



PART A: MATTERS DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

REPORT TO: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 19 NOVEMBER 2020

**REPORT OF THE: PROGRAMME DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESS AND PARTNERSHIPS
PHILLIP SPURR**

TITLE OF REPORT: PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN AND ASSOCIATED PROJECTS

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on progress in delivering the Climate Change Action Plan and projects and initiatives planned for the period up to December 2021.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 To note progress on delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan and future actions to be completed.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

3.1 To continue momentum with the delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan adopted by Council. The Council has set a target of achieving net zero by 2050.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

4.1 If timely action to achieve reduced carbon usage and emissions is not delivered, RDC potentially faces reputational risk as a commitment has been made and endorsed by Elected Members.

4.2 There are clear opportunities to utilise the low carbon sector to support economic growth. There is a clear risk if of not developing the low carbon economy of the district if these opportunities are not utilised. .

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Climate Change Action Plan was agreed at 11 April 2019 Council meeting, as part of the Scrutiny Review into the how Ryedale District Council could play its part in reducing global temperature rise.
- 5.2 Members declared a Climate Emergency on 10 October 2019 and in line with the government's own legally binding net-zero targets as a minimum, commit to actions to help achieve these targets across Ryedale.
- 5.3 A Sustainable, Safe and Clean Place is included under the "Our Environment" Priority within the Council Plan that was adopted by Members in September 2020.

REPORT

6.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 6.1 The recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee were adopted by Council on 11 April 2019 and progress towards meeting the actions agreed are outlined in the Climate Change Action Plan. The report will be made available biannually for Members to review.
- 6.2 The Action Plan is reviewed and delivered on an ongoing basis but due to the COVID emergency, no internal Climate Change Corporate Working Group meetings were held between March and October 2020. The group resumed its meetings in October 2020 and these will continue on a monthly basis from October 2020.

Progress March to October 2020

- 6.3 A review of progress against actions within the Action Plan has taken place to ascertain the position as of October 2020. Highlights of progress made since the last report include:
 - Appointment of Climate Change & Environmental Projects Officer (CC&EPO), John Law who joined RDC on the 7 September 2020.
 - New CC&EPO attended Ryedale Environment Group's (REG) meeting on 15 September 2020 and support was given for the Ryedale Environment Week programme for 23-31 October 2020. The whole programme was delivered online with presentations, videos and talks open to all to take part in. Full details were made available on the REG website:
<https://ryedaleenvirogroup.co.uk/environment-week/>.
 - The need for a Ryedale based registered environmental charity has been identified. This will allow the various funding streams only open to registered charities, e.g. Green Recovery Challenge Fund (GRCF) to be accessed for the benefit of the district.
 - Additional secondary glazing was installed on the first floor of Ryedale House in April 2020.
 - Phase 1 of the LED Streetlight procurement process was completed In October 2020.
 - An audit of RDC Owned Land and Buildings to identify opportunities for Climate Change related initiatives has commenced.
 - Energy Saving Trust Report in to the efficiency of RDCs "grey" fleet has been received and is being reviewed by Officers with proposals for alternative energy saving measures to be brought forward in early 2021. This will include actions within the Low Carbon Staff Travel Plan.

- Design work for the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development funded Malton to Pickering Cycle Route has been completed and the tender process will commence in November 2020. Target completion date for the scheme is summer 2021.
- Rapid EV charging points have been installed in St Nicholas Street car park, Norton upon Derwent, and Water Lane car park in Malton. Currently over 1400 charges have been recorded, saving over 19000kg Co2. A successful application securing £46,790, has been made to OLEV's on-street charging funding scheme to install additional charging points in other car parks in the district by March 2021.
- The Destination Development Plan for Ryedale supports the need to encourage greater use of public transport in Ryedale. Where good public transport exists, there is a need for greater awareness, to make it easier for both residents and visitors to become more aware of routes and the advantages of using them. Production of the 'Sit Back and Enjoy the Ride' will be completed in November 2020. 40,000 copies will be produced with the majority being provided to Transport Hubs. The remainder will be available to those requesting some for display racks. A digital, interactive map will also be available on the RDC website under the Tourism section.

New Activity proposed from November 2020 to end December 2021

6.4 The following section details new activity recently initiated and which will be progressed over the period to the end of 2021:

- Actively participating in the YNY LEP activity to use the LGA Carbon Accounting Tool to benchmark and measure our CO2 emissions. All other Local Authorities in York and North Yorkshire will also be participating. The first report using our own data will be available in November 2020. The data used is that currently collected and recorded for all RDC buildings.
- A tender process and subsequent funding application to OLEV's Workplace Charging Scheme will be completed to install EV charging points at Ryedale House, the Depot and the Building Control Offices in Easingwold. Delivery timescales are dependent on the tender process and funding applications.
- In partnership with the YNY LEP, a range of low carbon initiatives, such as the investigation of renewable energy options for village halls in Ryedale, are being progressed. We are also participating in the development of a Circular Economy Project in Malton and Norton which will become an exemplar for other similar market town projects across the country.
- Circular Malton have secured European funding to undertake detailed research and feasibility work towards developing an anaerobic digester / biogas project to utilise food waste and other organic waste from around the district. RDC Officers will continue to provide support and advice to the team ensuring strong linkages are maintained with all departments within the Authority.
- A funding application through the Heat Network Delivery Unit (HNDU) at the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) is being developed by Officers in partnership with Third Energy and the YNY LEP. The application will seek funding to undertake techno-economic feasibility work to assess Third Energy's existing gas extraction and distribution assets in Ryedale for geothermal heat usage.
- Clarification is being sought from Northern Powergrid (NPG) on the location of, and capacity available of, grid connections in the district. It is proposed to commence mapping of opportunities for renewable energy developments.
- LED street lighting replacement programme will be completed.

- Additional EV charging points will be installed in a number of public car parks across the district.
- RDC is a consultee to Northern Powergrid (NPG) on their Future Business Plan 2023-2030, and through this process the two parties are exploring various initiatives including EV Charging and Community Energy Schemes. NPG are key in determining the location of large scale Renewable Energy Schemes which will help in the identification of locations for suitable grid connections in the district. Confirmation of this information should be made available to Officers in November 2020.
- The format of the Climate Change Action Plan is under review and a new format will be brought forwards for approval by the O&S Committee by the end of January 2021 and will take into account any comments. The new format will present the actions and progress toward achieving targets in a clearer way.
- Climate Change Corporate Working Party will continue to meet regularly and officers from all departments strongly encouraged to participate, support the delivery of actions and act as a champion for climate change activity.

6.5 In summary and based on the above, the following priorities for progress have been identified for the next 12 months

Action	Summary of action required	Short term (next 3 months) Medium term (next 6 months) Long term (Next 12 months)
1. RDC HQ and depot	Assess further opportunities for energy efficiency and installation of renewables	M
2. Street lighting LED replacement	Implement LED replacement works across the district	M
3. Low Carbon Staff Travel Plan	Implement recommendations from the Energy Saving Trust on Low Carbon Staff Travel Plan	L
4. Planning	Work with the Planning Team to develop further initiatives and guides to promote RDCs low carbon agenda within Planning.	S
5. Malton to Pickering Cycle Route	Continue to progress the implementation of the Malton to Pickering Cycle Route scheme	L
6. Electric Vehicle charging points	Continue to implement the programme to install EV charging points in long stay car parks across the district and at Ryedale House, the Depot and the Building Control offices	L
7. Public transport campaign	Finalise the printed and digital versions of the 'Sit Back and Enjoy the Ride' publication	S
8. Support the development of a low carbon economy	Continue to work with the YNY LEP and Circular Malton on Circular economy projects across the district.	L

9. Develop the RDC approach to Waste Management in response to climate change and the DEFRA Resources and Waste Strategy	CC&EPO to work with newly appointed Waste and Recycling Officer to develop and progress waste management initiatives.	S
10. Geothermal heat project	In collaboration with YNY LEP and Third Energy Ltd apply for funding for a feasibility study into geothermal heat from the HNDU at BEIS.	S
11. Large scale renewable energy scheme in Ryedale	Investigate opportunities for large scale renewable energy projects in Ryedale	M
12. Tree planting, new woodland creation and peat restoration	Develop a plan to encourage and implement tree planting, new woodland creation and peat restoration projects in the District	M

6.6 Significant progress has been made in delivering activity and achieving the actions of the Climate Change Action Plan. To maintain momentum and continue to drive forward with the Action Plan support and encouragement to engage in the agenda and assist in the development and delivery of actions will be provided by the CC&EPO. To assist in achieving this, each Service within the Authority will be encouraged to designate a representative to attend Corporate Working Group meetings, support and directly deliver actions as appropriate, and ensure the wider team are fully aware of developments so new opportunities can be identified through individual work programmes and service planning processes.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The following implications have been identified:

- a) Financial

£50,000 has been approved for Officers to drive forward the changes required. This is likely to be for smaller scale projects, feasibility studies etc, but could be utilised for larger scale capital within budget.

As of the 1 October 2020, £12,000 of this budget has been allocated for spend this year on EV charging points installations at Ryedale House, the Depot and the Building Control offices. An additional £4,500 towards this scheme has been allocated from the Active Travel Fund.

It should be noted that the required 25% of match funding, the equivalent of £12,700, towards the long stay car park EV charging points has been allocated from the Growth Budget. The final figure is however subject the conclusion of the tender process.
- b) Legal

Legal assistance will be required should the HNDU application be successful and an agreement is needed between RDC and Third Energy.
- c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental and Climate Change, Crime & Disorder)

Staff participation in Working Group meetings and in working on actions in their respective teams.

8.0 NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 The Corporate Working Group will continue to meet monthly to review and support Ryedale District Council to deliver the Climate Change Action Plan.

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Background Papers:

None

Background Papers are available for inspection at:

N/A