



**Report Reference Number:** C/21/8

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**To:** Council  
**Date:** 21 December 2021  
**Ward(s) Affected:** Whole District  
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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. The Policy Review Low Carbon Working Group (LCWG) was formed in January 2020, meeting regularly to discuss ways in which the Council can address the low carbon agenda.

The Council's annual direct carbon footprint for the baseline year of 2018 – 2019 has been calculated. Following discussions with the Portfolio Lead a Low Carbon Strategy (Appendix A) has been developed with close involvement from the LCWG. The Strategy, which captures the scale of the problem and outlines the steps we will take to achieve carbon targets, was endorsed by the Executive on 7 October 2021. Further work will be undertaken on the Low Carbon 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.

### **Recommendations: That**

- 1. the Low Carbon Strategy 2021 – 2030 (Appendix A) be approved and that support be provided 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, or as near to that date as possible; and**
- 2. with regards to carbon offsetting, support and select the first option of offsetting scope 1 and 2 emissions from 2018 to 2023 as outlined in section 4.2.**

## Reasons for recommendation

To enable the Council to achieve its low carbon targets and to show leadership with addressing the impacts of climate change.

### 1. Introduction and background

1.1 This report outlines the Council's estimated baseline carbon emissions, summarises the aim of the Low Carbon Strategy 2021-2030 and presents the options for carbon offsetting.

### 2. Carbon Baseline

2.1 A first step in addressing the Council's impact on climate change was understanding our carbon footprint. APSE Energy (Association of Public Service Excellence) were commissioned to calculate the Council's baseline carbon footprint for the financial year 2018-19. This included emissions from scope 1, 2 and 3, which are defined 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.

2.2 A scope was agreed with APSE for the Council's indirect emissions included within Scope 3. The priority was to calculate and understand the impact of our major contracts: waste, street scene and leisure.

2.3 The report from APSE ([APSE Energy - Selby DC Carbon footprint baseline report Aug 2021](#)) summarises the results of the scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions calculations. Our total estimated carbon footprint for 2018-2019 is **2,592 tonnes** and is broken down into individual categories below.

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

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

WTT <sup>2</sup> Gas	3	0.3%	8.91
WTT <sup>2</sup> Electricity	3	2%	39.43
Transmission and 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
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>

- 2.4 From the table above it is clear 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.
- 2.5 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.

### 3. Low Carbon Strategy

- 3.1 The aim of the Strategy is to identify those actions which the Council can directly deliver to reduce its own emissions (as identified in section 2) whilst supporting the wider district to also reduce their emissions, through collaboration with others.
- 3.2 The low carbon work of other local authorities, including North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) was researched 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. Opportunities to jointly work on low carbon projects will be explored through the Better Together arrangements.
- 3.3 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 1.2 million tonnes per year depending on scope.
  - North Yorkshire County Council's (NYCC) footprint is 13,492 tonnes for 2018 – 2019 (40,000 tonnes if you include Ringway contract and school's property).
  - The York & North Yorkshire sub-region footprint is 7.7 million tonnes per year.

<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.

- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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).
- 3.6 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 and 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.
- 3.7 The Strategy focuses on delivery to 2030, with LGR occurring in early 2023, it will be important to work closely with NYCC to develop a strategy which adopts Selby District Council's low carbon ambitions and existing projects into the new North Yorkshire Council to carry on moving forward.

### **3. Carbon Offsetting**

- 4.1 As Selby District Council will not exist as a sole organisation after 2023, three options for offsetting emissions have been presented in the Strategy and considered by the Executive. Option 1, offsetting only our scope 1 and 2 emissions from 2018 to 2023, was considered the favoured option by Executive. Offsetting emissions 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 from their source in the long term.
- 4.2 If Council agree to the favoured option 1, we would also aim to explore the potential for reducing or offsetting our scope 3 emissions through existing key service contracts and suppliers from 2018 to 2023 as well.
- 4.3 When considering available offsetting schemes, one option is through The Woodland Trust where they suggest a donation of £25 per tonne of carbon. This cost pays for tree planting and ongoing maintenance ensuring trees reach maturity. It should be noted that there are other offsetting schemes available which invest in local, national and international projects, and come at varying costs. Based upon the cost above with The Woodland Trust, one of the following offsetting options could be considered depending on how broad we want this commitment to be:
  - 1. **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 and 2 emissions for the baseline year are 1,348 tonnes, for five years' worth this would be 6,740 tonnes = £168,500.

2. **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.
3. **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.

## 5. **Alternative Options Considered**

None.

## 6. **Implications**

### 6.1 **Legal Implications**

On 12 June 2019 the Prime Minister committed the UK to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This commitment was enshrined in law through an amendment to the Climate Change Act 2008. The Low Carbon Strategy 2021 - 2030 will help to ensure that the Council plays its part in complying with this legislation.

### 6.2 **Financial Implications**

Delivery of the Low Carbon Strategy 2021 – 2030 and the subsequent Action Plan will require financial resources, 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.

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

The current budget allocated for low carbon projects to 2023 is £250,000. If offsetting option 1 were chosen as the favoured offsetting option, then this would likely need a commitment of approximately £168,500 of this budget, subject to the offsetting scheme considered appropriate for the Council.

### 6.3 **Policy and Risk Implications**

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

### 6.4 **Corporate Plan Implications**

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.

## **6.5 Resource Implications**

The Low Carbon Working Group is currently being delivered within existing resources. 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.

## **6.6 Other Implications**

No other implications identified at this stage.

## **6.7 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.

## **7. Conclusion**

- 7.1** 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.

## **8. Background Documents**

Selby District Council Draft Low Carbon Action Plan

## **9. Appendices**

Appendix A: Draft Low Carbon Strategy 2021 - 2030

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