

**North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership - Executive**

**1 October 2009**

**Climate Change**

**1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To present a summary of progress made by the NYSP in response to climate change.
- 1.2 To highlight the key issues and challenges and make some recommendations for moving this agenda forward.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 The Stronger / Rural Partnership is the strategic lead on climate change within the NYSP. At its meeting on 12 May 2009 the partnership discussed progress on climate change and agreed that there were a number of key issues that should be brought to the attention of the NYSP Executive.
- 2.2 The partnership has delegated responsibility for delivery to the York and North Yorkshire Sustainable Development Officers Group. Delivery groups have been established around the three National Indicators which relate to climate change. Although delivery groups are in place there is more that needs to be done in terms of commitment and sign up at a senior level and the appropriate allocation of resources.
- 2.3 The North Yorkshire Local Area Agreement includes two National Indicators relating to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions:
  - NI 185 CO<sub>2</sub> reduction from local authority operations
  - NI 186 Per capita reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- 2.4 The National Indicator Set also includes NI 188 Planning to adapt to climate change and it is important to also demonstrate an effective partnership response to this indicator.
- 2.5 A number of organisations within the NYSP have established or are developing individual climate change strategies and have work programmes in place. There is not a co-ordinated NYSP climate change strategy / framework currently in place.

**3 LAA – NI 185 CO<sub>2</sub> reduction from local authority operations**

- 3.1 The County Council, seven District Councils and two National Parks are responsible for this indicator. The baseline for 2008/09 is shown in the table below.

Organisation	Building emissions (Tonnes)	Weather corrected Building emissions	Transport (Tonnes)	Sub-total	Percentage
Craven DC	1050.1	1075.2	759.5	1809.6	2.0%
Hambleton DC	3326.9	3366.4	1097.8	4424.7	5.0%

## AGENDA ITEM 8

Harrogate BC	8053.1	8153.3	1834.7	9887.8	11.1%
NYCC	50560.8	51420.9	5438.7	55999.5	63.1%
NY Moors NPA	146.1	148.8	160.5	306.6	0.3%
Richmondshire DC	866.7	876	524.2	1390.9	1.6%
Ryedale DC	1070.8	1086	870.5	1941.3	2.2%
Scarborough BC	4476.6	4543.5	1832.8	6309.4	7.1%
Selby DC	2519.3	2557.9	3658.2	6177.5	7.0%
Yorkshire Dales NPA	331.5	334.6	233.6	565.1	0.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>72401.9</b>	<b>73562.6</b>	<b>16410.5</b>	<b>88812.4</b>	100.0%

- 3.2 The table shows that emissions from the County Council make up a very significant proportion of the total. It should also be noted that approximately 70% of emissions from the County Council are attributable to schools.
- 3.3 The LAA target is for a 4% reduction in emissions by March 2011 (2% in 2009/10 and 2% in 2010/11).
- 3.4 It is the responsibility of each authority to ensure that plans are in place to reduce CO2 emissions, but there is a role for the NYSP to identify areas of concern and provide support as appropriate. The real opportunity for joint working is through the sharing of best practice.
- 3.5 It is felt that there are other NYSP Partners, not required to report on this LAA indicator, who could benefit from being part of this best practice sharing network.

#### **LAA – NI 186 Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions**

- 4.1 There is a shared responsibility between all NYSP partners for delivery on this indicator.
- 4.2 The LAA target is for a 10.5 % reduction on the baseline of 10.6 kt CO2 per head. There are concerns about the validity of the data provided by Defra to measure this indicator, not least because there is a two-year lag period. The aggregated North Yorkshire per capita CO2 emissions figures for 2005 and 2006 were almost identical.
- 4.3 Given the issues with the data described above, the Government Office has confirmed that assessment of this indicator will be based around a qualitative review of joint projects being delivered by the NYSP. The level of response will also be assessed as part of Comprehensive Area Assessment.
- 4.4 A delivery group is actively working on an action plan. There is a need to ensure senior level commitment to this work and the appropriate allocation of resources. Priorities for the group include:
- co-ordinated countywide communications;
  - support for business / schools;
  - supporting micro-generation schemes;
  - empowering the voluntary sector; and
  - training events e.g. guidance for planners.

**5 NI 188 Planning to adapt to adapt to climate change**

- 5.1 This is a National Indicator which has implications for all NYSP partners. The requirement is for the eight North Yorkshire local authorities to report on the National Indicator, but input into adaptation measures is required from a range of partners. Defra have indicated that all areas should be able to demonstrate progress against this indicator year on year. The self-assessment for North Yorkshire in 2008/09 was Level 0 (Levels 0 – 4).
- 5.2 Given that adaptation is a cross-boundary issue, all eight local authorities are working together. In order to progress to Level 1 (ideally by the end of the current financial year) we need to:
- make a public commitment (each individual local authority, but a NYSP commitment and framework for action would help) to identify and manage climate related risk;
  - assess what existing strategies and plans are already in place e.g. flood management;
  - undertake a local risk based assessment; and
  - undertake a gap analysis to identify those risks not addressed in existing strategies and communicate these risks to appropriate people.
- 5.3 A delivery group has begun to look at what needs to be done to ensure we make this progress. There is a significant amount of work needed to make this happen. Again there is a need to ensure senior level commitment to this work and the appropriate allocation of resources, which in the case of this indicator is predominantly staff time.

**6 Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (RIEP)**

- 6.1 There are two sub-regional representatives on the RIEP Climate Change Board.
- 6.2 Funding has been secured for four leadership workshops aimed at senior managers and elected members across the sub-region. Three of these workshops will be structured around the three National Indicators detailed above with a fourth follow up workshop focussing on outcomes and delivery. They will provide the opportunity to raise the profile of climate change issues and seek commitment from organisations to play their part in the response.
- 6.3 The RIEP Board also supported a sub-regional proposal for a two year school engagement officer post to work with the existing resource within the County Council. The post holder will focus on embedding climate change with the curriculum, but will also support schools to take actions to reduce emissions from their operations. With a significant proportion of emissions attributable to schools, this post will be key to achieving the target for NI 185 (CO2 reduction from local authority operations).

**7 Key issues and challenges**

- 7.1 Whilst progress has undoubtedly been made since the inception of the National Indicator Set and the North Yorkshire LAA there are a number of issues, which have limited progress.

## AGENDA ITEM 8

- 7.2 There has been no clear leadership across the County in relation to climate change issues and it is felt that a senior level champion within each organisation could provide the direction needed and ensure progress is monitored at the appropriate level. The Executive may also like to consider appointing an overall NYSP champion to drive this agenda forward.
- 7.3 As stated earlier there are a number of individual climate change strategies and plans across the County, but no co-ordinated NYSP document. It is felt that a NYSP framework or at the very least a set of guiding principles would ensure work is joined up to ensure maximum impact. The senior level champion, if supported, would be in a good position to take this work forward.
- 7.4 The delivery groups have limited resources available to them. Whilst some partners contribute officer time, it has been difficult to progress projects without a dedicated budget and/or staff time. For instance in the short term a budget of £10,000 would allow the NI 186 (Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions) delivery group to develop and deliver a number of appropriate projects, whereas the NI 188 (Planning to adapt to adapt to climate change) delivery group requires dedicated staff time. In the longer term there are more significant financial implications that may need to be explored such as offering low cost or even free home insulation to all households as is the case in Kirklees. A number of organisations do allocate resources to climate change and it is felt that by pooling these resources greater impact could be achieved. There may also be the potential to use future LAA reward grant to fund this area of work.
- 7.5 Climate change has traditionally been seen as a stand-alone 'environmental' issue and the response has therefore been balanced against a number of other competing priorities. However, in reality climate change will impact on most work areas in the future e.g. increased pressure on health and social care and opportunities for the 'green' economy. Therefore it is felt that the other NYSP thematic partnerships potentially have a role to play in responding to climate change and should be requested to consider climate change issues in relation to their individual work programmes. Support from officers with the appropriate knowledge would be available.

### **8 Recommendations**

That the NYSP Executive members:

- 8.1 Nominate a senior level climate change champion within each organisation and an overall NYSP champion.
- 8.2 Support the development of a NYSP climate change framework / set of guiding principles.
- 8.3 Provide the NI 186 (Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions) delivery group with a £10,000 annual budget and in the longer term consider potential sources of funding and staff resource for climate change.
- 8.4 Request that each of the NYSP thematic partnerships, where relevant, consider climate change issues in relation to their individual work programmes.

Report presented by:

Janet Waggott, Chair Stronger/Rural thematic partnership

Author:

Tom Bryant  
Senior Policy and Partnerships Officer  
Policy and Partnerships Unit

July 2009