



## **Policy Review Committee Report to Council – 15 December 2020**

The Policy Review Committee has met once since the previous update given to Council in September 2020.

### **20 October 2020**

#### **Low Carbon Working Group – Standing Update**

The Committee had a very comprehensive discussion about the draft Low Carbon Action plan, covering the following points:

- The Working Group had met on five occasions (16 January 2020, 27 February 2020, 23 June 2020, 28 July 2020 and 6 October 2020), with updates from the group being a standing agenda item on Policy Review Committee meetings. Members agreed that the work of the group had been collaborative and cross party, and that it should continue following consideration by the Executive.
- APSE (Association of Public Service Excellence) had been commissioned to undertake work on calculating the Council's carbon footprint (based on 2018-19 data) and had calculated the Council's scope 1 and 2 emissions.
- The Council's annual carbon footprint was calculated at 418 tonnes. Scope 1 emissions made up 38% (160 tonnes) and scope 2 emissions 62% (257 tonnes).
- Members accepted that the Council was dependent on outside contractors, for services such as waste and recycling, to reach the target of being carbon neutral by 2030. Additional concern was expressed around the increasing use of green technology and interventions such as solar panels and electric vehicles, where the Council could be unwittingly generating carbon elsewhere, for example, in their manufacture. Officers explained that the calculation of the Council's carbon footprint did not include emissions from manufacturing the interventions because this would fall under Scope 3, which was outside of the scope of this piece of work.
- Scope 3 data was problematic due to the amount of time it took to collect; some local authorities had tried to trace their carbon footprint for everything, but it had proved problematic in places.
- Concerns around gathering further data were noted, and the general consensus from the Committee was that the action plan as set out should be submitted to the Executive and the work be taken forward, without the need for the additional data.

- The committee endorsed the draft Low Carbon Action Plan for submission to the Executive.

### Allocation of Housing – Update Presentation

The Committee received a comprehensive presentation and report from the Housing Service Manager which updated them on the allocation of housing in the district.

- Members had expressed concerns around inward migration and as such, Officers acknowledged the importance of the needs of Selby district residents being met and provided feedback on the use of the rural area restrictions.
- The presentation explained the demand for affordable housing and homelessness across Selby district, affordable housing delivery, the acquisition of empty homes and Right to buy and buy backs, the allocation of affordable housing through North Yorkshire Home Choice, local lettings and the rural area restrictions and the new Affordable Housing Delivery Strategy timeline.
- Members noted that a new Affordable Housing Development Strategy was being developed and would be brought to Policy Review Committee for consultation in due course.
- The Committee asked a number of questions regarding housing around variations to S106 Agreements and comments on planning applications from the Housing Team, the advertising of rural area restrictions, the future of the Home Choice scheme once York City Council had left and the acquisition of empty homes.
- Officers confirmed that seven empty homes had been acquired by the Council so far, and that there was a list of around 20 to 30 properties that were long term empty which the Council had identified.
- The Committee asked that an update report on empty homes be brought back to them at a future meeting.

### Work Programme

The Committee asked that the consultation report for the preferred options from the Local Plan Programme Board and the draft Affordable Housing Strategy be added to the work programme.

### **Future Meetings: 12 January 2021**

The Policy Review Committee will be meeting next on 12 January 2021.

**Councillor Andrew Lee**  
**Chair, Policy Review Committee**