



**Report Reference Number: E/21/22**

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<b>To:</b>	<b>Executive</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>7 October 2021</b>
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<b>Executive Member:</b>	<b>Cllr Musgrave, Executive Member for Place Shaping</b>
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<b>Dave Caulfield, Director of Economic Regeneration and Place</b>

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**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>1</sup> Council vehicles include council owned refuse collection vehicles

<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
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>	<b>2,592</b>

- 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 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.

- 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

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