



21.03.2019

# Scrutiny Review

Climate Change: Recommendations into how Ryedale District Council can contribute towards the reduction in global temperature rise



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## Executive Summary

This Report sets out the results of a review into the Ryedale District Council (RDC) position in relation to IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) reduction of target from 2°C to 1.5°C Global Temperature Rise and recommend how RDC can contribute towards this target.

This review has been carried out by Ryedale District Council's Scrutiny Committee.

The aim of the review was to

- i. Priority 1: The Task Group will review the RDC position in relation to IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) reduction of target from 2°C to 1.5°C Global Temperature Rise and recommend how RDC can contribute towards this target.
- ii. Priority 2: The Task Group will identify changes/impacts across Ryedale (time permitting)

The review has involved gathering information from websites, partner organisations and agencies and individuals. A glossary and links to websites for further information is available at the end of the report – indicated by a [G] in the text

The Task Group wishes to thank all those who gave their time in contributing to this review.

## 2. Scope of the review

The Terms of Reference and methodology were agreed by Scrutiny [ [22.11.2018 minute 63](#) ] and are included in Annex A

The review will

Priority 1: The Task Group will review the RDC position in relation to IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [G]) reduction of target from 2°C to 1.5°C Global Temperature Rise and recommend how RDC can contribute towards this target.

Priority 2: The Task Group will identify changes/impacts across Ryedale (time permitting)

## 3. Membership of the Committee Scrutiny Members

A Task Group was formed to undertake the review consisting of Cllrs Clark (Chair), Cllr Acomb and Cllr Oxley. Membership was opened to all Council Members and attendance at the Task Group has included:

Cllr Joy Andrews, Cllr Cleary, Cllr Cussons, Cllr Frank, Cllr Jowitt, Cllr Keal, Cllr Potter, Cllr John Raper, Cllr Shields, Cllr Thornton.

Scrutiny Review Task Group supporting officers:

William Baines (Programmes, Projects and Performance Officer)

Jack Garbutt-Moore (Customer Services Officer)

Jos Holmes (Senior Commissioning Officer)

## 4. Methodology

Council requested Overview and Scrutiny Committee to undertake this review. [ [Council 11.10.18 Minute 42](#) ]

The Terms of Reference and methodology were agreed by Scrutiny [ [22.11.2018 minute 63](#) ] and are included in Annex A



1. Identify the key areas where RDC can impact on the IPCC target whilst carrying out its service delivery functions (direct and indirect) and how RDC can encourage residents to also make this impact to:
  - a. Reduce carbon emissions
    - i. Use energy more efficiently
    - ii. Switch to low carbon fuels
  - b. Prepare for climate change
2. Make an interim recommendation to Scrutiny that, having identified these areas, a focussed event is held to which a range of relevant "experts" and interested parties are invited to bring their views and knowledge to help Scrutiny produce and prioritise an Action Plan.
3. Recommend the Action Plan to Scrutiny and onwards to Council, concluding in April 2019

The Task Group approached the review by holding the following evidence sessions:

#### 29.10.19 Task Group first meeting

- Reviewed Council resolution and Scrutiny response
- Introduction to the Committee on Climate Change [G] advice
- Review of Local Government Association 2017 "A Councillor's workbook on acting on Climate Change" including Leadership, Estate and Services [G]
- It became clear at this meeting that, due to the enormity of the subject, it would not be possible to deliver part 1(b) of the review regarding the impacts and changes across Ryedale, within the timescale. In addition detailed review of how RDC can influence the residents to also make an impact was not possible in the timescale. It was felt this was a very important component and action should be taken forward as part of the recommendations.

#### 12.11.19 Task Group reviewed

- Terms of Reference and methodology
- City of York One Planet York website [G]
- RDC Lead Officer consultation feedback on current services impact on Climate Change. This includes Energy Efficiency Grants for Ryedale residents to combat fuel poverty, economic development initiatives to promote local employment (reducing travel needs) and reducing congestion, Waste Management (including recycling and campaigns to 'reduce, reuse, recycle' ) and IT efficiency.

#### 11.12.2018 Task Group reviewed

- Performance – what we record and if this is an effective monitoring tool
- Making choices to reduce carbon emissions (such as single use plastic versus cotton bags, hand dryers versus paper towels.)
- Review of RDC Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2005

#### 10.01.2019 Task Group reviewed

- Noted Scarborough Borough Councils declaration of a 'Climate Change Emergency' [G]
- National Policy Planning Framework and the use of Community Infrastructure Levy to support carbon reduction in Ryedale including the Regulation 123 List
- RDC Electricity Procurement and Supply
- Divestment from Fossil Fuels – Use of RDC investments and North Yorkshire Pension Fund to promote carbon reduction [G]
- Low carbon economy – the role of York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership [G]
- Ryedale House operational issues
  - Refurbishment proposals



- Staff Mileage and the use of electric vehicle pool cars
- Streetlighting – Part night lighting [G]
- Woodland Planting and sequestration costs and benefits
- Procurement Strategy and the transfer of carbon emissions to externally supplied services
- Electric bus proposal for Malton and Norton

28.02.2019 Task Group reviewed

- Noted the ‘School Strike for Climate’ [G] – an international youth movement where schoolchildren protest over climate change. In February, children from around the UK went on strike.
- Feedback from the informal ‘Ryedale Environment Forum’ held on 20.02.2019. Over 30 members of the Ryedale community attended.
- Draft recommendations to Scrutiny were agreed

Scrutiny has reviewed progress at each of its meetings during the period and made interim recommendation to Council on 6.12.18. ( [Minute 52](#) refers)

## 5. Findings

The research undertaken highlighted the following key findings:

1. RDC has a key leadership role in the community and with partners to recognise and champion the role of organisations and individuals in contributing to the target reduction in global temperature rise.
2. RDC can make choices that support its climate change reduction aspirations which may have either positive or negative budget implications. It is certain that the recommendations will have implications (particularly at initiation stage) on both budget and RDC Officer current workload and account and priority should be given to this during implementation. Budgetary implications will be considered through the normal committee process on a project by project basis.
3. The advice from the IPCC is that reduction in carbon use must happen within the next 11 years to ensure that the reduced target global temperature rise is met. Consequently, RDC must implement the recommendations swiftly and monitor and review progress towards implementation. It is particularly pertinent to take action now as 2019 has been declared the ‘Year of Green Action’ [G] as part of the Government Environment Strategy.
4. Many RDC Services do currently deliver climate change reduction activities and these should be commended, continued and performance monitored, for their contribution.

## 6 Recommendations

The following recommendations and actions are made to Council by Overview and Scrutiny following the review:

### **Recommendation 1 Leadership and influence**

RDC will take a leadership role to promote the reduction of carbon emissions in Ryedale.

It will take the following actions:

- a) Update, revise and deliver the 2010 Climate Change Action Plan.
- b) Include a specific priority concerning Climate Change reduction aspirations in the Council Plan and Priorities at the next available opportunity.
- c) Include ‘Impact on Climate Change’ in all reports presented to all committees of the Council.
- d) Encourage all Members to read and complete the LGA Workbook - “A Councillor’s workbook on acting on Climate Change”.



- e) Include a Member briefing on Climate Change as part of next cycle of Member training.
- f) Continue to develop Council policy to influence others by working with partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors and with residents to influence and encourage climate change reduction and adaptation policy and practice throughout Ryedale.
- g) Facilitate the Ryedale Environment Forum to encourage wider participation of the Ryedale community in the aspirations to reduce Climate Change amongst other issues.

**Recommendation 2 Operations: Assets and Estates.**

RDC will take opportunities to reduce carbon emissions through energy efficiency and use of alternatives to fossil fuels in relation to management of its Estate and Assets.

It will take the following actions:

- a) RDC HQ (Ryedale House refurbishment or alternative location) and Operations Depot – to consider and implement renewable energy purchasing, energy efficiency in building management, water use efficiency, use of solar panels.
- b) Streetlights - Implement a programme of LED replacement and part night lighting for RDC owned streetlights, utilising the NYCC criteria for such.
- c) Financial Assets - Promote divestment from fossil fuels through Treasury Management and North Yorkshire Pension Fund, where it can be demonstrated this does not have a detrimental impact on return on investment.

**Recommendation 3 Operations: Service Delivery.**

RDC will take opportunities to reduce carbon emissions through energy efficiency and use of alternatives to fossil fuels in relation to its service delivery.

It will take the following actions:

- a) Develop and implement a policy to reduce Officer and Member mileage.
- b) Undertake a feasibility study into the use of Electric Vehicle Pool cars
- c) Planning
  - i. Revise the CIL Section 123 listing to support low carbon initiatives at the next opportunity such as EV Charging Points and renewable energy projects.
  - ii. Review renewable energy infrastructure policies in the Ryedale Plan revision
  - iii. Preliminary work on these documents will commence in 2019.
  - iv. Evidence the promotion and implementation of Ryedale Plan sustainability policies in all new development opportunities including sustainable buildings, wind turbines, solar panels, EV infrastructure, heat pumps, water harvesting and minimisation, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and battery storage.
- d) Foster the use of alternatives to fossil fuels for travel through promotion of public transport, walking and cycling.
- e) Support the development of a low carbon economy – work with the LEP to support the provision of a pathway towards a low carbon economy in the review of Ryedale’s Economic Strategy, including provision of advice for local businesses on opportunities to improve environmental performance.
- f) Share information, knowledge and project implementation arising from this review with partners in public, private and voluntary sectors on specific climate change reduction knowledge. For example ‘Single Use Plastic’ alternatives, recycled / FSC paper use, public education campaigns (Eg reduce, reuse, recycle).
- g) Develop the RDC approach to Waste Management in response to climate change and the DEFRA Resources and Waste Strategy.



- h) Service Delivery Plans should contain reference to actions and activities specifically to contribute to climate change reduction. Training for Officers should be provided in this respect.
- i) Procurement and commissioning - influence suppliers and build into new service specifications the requirement to contribute to Climate Change reduction.
- j) Encourage and promote community based schemes which contribute to reduction in Climate Change through the Council's grants and capital programme budgets.

#### **Recommendation 4 Monitoring and Review**

RDC will closely monitor and review progress towards implementation of recommendations 1, 2 and 3 above.

It will take the following actions:

- a) Allocate responsibility for implementation of the Scrutiny recommendations
  - i. Appoint a Member Champion for Climate Change
  - ii. Assign an appropriate senior Officer of the Council to lead on Climate Change and support the Member Champion
  - iii. Establish a Corporate Climate Change Group to drive and monitor delivery
- b) Develop and update a series of performance indicators to evidence progress on the Pentana Performance Management System.
- c) Report performance bi annually on the implementation of recommendations to Scrutiny



## 7 Glossary and Websites

**Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** : a United Nations body for assessing the science related to Climate Change <https://www.ipcc.ch/>

**Committee on Climate Change:** The Committee on Climate Change (the CCC) is an independent, statutory body established under the [Climate Change Act 2008](#). Our purpose is to advise the UK Government and Devolved Administrations on emissions targets and report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for climate change. <https://www.theccc.org.uk/>

**LGA 2017 Councillor Workbook: Acting on Climate Change:** A learning aid for councillors on the roles, opportunities and drivers for council-led action on the changing climate, both to reduce local carbon emissions and to build resilience to extreme weather. <https://www.local.gov.uk/councillor-workbook-acting-climate-change>

**One Planet York:** Typically in the UK we are using the resources of three planets when we only have one. **One Planet York** is an emerging network of organisations working towards a more sustainable, resilient and collaborative 'One Planet' future. <https://oneplanetyork.co.uk/what-is-one-planet-york/>

**Scarborough Borough Council Declare a Climate Change Emergency:** [Council minute 07.01.2019](#)

**York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP – Low carbon and circular economy:** <https://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/news/how-do-you-create-a-sustainable-region/>

**North Yorkshire County Council – Part night lighting:** <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/street-lighting-energy-reduction-programme>

**School Strike for Climate:** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/School\\_strike\\_for\\_climate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/School_strike_for_climate)

**Local Authority Pension Fund Forum – Environmental and carbon risk:** [http://www.lapfforum.org/engagement-themes/environmental\\_carbon/](http://www.lapfforum.org/engagement-themes/environmental_carbon/)

**2019 The Year of Green Action (YoGA):** is about connecting people all around the country with nature, and showing how we can all take positive action to improve our environment. It's a year-long drive to help everyone get involved in projects that support nature – in our own gardens, schools or workplaces, and as consumers. <https://www.yearofgreenaction.org/>



ANNEX A

**Terms of Reference - Scrutiny Task Group: Climate Change**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Aim of the Review</b></p>                   | <p>Priority 1: The Task Group will review the RDC position in relation to IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) reduction of target from 2°C to 1.5°C Global Temperature Rise and recommend how RDC can contribute towards this target.</p> <p>Priority 2: The Task Group will identify changes/impacts across Ryedale (time permitting)</p>   |
| <p><b>Why has this review been selected?</b></p>  | <p>Council requested Overview and Scrutiny Committee to undertake this review.<br/><a href="#">Council 11.10.18 Minute 42</a></p>   |
| <p><b>Who will carry out the review?</b></p>      | <p>The review will be carried out by a Task Group including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A minimum of 3 members of the O and S committee [Cllrs Clark, Acomb and Oxley] (but open to all members of Council) agreed 22.11.18</li> <li>• Support will be provided by the Delivery and Frontline Services Lead, the Senior Commissioning Officer and the Projects, Programmes and Performance Officer.</li> <li>• Input from RDC Officers as required. In addition, there is potential for professional / technical support resource which will be sourced externally.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>How the review will be carried out?</b></p> | <p>The Task Group will gather evidence from a range of sources to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Identify the key areas where RDC can impact on the IPCC target whilst carrying out its service delivery functions (direct and indirect) and how RDC can encourage residents to also make this impact to:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Reduce carbon emissions                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Use energy more efficiently</li> <li>ii. Switch to low carbon fuels</li> </ol> </li> <li>c. Prepare for climate change</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Make an interim recommendation to Scrutiny that, having identified these areas, a focussed event is held to which a range of relevant "experts" and interested parties are invited to bring their views and knowledge to help Scrutiny produce and prioritise an Action Plan.</li> <li>6. Recommend the Action Plan to Scrutiny and onwards to Council</li> </ol> |
| <p><b>What are the expected outputs?</b></p>      | <p>It is expected that the Task Group will produce a report, summarising the evidence they have gathered to develop a prioritised Action Plan for Scrutiny Committee.</p>   |
| <p><b>Timescale</b></p>                           | <p>An interim report will go to Scrutiny on 22.11.18 then to Council on 6.12.18.<br/>It is anticipated that the review will be concluded in April 2019.</p>   |