controlled by the Council. This does not include employee-owned vehicles that are used for business purposes.
Electricity	Electricity used at sites owned/controlled by the Council. This is reported as a Scope 2, indirect emission. The conversion factors used are for the electricity supplied to the grid that the Council purchase - they do not include the emissions associated with the transmission and distribution of electricity.
Gas	Primary fuel sources combusted at a site or in an asset owned or controlled by the Council.

## Appendix A – Carbon Footprint Calculations

The above appendix is provided separately as a spreadsheet.

# Appendix B – Data that should be gathered to report on Scope 3 emissions

The reporting of Scope 3 emissions is discretionary. The table below provides further guidance on the information required to calculate emissions from Scope 3.

ltem	Category	Details Required
1	Purchased goods and services	This category includes all upstream (i.e. cradle-to-gate) emissions from the production of products purchased or acquired by the Council in the reporting year. Products include both goods (tangible products) and services (intangible products).
		This category includes emissions from all purchased goods and services not otherwise included in the other categories of upstream scope 3 emissions (i.e. category 2 through category 8 below).
		Cradle-to-gate emissions include all emissions that occur in the life cycle of purchased products, up to the point of receipt by the Council. Cradle-to-gate emissions may include:
		<ul> <li>Extraction of raw materials</li> <li>Agricultural activities</li> <li>Manufacturing, production, and processing</li> <li>Generation of electricity consumed by upstream activities</li> <li>Disposal/treatment of waste generated by upstream activities</li> <li>Land use and land-use change</li> <li>Transportation of materials and products between</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Any other activities prior to acquisition by the reporting company</li> <li>Relevant purchases to the Council may include capital</li> </ul>
		goods, such as office supplies, office furniture, computers,

		telephones, travel services, IT support, outsourced administrative functions, consulting services, janitorial, landscaping services, maintenance, repairs and operations.
		For accurate carbon reporting emissions, the Council should request cradle-to-gate emission factors for materials used by suppliers to produce purchased goods such as Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs). It is likely that many suppliers will not be able to provide all the emission data.
		If an EPD cannot be provided, supplementary information required includes the volume of product (kg) and the carbon emission factor (kg CO <sub>2</sub> e).
		A policy should be developed so that suppliers in the supply chain are required to provide this data as part of the contract, where the volume of goods is noteworthy.
2	Capital goods	Capital goods are final products that have an extended life and are used by the Council to manufacture a product, provide a service, or sell, store, and deliver merchandise. Capital goods are treated as fixed assets or as plant, property, and equipment (PP&E). Examples of capital goods include equipment, machinery, buildings, facilities, and vehicles.
		The required information is the same as Category 1 above.
		A policy should be developed so that suppliers in the supply chain are required to provide this data as part of the contract.
3	Fuel- and energy related activities (not included in Scope 1 or Scope 2)	Transmission and distribution (T&D) losses have been included and calculated from the data provided in Scope 2.

4	Upstream transportati on and distribution	<ul> <li>Category 4 includes emissions from:</li> <li>Transportation and distribution of products purchased in the reporting year, between suppliers and its own operations in vehicles not owned or operated by the Council.</li> <li>Third-party transportation and distribution services purchased by the Council in the reporting year (either directly or through an intermediary), including inbound logistics, outbound logistics (e.g. of sold products), and third-party transportation and distribution between the Council's own facilities.</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>The Council requires data on:</li> <li>Quantities of fuel (e.g., diesel, petrol, jet fuel, biofuels) consumed</li> <li>Amount spent on fuels</li> <li>Distance travelled</li> <li>Vehicle type</li> </ul>	
		This may include managed assets - Vehicles that are used by the Council but are not owned by the organisation and generally do not appear on the organisation's balance sheet, for example, maintenance contractor vehicles, outsourced refuse and recycling trucks, road sweepers, grounds maintenance mowers etc.	
		A policy should be developed so that suppliers using their own vehicles are required to provide this data as part of the contract.	
5	Waste generated in operations	This includes emissions from third-party disposal and treatment of waste generated in the Councils owned or controlled operations in the reporting year. This category includes emissions from disposal of both solid waste and wastewater.	
		The Council should request volume and emissions data from the waste treatment company applicable to <b>its own waste stream</b> . If this cannot be provided, the emissions	

		can be calculated by requesting the volume of waste, type and disposal method:
		Example of data required:
		<ul> <li>Total weight (kg) of waste type and disposal method e.g.</li> <li>5,000kg municipal waste to landfill</li> <li>500kg organic garden waste to composting</li> <li>1,000kg metal recycled</li> <li>1,000kg plastic recycled</li> <li>1,000kg paper recycled</li> </ul>
		Data is required for the volume of supply and wastewater in cubic metres (m <sup>3</sup> ) from water bills.
		Local authorities have an important role in waste prevention and sustainable waste management through awareness-raising campaigns, providing separate collection for recycling and food waste, and implementing waste-to-energy schemes. It is therefore voluntary on whether the Council choose to include the emissions from waste associated with the whole borough, or just the Council's own operation.
6	Business travel	Travel for assets not owned or directly operated by the Council. This includes mileage for business purposes in cars owned by employees, public transport, hire cars etc.
		Require details for:
		<ul> <li><u>Vehicle</u></li> <li>Fuel type, size of vehicle and distance for:</li> <li>Car</li> <li>Motorbike</li> <li>Taxis</li> <li>Bus</li> <li>Rail</li> </ul>
		<u>Flights</u>

		<ul> <li>Airport travelled to/from</li> <li>Number of passengers</li> <li>Class type</li> <li>Distance</li> <li><u>Ferry</u></li> <li>Foot or car passenger</li> <li>Distance</li> </ul>
7	Employee commuting	This category includes emissions from the transportation of employees between their homes and their worksites.
		<ul> <li>Emissions from employee commuting may arise from:</li> <li>Car</li> <li>Bus</li> <li>Rail</li> <li>Other modes of transportation</li> <li>Staff would be required to provide method of transport and distance travelled. It may be difficult and time consuming to collect accurate data.</li> </ul>
8	Upstream leased assets	This category is applicable from the operation of assets that are leased by the Council.
		If the Council procures the energy then this should be considered as Scope 1 and 2.
		If the landlord is responsible for the Scope 1 and 2 emissions, the Council should include the reporting under Scope 3. An example may include an office that the Council lease from a private landlord. All energy bills may be included as part of the lease and the energy contract is under the name of the landlord. The Council should therefore request the energy data from the landlord and include this under Scope 3.

	the leased asset.	
Downstream transportati on and distribution	This category includes emissions that occur in the reporting year from transportation and distribution of sold products in vehicles and facilities not owned or controlled by the Council in the reporting year. It is assumed that this category is not applicable to the Council as it does not manufacture and sell products.	
Processing of sold products	It is assumed that this category is not applicable to the Council as it does not manufacture and sell products.	
Use of sold products	It is assumed that this category is not applicable to the Council as it does not manufacture and sell products.	
End-of-life treatment of sold products	It is assumed that this category is not applicable to the Council as it does not manufacture and sell products.	
Downstream leased assets	This category is applicable where the Council is the landlord to a lessee. If the Council procures the energy on behalf of a lessee then this should be considered as Scope 1 and 2. An example of this is where the Council may lease a premises to a lessee and include all energy costs as part of the lease. The energy contract is under the name of the Council and is therefore reported under Scope 1 and 2. If the lessee is responsible for the Scope 1 and 2 emissions, the council should include the reporting under Scope 3. An example of this is a shop that the Council own and the occupant page for the energy bills and the contract is	
-	Downstream transportati on and distribution Processing of sold products Use of sold products End-of-life treatment of sold products Downstream leased assets	

Data required include the Scope 1 and 2 data from the leased asset.         14       Franchises         15       Investments         15       Investments         This category includes scope 3 emissions associated with the Council's investments in the reporting year, not already included in scope 1 or scope 2. This category is applicable to investors (i.e. organisations that make an investment with the objective of making a profit) and organisations that provide financial services. This category also applies to investors that are not profit driven (e.g. multilateral development banks). Investments are categorised as a downstream scope 3 category because providing capital or financing is a service provided by the organisation.         Category 15 is designed primarily for private financial institutions (e.g., commercial banks), banks, export credit agencies) and other entities with investments not included in scope 1 and scope 2.         The Councils scope 3 emissions from investments are the scope 1 and scope 2 emissions of investees.
14FranchisesIt is assumed that this category is not applicable to the Council as it does not operate any franchises.15InvestmentsThis category includes scope 3 emissions associated with the Council's investments in the reporting year, not already included in scope 1 or scope 2. This category is applicable to investors (i.e. organisations that make an investment with the objective of making a profit) and organisations that provide financial services. This category also applies to investors that are not profit driven (e.g. multilateral development banks). Investments are categorised as a downstream scope 3 category because providing capital or financing is a service provided by the organisation.Category 15 is designed primarily for private financial institutions (e.g., commercial banks), but is also relevant to public financial institutions (e.g., multilateral development banks, export credit agencies) and other entities with investments not included in scope 1 and scope 2.The Councils scope 3 emissions from investments are the scope 1 and scope 2 emissions of investees.
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The Councils scope 3 emissions from investments are the scope 1 and scope 2 emissions of investees.
For purposes of greenhouse gas accounting, this standard divides financial investments into four types: • Equity investments • Debt investments • Project finance
Managed investments and client services     An example of the information required is the Scope     1 and 2 emissions from the bank where an investment     is in place. This is based on the Council's proportional     share of investment in the investee. If the Council has

£1million invested in the bank and the banks total investments amount to £100million, the Council should report on 1% of the banks Scope 1 and 2 emissions.	
It is assumed that this information will be difficult to collate from third parties and that the total emissions will be proportionally small compared to other emission sources and these emissions could be excluded from the reporting.	
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## **NEW MUNICIPALISM**

Delivering for local people and local economies

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# Selby District Council

# Low Carbon Strategy 2021 - 2030

Produced by: Low Carbon Project Officer Date: 08 September 2021

Approved:

**Revisions: DRAFT** 

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## Foreword

Portfolio Lead for Low Carbon, Cllr Richard Musgrave

In December 2019 the Council adopted its new Council Plan setting out its priorities for the period 2020-2030. One of the key commitments was on climate change - to respond to our developing understanding of the impacts of climate change through identifying and promoting low carbon – including aiming for the Council to be Carbon neutral before 2050.

We know from the consultation undertaken as part of the development of the Council Plan that it is something residents fully support. The Council Plan also highlighted that with investment in world-leading carbon capture technology taking place in our district, including the Bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) at Drax, we're right at the forefront of the UK's drive for net zero carbon emissions.

Investment in green technology is creating new jobs and putting the district on the world stage. There are also wider benefits to becoming carbon neutral in terms of health and well-being, biodiversity, green recovery, air quality and community resilience. As a Council, we need to help our businesses and residents contribute to this cleaner and greener future and we can make a start by ensuring we look at our own impact on the environment.

As a council we've made tangible progress on a number of fronts since December 2019, despite also being front and centre in helping to deal with impacts of Covid-19 - the most serious public health crisis for a century. Our new Waste Recycling Service was implemented in 2020 and has achieved an 2% increase by tonnage in recycling whereas all other North Yorkshire collection authorities experienced an average reduction of 0.2%. Our new Local Plan is making excellent progress since we started this work in late 2019 and has put sustainable development at the heart of its approach, with a focus on mitigating and adapting to climate change.

I asked the Policy Review Committee to assist us to further develop our approach and they set up a cross-party Low Carbon Working Group. I'd like to personally thank the group for the excellent work they've done in helping us to understand the Council's own carbon footprint and to consider the measures we can introduce to reduce that footprint to zero. It is also important that we show leadership in helping to tackle the district's wider carbon footprint.

Clearly a major change since we embarked on this work is Local Government Review with the recent government decision in July 2021 to create a new unitary North Yorkshire Council. This means that Selby District Council will no longer exist in April 2023.

Whilst this fundamentally changes our ability to plan longer term as a Council it is important that we clearly articulate the ambitions of the Council in addressing its own carbon footprint and helping to address the wider district footprint, so that the new North Yorkshire Council has a clear route-map to continue this important work.

For this reason the strategy set's out the Council's ambitions to 2030, in accordance with the Council Plan timescale, but also sets out our commitment to reducing and also fully offsetting our direct carbon emissions by 2023.

## Strategy on a page

By 2030, the Council and its operations will be carbon neutral, positively helping Selby District and the North Yorkshire area move to a net zero carbon economy.

We recognise that the creation of the new North Yorkshire Council in 2023 means that it will not be possible to implement all the measures necessary to achieve this in the lifetime of Selby District Council and that the mantle for achieving this will pass to the new local authority.

However, we now understand the Council's own Scope 1 and 2 emissions and we are making a commitment to fully offsetting these up to 2023 whilst we also further develop a range of potential low carbon projects with a focus on the early wins that can be achieved by 2023 but also looking ahead to what is needed to achieve carbon neutral by 2030.

The Low Carbon Working Group have been asked to review their good work to date on a Low Carbon Action Plan to identify those measures that can be implemented within these timescales.

We want our operations and services to work in a sustainable way and reduce our costs in the long term. We will work towards this through the following steps:

- Monitor, calculate, and report our annual scope 1, 2 & 3 carbon emissions
- Reduce our scope 1 and 2 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to zero through improved energy efficiency of our built environment, divestment from fossil fuel energy sources, and offset of unavoidable emissions
- Reduce our scope 3 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through sustainable procurement
- Encourage sustainable modes of transport for employees, members and residents
- Protect and improve the quality of the natural environment and biodiversity across the district
- Work collaboratively across the public, private and third sectors at a local, regional, national and global level

We have aligned our Strategy with the strategies of other local authorities across North Yorkshire for three reasons. Firstly, addressing climate change is not something we can do alone – it needs a much wider response. Secondly, we want to ensure that the new North Yorkshire Council can capture these ambitions and take a lead in the low carbon agenda going forward and we are giving them a clear route map for work beyond 2023. And thirdly, we hope that some key projects can be developed into large scale opportunities over longer timescales for the new North Yorkshire Council to adopt and continue our good work.

## 1. Introduction

## The Global Challenge

Since the industrial revolution, human activities have been releasing huge amounts of carbon dioxide ( $CO_2$ ) and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The level of greenhouse gas emissions currently being emitted is estimated to be 50 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalents ( $CO_{2e}$ ) into the atmosphere each year<sup>1</sup>. This has increased concentrations of  $CO_2$  in the atmosphere from around 278 ppm to 417 ppm in just over 250 years<sup>2</sup>.

The increased concentration of these gases in the atmosphere are increasing global temperatures, at different rates around the world. This sudden and rapid increase in temperature of the Earth system is causing disruption to the intricate balance of climate systems and weather patterns, leading to extreme weather events. These are no longer events that will happen in the future, with repeated extreme weather events happening recently in the past 10 years causing large scale destruction, disruption and cost. For example, the NOAA reports that the US has experienced 298 disasters since 1980, costing over \$1.9 trillion and claiming over 14,000 lives<sup>3</sup>.

In the UK we have already experienced some of worst flooding, rainfall, drought, high temperatures and storm events since records began, and with predictions estimating that these events will only get worse, we have to act quickly to try and reduce the impacts of climate change to a minimum.

Elsewhere on the planet, people are experiencing sea level rise, soil erosion, droughts, extreme weather events and wildfires. It is clear from the events that we are seeing that we must act now, and quickly. If we continue business as usual, we risk pushing climate systems to a point of no return, when tipping points are reached positive feedback loops in the Earth system will exponentially increase the concentrations of  $CO_2$  in the atmosphere through tree death, desertification, warming oceans and thawing of glaciers and permafrost. If this happens, we risk creating a planet that is uninhabitable for ourselves and all other life on Earth within just a few hundred years.

## **Our Challenge**

Whilst we live in a usually stable temperate region of the world, we are not immune to the effects of climate change and extreme weather. Within the district we have experienced the impacts of flooding, periods of reduced rainfall, high temperatures, and powerful storms, all of which have been made more likely due to climate change.

As a Council we want to try and reduce these impacts going into the future, reducing our contribution towards global emissions by taking actions to become a net zero organisation. Reducing our emissions will come with other benefits including reduced costs, improved air quality, healthier happier people, and new skills and jobs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Greenhouse gas emissions - Our World in Data

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Met Office: Atmospheric CO2 now hitting 50% higher than pre-industrial levels | Carbon Brief

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters: Overview | National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) (noaa.gov)

## The Council's carbon footprint

As part of these actions, we have calculated our Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions for our carbon footprint for the financial year 2018-2019. (Scope 1 includes direct emissions from council activities e.g. burning gas in boilers for heat, or fuel usage in vehicles; scope 2 emissions are associated with electricity use and heat; and scope 3 emissions include indirect emissions associated with water use, waste, business travel and energy use within leased assets). Our carbon footprint has been calculated to be 2,592 tonnes CO<sub>2e</sub>, with 42% for Scope 1, 10% for Scope 2, and 48% for Scope 3.



Figure 1. Total Carbon footprint split by scope for 2018-2019

This provides us with a baseline to understand our carbon budget, and a starting point to begin reducing our carbon footprint. It should also be considered that over the next decade to 2030, emissions will accumulate year on year, so the total cumulative amount of carbon to be reduced will be much larger

than the value calculated for the baseline year of 2018-2019.

Below is a further breakdown of our total carbon footprint for 2018 to 2019 by emission source<sup>4</sup>. The largest contributors to our carbon footprint are the use of our council vehicles and leased vehicles in scope 1 (which includes our council owned refuse disposal vehicles), electricity usage within our buildings in scope 2, and emissions associated with our leased assets which includes the leisure centres, operational buildings, and industrial business units, in scope 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 'WTT' stands for Well-to-Tank which are the emissions associated with extraction, refining and transportation of raw fuel from out the ground to site.



Figure 2. Total carbon footprint split by source for 2018-2019

## The district carbon footprint

District wide emissions are summarised below using UK Government estimates, which already shows a reduction in emissions from 2018 to 2019.

Sector	Emissions for year 2018 (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> )	Emissions for year 2019 (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> )
Industry (including agriculture)	377,200	291,000
Commercial	43,900	40,100
Public sector	10,100	9,400
Domestic	145,900	142,500
Transport	329,700	323,500
Land Use, Land Use Change, & Forestry	-23,200	-22,900
TOTAL	883,600	783,500

Table 1 Local Authority territorial CO<sub>2</sub> emissions estimates for 2018-2019<sup>5</sup>

## **Our Vision**

Our Council Plan includes a key target committing the Council to becoming carbon neutral before 2050. The work we have done with APSE<sup>6</sup> on our scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions shows we can become carbon neutral by 2030.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Emissions of carbon dioxide for Local Authority areas - data.gov.uk

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The Association for Public Service Excellence – Energy

By carbon neutral we mean operating in a state where there is no net release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, through reducing and eliminating our scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions as much as possible year on year and offsetting the remainder of any unavoidable emissions through approved offsetting schemes.



This vision will allow us to demonstrate leadership and play a positive role to the wider District by becoming a carbon neutral organisation before it is required by law set by the UK Government. A carbon neutral Council will be one which is a great place to work, grow and create value, delivering a sustainable, efficient, and responsible service to residents in the district.

We will reach this target by focusing on two timescales: 1) what we can do as a Council by April 2023 when the New North Yorkshire Council takes over this mantle 2) what is needed to achieve carbon neutral by 2030, the timescale of the Council Plan. This will also allow us to set out clear expectations from the Council for how the new North Yorkshire Council should address climate change issues in the district going forward.

We will take an approach that focuses first on avoiding emissions altogether, reducing emissions where they occur, followed by offsetting for emissions that are currently unavoidable. Given it is not possible to fully implement all measures required to become carbon neutral before the new authority comes into being in 2023 we will commit to offsetting our known Scope 1 & 2 emissions.

## **Our Aim**

The scope of this strategy is primarily focused on reducing the greenhouse gas emissions of the Council, within our own operations, whilst using our influence to encourage and promote the reduction of emissions in the wider district.

This strategy has drawn on the work of the Low Carbon Working Group which included a review of other local authority low carbon strategies. The aim of this strategy is to provide an identification of the problem and an understanding of how the Council can best tackle the challenge.

Below you will find 6 workstreams that will help us to achieve this.

- Workstream 1: Carbon Monitoring Monitor, calculate, and report our annual scope 1, 2 & 3 carbon emissions.
- Workstream 2: Travel Encourage sustainable modes of transport for employees, members and residents.
- Workstream 3: Council Buildings and Energy Use Seek to reduce our scope 1 and 2 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to zero through improved energy efficiency of

our built environment, divestment from fossil fuel energy sources, and offset of unavoidable emissions.

- Workstream 4: Working Practices Seek to reduce our scope 3 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through sustainable procurement and offsetting.
- Workstream 5: Natural Environment and Biodiversity Protect and improve the quality of the natural environment and biodiversity across the district including addressing flood risk and planning for sustainable development through the new Local Plan.
- Workstream 6: Influencing Others in the District Work collaboratively across the public, private and third sectors at a local, regional, national and global level.

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## 2. Background and Policy Context

## Global

As the impacts surrounding climate change have become more visible and prominent, International, national and regional policy and legislation has been developed.

The United Nations Framework for the Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) established an international treaty in 1992 to combat "dangerous human interference with the climate system".

Most prominently in recent years, The Paris Agreement 2016 was agreed as a legally binding international treaty on climate change, signed and agreed to by 196 nations at the Conference of Parties meeting in 2015. The treaty commits these nations to limit global warming to well below 2°C and preferably below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels<sup>7</sup>.

The recently published report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in August 2021 only underlines the importance of acting now and showing local leadership. The COP26 UN Climate Summit to take place in Glasgow in November 2021 will consider this report in some detail and explore what more needs to be done to address the climate change challenge.

## UK

The Climate Change Act 2008 was an act of UK parliament to commit the UK to reducing their emission of greenhouse gases to 80% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels.

UK Government has recently committed to set in law the aim of reaching a 78% reduction by 2035 in a bid to reach this target earlier<sup>8</sup>.

In November 2020 the Government published its Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution which set out how a focus on the green economy could help the country to recover from the impacts of Covid and build back better.

## Regional

The York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (Y&NY LEP) is working with the local authorities, key partners and businesses to achieve the aim for York & North Yorkshire to become the UK's first carbon negative region – carbon neutral by 2034 and carbon negative by 2040.

This was a central element of the draft Devolution Deal submitted to government in Central December 2020. Central to delivery of those plans is support for Drax Power in their world-leading Bioenergy Carbon Capture Storage (BECCS) project.

The Y&NY LEP commissioned a major Carbon Abatement Pathways<sup>9</sup> study and from this and stakeholder engagement are now preparing a Routemap to Carbon

<sup>7</sup> The Paris Agreement | UNFCCC

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> UK enshrines new target in law to slash emissions by 78% by 2035 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Carbon Abatement Pathways | Business Inspired Growth

Negative. This will provide strategic direction towards the Y&NY target to become a carbon negative region by 2040.

The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission was set up in 2020 as an advisory body to advance the region's climate leadership by bringing together the public, private and third sectors and to support, guide and track the delivery of ambitious climate actions.

In conclusion, it is clear that the solution to addressing climate change does not sit with one organisation but requires collaboration across the public, private and third sectors at a local, regional, national and global level.

## 3. Low Carbon Workstreams

Key targets:

## Become a carbon neutral Council by 2030.

# To fully offset our known scope 1 and 2 emissions from our baseline year 2018 until 2023

Through the following six workstreams we will aim to reduce our Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions to zero. Emissions that we cannot control or which we cannot reduce any further will be offset through tree planting or other approved offsetting schemes. Scope 3 emissions will be reduced by working with contracted partners e.g. Urbaser for the waste and street scene contracts and IHL for the leisure contract.

A number of measures to help reduce the Council or district's carbon footprint are already underway and some of these are listed below. However, because it will not be possible to fully implement all the measures required for Selby District Council to become carbon neutral by the time the new North Yorkshire Council comes into being in 2023 we are instead making an immediate commitment to fully offsetting our known Scope 1 and 2 emissions between our baseline year 2018 and 2023.

We will also work with the Low Carbon Working Group to:

- 1. Identify the measures that can be implemented by Selby District Council before April 2023
- 2. Identify the other measures and begin collaborative working with NYCC to become carbon neutral by 2030 so we are setting out clear expectations for how the new North Yorkshire Council should address climate change in the district.

To progress this work further we will ask the Low Carbon Working Group to explore potential projects under each of these workstreams. Delivery will be dependent on a range of factors including potential carbon saving, timescales (given local government changes in 2023), costs (capital, revenue and maintenance) and value for money which would be assessed in a detailed business case before any significant investment.

## Workstream 1: Carbon Monitoring

To ensure we continue to improve and reduce our emissions year on year we will need to monitor, record and report our carbon footprint annually. Also see section 5.

- Review data provided for scope 1 & 2 emissions calculations provided by APSE
- Monitor and record energy use, gas, electricity and fuel use, for future annual calculations of scope 1 & 2 emissions.
- Set up processes and procedures to request and record emissions data from suppliers and staff for scope 3.
- Carbon offsetting we have the option to:
  - Offset only our scope 1 & 2 emissions from 2018 to 2023;

- Offset our scope 1 & 2 emissions and also explore the potential to reduce or offset scope 3 emissions through existing key contracts and suppliers from 2018 to 2023;
- Or offset our projected scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions from 2021 to 2023

## Workstream 2: Travel

The council and its contract delivery partners operate a fleet of vehicles including heavy goods vehicles, cars, small vans and road sweepers. Staff and members also use their own cars and public transport for business travel. Emissions from council vehicles make up 34% of our carbon footprint, so contribute a significant proportion of overall emissions.

We have recently renewed our contracted vehicle fleet so can't change these to electric or seek to change that of our main contractors due to the length of existing contracts and because of the local government changes in 2023.

However, there are a range of other things that can be done to reduce the carbon emissions from travel either from the Council's own operations or within the district.

Some of these are already being done:

- Reducing the need to travel the radical change in how people have been working in the last 18 months including working from home and better use of IT means many meetings can be held remotely. This will continue into the future with 'hybrid working' becoming the norm.
- Encourage the adoption of sustainable transport options a number of our key strategies and plans will encourage and enhance the use of public transport, cycling and walking e.g. Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs), Transforming Cities Fund and town centre regeneration projects
- Cycle to Work scheme the Council has been promoting this to employees for some years now.
- Improve EV charging infrastructure across the district this is being implemented in Council car parks and for staff at the Civic Centre. Wider opportunities across the district are also being explored jointly with North Yorkshire County Council, the other NY local authorities and the Energy Savings Trust.
- Staff car loan scheme for electric and hybrids vehicles.

There are a range of other things that can be explored including<sup>10</sup>:

- A staff travel plan
- Encourage a lower carbon taxi fleet through licensing and access to grant funding
- Encourage car sharing groups and explore the potential for electric pool cars
- Work with NYCC to incentivise bus companies to use electric buses

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Subject to assessing deliverability before local government reorganisation is implemented in 2023

• Reduced car parking charges in the district for cars with a green number plate

## Workstream 3: Council Buildings and Energy Use

The built environment accounts for around 40% of the UK's carbon emissions annually, primarily due to the energy used to heat and light our homes and workspaces. By improving insulation rates and replacing outdated service equipment we can improved energy efficiency, reducing the amount of energy use required to run a building. Moving heating and cooling systems to low carbon alternatives also removes a reliance on fossil fuels. There are significant new government funding streams potentially available that can provide up to 100% capital or revenue grants for work to public buildings, with a range of funds launched over the last year under the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.

Some of these are already being done:

- The new Civic Centre which is jointly occupied by the NHS, SDC and the Police, was built to be a sustainable and energy efficient building
- The Civic Centre for example has a combined heat and power (CHP) plant and sources its electrical energy supply from renewable sources.

There are a range of other things that can be explored including:<sup>11</sup>

- Move away from fossil fuel energy sources procure all electricity for the Councils other buildings from a renewables tariff
- Carry out energy audits of all built assets to understand existing building fabric, services, and energy use and include this information in the new asset register and asset management plan
- Feasibility studies to identify retrofit work required to increase energy efficiency e.g. all built assets to achieve at least an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of C
- Reducing gas usage in Council buildings through more efficient plant, improved controls, & increased insulation. Install heat pumps as an alternative heating source
- Reducing electricity use in Council buildings LED lighting & improved controls (e.g. daylight and occupancy sensing), BMS controls for HVAC, replace office equipment with more efficient versions (but noting that replacement can actually create more carbon emissions through embodied carbon), independent power generation using renewables e.g. solar PV panels.
- Solar powered street lights in car parks
- Enforcement of the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES) regulation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Subject to assessing deliverability before local government reorganisation is implemented in 2023

## **Workstream 4: Working Practices**

In order to embed a sustainable way of working we need to encourage behaviour change and more environmentally friendly habits.

Some of these are already being done:

 A comprehensive training programme on climate change is being devised for all North Yorkshire local authorities by the Y&NY LEP's Circular Economy & Low Carbon Team - to be available to both staff and elected members

There are a range of other things that can be explored including:<sup>12</sup>

- Create a green Staff Ambassadors group to encourage sustainable working in the office through energy efficiency and behaviour change.
- Service Delivery Plans to consider if and how they can contribute to a reduction in carbon emission through their service operations.
- Improve communication create an accessible page on the website with information on climate change, what the Council is doing, and what local residents can do
- Where possible and financially feasible, build sustainability and low carbon considerations into procurement using the Sustainable Procurement Toolkit developed jointly by the Y&NY LEP, local authorities and their procurement leads.
- How the impact on climate change can be considered in Council reports, for example through use of climate change impact assessments to influence key decision making
- How our Scope 3 emissions can be reduced or offset through our key contractual relationships<sup>13</sup> e.g. Urbaser (previously Amey) for the waste and streetscene contracts; Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles (IHL) for the leisure contract

## Workstream 5: Natural Environment and Biodiversity

We are not only in a climate crisis, we are also in an ecological crisis, with extinction rates of animal and plant species around the world currently at levels never seen before in human history. Around 1 million species are at threat of extinction due to human activities<sup>14</sup>. The State of Nature report for the UK predicts that 15% of species in the UK are threatened with extinction, with 41% of species declining<sup>15</sup>. Protecting the natural environment and increasing biodiversity will not only help combat climate change but also build resilience, improve people health and wellbeing, and create an environment we all want to enjoy.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Subject to assessing deliverability before local government reorganisation is implemented in 2023
 <sup>13</sup> Potential costs and choice of suppliers would also need to be considered to ensure a fair and balanced

approach. <sup>14</sup> UN Report: Nature's Dangerous Decline 'Unprecedented'; Species Extinction Rates 'Accelerating' – United

Nations Sustainable Development

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Biodiversity in the UK: bloom or bust? (parliament.uk)

We also need to ensure we are encouraging sustainable patterns of development and that the potential impacts of flooding both now and in the future are planned for and mitigation measures identified.

Some of these are already being done:

- Policies within our new Local Plan include requirements for net biodiversity gain on new developments.
- We are a member of the White Rose Forest Partnership, giving us access to expert advice and a range of funding sources to develop and implement a strategic tree planting programme for the district. In the next 12 months we will be working with them to engage with landowners and community groups to identify opportunities for large scale tree planting on suitable land.
- Contacted Town and Parish Councils to understand and promote community led tree planting opportunities.
- We worked with the Escrick Park Estate after their successful bid to become a national pilot for Biodiversity Offsetting.

There are a range of other things that can be explored including:<sup>16</sup>

- Develop a Fund and Grant Scheme for resident, community and larger scale tree planting initiatives in the district and appoint a delivery partner to oversee delivery
- Use tree planting schemes, preferably in the district (but could be wider), to offset the remainder of the Council's carbon footprint
- Re-wilding kerbsides and increasing wildflower cover NYCC are trialling different highway verge management regimes to increase biodiversity
- Work with landowners to increase hedgerows

## Workstream 6: Influencing Others in the District

The solution to addressing climate change does not sit with one organisation but requires collaboration across the public, private and third sectors at a local, regional, national and global level.

Local authorities have a key role to play as local leaders in promoting the importance of personal, business, and wider stakeholder choices and in helping to shape and influence the future investment decisions of others.

Some of these are already being done:

- Collaborating with Y&NY LEP to support their carbon neutral and circular economy work
- Providing business advice to companies including access to grants to reduce energy use, waste and address low carbon challenges
- Working with other local authorities across North Yorkshire and Yorkshire through groups such as the Y&NY Local Authority Low Carbon Officers Group

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Subject to assessing deliverability before local government reorganisation is implemented in 2023

and with the Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission – to share best practice and work at a greater than local scale of projects

There are a range of other things that can be explored including:<sup>17</sup>

- Residents/District inform private landlords and home owners on grants/offers to improve energy efficiency, enforcement of MEES regulation
- Green Economy/Working with businesses explore potential benefits if business invests in energy saving measures/renewable energy/green certification/carbon foot-printing e.g. business rate discounts
- Try to influence partners to ensure major investments (e.g. pension schemes) don't invest in fossil fuels or other things that do not support the journey towards a zero-carbon future.
- Provide information and guidance for SME's to reduce their carbon

## Other workstreams:

There are a number of other workstreams that will help the Council to reduce its own carbon footprint or that of the wider district.

## **Council Housing**

This has not been included in our carbon footprint work to date so we don't know the full impact of the 3000 houses we have. This could be a future strand of work given the increased availability of government funding to help retrofit existing stock and ensure new development is low carbon.

Some low carbon measures have already been included in new affordable house building programmes and renewal and repair contracts such as:

- Piloting air-source heat pumps in Council properties
- Energy efficiency improvements to insulation, windows and doors

There are a range of things that can be explored including:<sup>18</sup>

- The Housing Revenue Account Business Plan will be reviewed shortly offering the opportunity to include low carbon elements this could include reviewing potential new government funding sources for such work.
- This should include exploring opportunities to reduce carbon emissions through improved energy efficiency and use of alternatives to fossil fuels, for example:
  - Improved insulation and ASHP's in off-gas homes
  - o Solar PV panels on suitable Council houses
- Whether we can achieve EPC band C by 2030 through retrofit programmes, subject to government funding being available
- Considering whether a proportion of social housing should be built to Passivhaus Standard or an equivalent high level of sustainability. Passivhaus homes are very energy efficient with very low bills, can remain a constant comfortable temperature through summer and winter and are already adapted

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Subject to assessing deliverability before local government reorganisation is implemented in 2023

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Subject to assessing deliverability before local government reorganisation is implemented in 2023

to the impacts of climate change i.e. heat waves and cold winters. Although the additional costs of achieving this, along with the scope of government funding would need to be taken into account.

• Provide education to existing tenants on how to use their home efficiently, encourage installation of smart meters

Through the Council's private rental team we could also explore:

 Enforcement of MEES regulation – all privately rented properties must be EPC E or better. We have 2057 domestic properties in the district with an EPC rating of F or G, of which approximately 430 are privately rented.

## New developments

New construction of buildings and developments have huge impacts on the environment from the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions created in material production, transport, construction and development use, to the removal of green spaces. It is our responsibility to ensure any new development has as small an impact as possible and is designed to be sustainable long into the future.

This can be influenced and controlled through how we deal with planning applications, the policies in the Local Plan and by how we develop and deliver major capital programmes such as new affordable housing provided by the Council.

Some of these are already being done:

- Progress on the new Local Plan has been excellent since work started in late 2019 with climate change and low carbon principles at the centre of the approach including considering flood risk and mitigation, the importance of green infrastructure and encouraging sustainable travel and patterns of development. Consideration is also being given to guiding the main development to sustainable locations that include existing services, good transport links and employment opportunities.
- We seek to reduce the need for personal cars for short journeys i.e. provide safe walking and cycling routes to major retail areas, services such as doctors/schools etc, and to transport hubs such as bus and train stations. Our major regeneration and development programmes for our town centres and Selby station and the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans all seek to achieve a step-change in provision for pedestrians and cyclists.
- We are seeking biodiversity net gain for major new developments

There are a range of other things that can be explored including:<sup>19</sup>

- Ensuring all new developments have the electrical capacity to install renewables and EV chargers in the future if not already being installed as part of the design we are exploring how this can be included in the new Local Plan.
- High sustainability standards for new builds Excellent BREEAM ratings, at least A EPC and Passivhaus for houses or meet the new Future Homes

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Subject to assessing deliverability before local government reorganisation is implemented in 2023

Standard which is yet to be adopted formally - we can't mandate a standard but can require energy efficiency standards above building regulations.

## Waste

The Council through its waste contract with Amey (now Urbaser) has recently implemented significant improvements to its recycling service with much larger recycling bins provided. This has increased recycling rates by 2% since it was introduced in the summer of 2020 whereas all other North Yorkshire collection authorities experienced an average reduction of 0.2%.

North Yorkshire County Council provide the waste disposal function for North Yorkshire and seek to minimise the amount of waste going to landfill through their state of the art Energy from Waste plant at Allerton Park

There are a range of other things that can be explored including:<sup>20</sup>

• Purchase recycled products in supply chain (procurement)

## 4. Implementing Monitoring and Reporting

To ensure that progress is made, and emissions are reduced year on year, we will monitor progress through our performance software, Pentana, by creating new KPI's and context indicators, which will be included in quarterly reports to Council. We will also prepare and publish an annual report on our carbon emission footprint with the information being made publicly available.

Both the Low Carbon Project Officer and the Low Carbon Officer Working Group will be responsible for implementation of, monitoring and reporting on this strategy.

We will also continue to work with the Low Carbon Working Group to prepare and implement a Low Carbon Action Plan to support the aims and vision of this strategy.

## How will we measure internal emissions?

We will continue to measure Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions and calculate our annual carbon footprint by:

- Monitoring and recording gas and electricity usage within our built environment via meter readings and utility bills.
- Monitoring and recording fuel usage in our vehicle fleet including pool cars, business cars, small vans, waste trucks, road sweepers etc.
- Recording emissions from grey fleet vehicles business travel carried out in employees' and Councillor's own vehicles, recorded via payroll mileage claims.
- Monitoring and recording water usage and wastewater via meter readings and utility bills.
- Monitoring and recording of waste type and volumes, as well as disposal methods.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Subject to assessing deliverability before local government reorganisation is implemented in 2023

• Review services and contracts register to identify procurement routes that already consider scope 1 & 2 emissions and encourage others to do the same.

## How will we measure emissions from the District?

The UK Government publishes an annual estimate of emissions from each Local Authority, these figures are usually reported 18 months after the reporting year so there is always a delay. However, we will use this data to monitor emission trends across the district.

Our measure of success within the Council Plan 2020-2030 is to report the % reduction in tonnes of carbon per capita.

## 5. Review

The policy context surrounding climate change and its impacts is constantly evolving and improving so we will continue to monitor and update this strategy on a regular basis to ensure coherence with policy, legislation and the Council's aims and priorities.

This strategy will be monitored and developed by the Low Carbon Project Officer and the Low Carbon Working Group and will be considered by the Policy Review Committee every 6 months. The Policy Review Committee will receive regular updates on the progress achieved as part of the Council's commitment to greener practices

This review is proposed to be every 6 months.



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