



Report Reference Number: PR/20/5

To: Policy Review Committee
Date: 20 October 2020
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Lead Executive Member: Councillor Musgrave, Executive Member for Place Shaping
Lead Officer: Dave Caulfield – Director of Economic Regeneration and Place

Title: Policy Review Low Carbon Working Group – Draft Low Carbon Action Plan

Summary:

A Policy Review Low Carbon Working Group (LCWG) was formed in January 2020. The group have met on a number of occasions to discuss ways in which the Council can contribute to the low carbon agenda. Work has included calculating the Council's annual direct carbon footprint (based on 2018-19 data). A draft SMART Low Carbon Action Plan ('the Action Plan') has been developed which focuses on those actions which the Council can directly deliver, as well as those it can influence, through collaboration with others (see Appendix A).

Recommendation:

That the Policy Review Committee endorses the Draft Low Carbon Action Plan.

Reasons for recommendation

To provide the Policy Review Committee with the opportunity to comment on and endorse the draft Low Carbon Action Plan, prior to taking it to the Executive on 12 November 2020.

1. 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 will work with officers and report their recommendations to the Executive. Councillor Musgrave is the Executive Member that will be taking this work forward.
- 1.2** At the Council meeting held on 17 September 2019 Councillor 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 an Action Plan.

2. 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 ('the group').

- 2.2 The Director of Economic Regeneration and Place is the lead officer and is supported by a Senior Policy and Performance Officer and 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 met on five occasions (16 January 2020, 27 February 2020, 23 June 2020, 28 July 2020 and 6 October 2020). Updates from these meetings are a standing agenda item on Policy Review Committee meetings.

- 2.4 Due to the impact of Covi-19, no meetings took place in March, April and May. 2020. Despite this, good progress has been made.

2.5 Carbon Baseline

In order to understand the Council's carbon baseline APSE (Association of Public Service Excellence) were commissioned to undertake work on calculating the Council's carbon footprint (based on 2018-19 data).

- 2.6 APSE calculated the Council's scope 1 and 2 emissions:

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 (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.

- 2.7 The Council's annual carbon footprint was calculated at 418 tonnes. Scope 1 emissions make up 38% (160 tonnes) and scope 2 emissions 62% (257 tonnes) – the table below provides details.

Emissions Source	Scope	% Split	Tonnes CO2e
Natural Gas	1	15%	64
Council Vehicles	1	23%	96
Electricity	2	59%	245
Heat	2	3%	12
Total		100%	418

2.8 Draft Low Carbon Action Plan

2.9 The low carbon work of other local authorities, including North Yorkshire County Council, and partner organisations e.g. Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) was researched and discussed and contributed towards the development of the draft Action Plan. Actions are aligned with NYCC low carbon work and opportunities to jointly work on low carbon projects will be explored through the Better Together arrangements.

2.10 The Action Plan focuses on those actions which the Council can directly deliver, as well as those it can influence, through collaboration with others. The importance of collaborating at a greater scale with others is really important when you consider the different carbon footprint statistics:

- Selby District's carbon footprint is 1.2m t per year. The Council's direct contribution is 0.035% of the district's emissions
- North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) footprint is 13,492 t per year (40,000 t if you include Ringway contract and school's property)
- The York & North Yorkshire sub-region footprint is 7.7m t per year.
- N.B. Drax Power Station has the ability to capture 17m t of carbon per year (by 2040) using Bioenergy with Carbon Capture Use and Storage (BECCS).

2.11 However it is important that the Council shows leadership by firstly addressing its own carbon footprint and focussing on projects it can directly deliver.

2.12 A number of the proposed actions will need to be subject to further work and testing. The Action Plan identifies those actions which will require feasibility funding and or project delivery funding.

2.13 The delivery of the Low Carbon Action Plan will be overseen by a new Low Carbon Projects Officer post we hope to appoint to shortly. However, the Action Plan 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. We have also recommended that a Member Low Carbon champion is appointed to drive this work forward politically.

2.14 The Draft Action Plan timescales and resourcing are subject to further agreement with Leadership Team and Heads of Service/the appropriate lead officer(s).

2.15 Net Zero Carbon Emissions Trajectory

The Council Plan states that it aims for the emissions from the operation of the Council's own activities to be carbon neutral before 2050.

APSE have produced a carbon reduction pathway report which details how the Council can achieve net zero carbon emissions. The main report recommendations are attached as Appendix B to this report.

Key report headlines:

- The Council could achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030 (carbon reduction pathway report forecast based on this assumption).
- An estimated financial budget of £570,280 will be required to deliver the interventions (not including transition to electric vehicles which is considered further below).
- This cost is made up of £268,850 to improve efficiencies of the building estate including 100kWp of roof mounted PV, and £300,000 to install land based PV to export electricity to the grid.
- There will be 118t CO₂e from hard to reduce sources that will be unavoidable by 2030 that will need to be offset, and the report assumes that this can be offset through a 500kW land based solar scheme and a tree planting programme. The tree planting scheme is estimated to cost £1,430 - £/CO₂ saving will depend on the maturity of the trees by 2030.
- These interventions will financially benefit the Council by £88,750 annually by 2030 with payback periods for the investment in electricity and gas efficiencies estimated between 5 and 8 years.

The table below provides an estimated breakdown of the forecast capital cost and financial savings and accumulative CO₂ savings from interventions:

Intervention	Cost of all interventions	Accumulative saving up to 2030	Total annual saving of all interventions by 2030	Accumulative C02 Savings by 2030	Accumulative £/CO2 Savings by 2030
Electricity - Energy Efficiency	£164,310	£184,320	£33,640	193	£852
500kW land based PV	£300,000	£168,800	£33,450	478	£628
Gas - Energy Efficiency	£44,540	£41,030	£7,910	38	£1,173
100kWp Building PV	£60,000	£75,330	£13,750	96	£628
Tree Planting	£1,430	N/A	N/A	57	£25
Total	£570,280	£469,480	£88,750	862	£662

'Accumulative £/CO₂ Savings by 2030' shows the ratio of accumulative CO₂ saved between 2021-2030 and the capital cost for the initiative. This Provides an indication of the total carbon that can be removed by 2030 - and the cost per tonne to achieve this.

Electric Vehicles

The table below is illustrative to show the forecast capital cost to upgrade all vehicles to electric, which is just over £1million for 24no. medium sized vans. The capital cost is not applicable to the Council as all vehicles are leased.

Intervention	Cost of all interventions	Accumulative saving up to 2030	Total annual saving of all interventions by 2030	Accumulative CO2 Savings by 2030	Accumulative £/CO2 Savings by 2030
Transition to EV	£1,008,000	£82,190	£17,510	84	£12,036

The cost to lease an electric vehicle is currently higher than leasing a similar fuel-based car. It is unknown how the leasing market will change up to 2030, but it is envisaged that the cost to lease vehicles will come down and will become cheaper than fuel cars as the sale of fuel cars is phased out. A detailed feasibility study is required to determine the extra over cost required to lease electric vehicles compared to fuel-based vehicles.

3. Alternative Options Considered

None.

4. Implications

4.1 Legal Implications

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 Action Plan will help to ensure that the Council plays its part in supporting this commitment.

4.2 Financial Implications

Delivery of the Action Plan will require financial resources, including a dedicated resource to co-ordinate 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 match-funding opportunities or grants we could secure or bid for. At Council on 22 September 2020 £1.2 million Programme for Growth funding over three years was agreed for project feasibility and delivery and £135k for a dedicated officer resource.

The APSE report is clear in stating that the costings and potential savings are high level and identifies generic measures that could be taken to reduce energy usage from the baseline emissions. It was a desktop assessment based on the consumption data and typical saving initiatives and is not based on site specific information. Estimated energy savings and forecast capital

costs shown are for representative purposes to give an illustrative outcome and should not be used for budgeting purposes. APSE recommend that a detailed 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.

4.3 Policy and Risk Implications

The Action Plan provides a clear direction of how the Council will address climate change and will ensure a coordinated approach across the Council.

4.4 Corporate Plan Implications

The Corporate Plan 2020-2030 priorities include Selby district is '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.

4.5 Resource Implications

The working group is currently being delivered within existing resources. However, a dedicated resource will be required to take the Action Plan forward, for which funding has been agreed. The Action Plan 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.

4.6 Other Implications

No other implications identified at this stage.

4.7 Equalities Impact Assessment

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

5. Conclusion

- 5.1** The Policy Review Low Carbon Working Group have developed a draft Action Plan which details actions which the Council can take in order to reduce its carbon footprint. The Action Plan focuses on those actions which the Council can directly deliver, as well as those it can influence, through collaboration with others.

6. Background Documents

Council agenda and minutes - 16 July 2019
Council agenda and minutes - 17 September 2019
Policy Review Committee agenda and minutes - 15 October 2019
Policy Review Committee agenda and minutes - 10 March 2020

Appendices

Appendix A: Draft Low Carbon Action Plan
Appendix B: APSE Carbon Reduction Pathway Report Recommendations

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