

## York & North Yorkshire Climate Change Leadership seminars

### Interim report on Workshop 4: Building Bridges, Collaboration, Cost Savings and Best Practice in Sub Regional Planning.

This note records ideas that emerged during the final in a series of four seminars on Climate Change Leadership, which took place on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2010, 0930-1230. The series is supported and funded by the sub regional partners of the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership. All nine of the sub-regional local authorities were represented at the seminar<sup>1</sup> with 39 members and officers representing their respective authorities, together with participants from the North York Moors National Park Authority, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and NHS NYY Primary Care Trust.

The focus of the workshop was to bring together decision makers from councils and delivery partners across York and North Yorkshire in order to discuss ways of ensuring effective collaboration and how participants can take meaningful action to improve Authority performance, deliver benefits for local residents and meet National Indicator targets.

The stimulus inputs were:

**Peter Head, Director and Global Head of Planning, Arup**, who outlined his views on the concept of the Ecological Age<sup>2</sup>. He discussed regional resource planning, the scale and challenge of retrofitting and the importance of leadership and community involvement, using a variety of case studies from around the world. Resource management, energy infrastructure and transport and communications were highlighted as significant issues. Financing implications were considered, especially the use of 'special purpose vehicles' (Limited Companies).

**Professor Andy Gouldson, Director, ESRC Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy at Leeds University**. Prof. Gouldson summarised the projected impacts of climate change on the natural and built environment, before detailing current understanding of the economic costs and benefits of climate change, and national level targets and policy to deal with its resulting issues. He illustrated the variation in abatement costs between differing technologies, and demonstrated the marked difference in cost effectiveness of varying carbon reduction techniques.

**Cllr Andrew Cooper, Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council**. Cllr Cooper stressed the economic, social and political benefits of addressing climate change. He described the resources that Kirklees Council had used, and illustrated specific examples with successful outcomes within Kirklees, such as the Kirklees Warm Zone, Renewable Energy Fund and Primrose Solar Village. He finished with the question, "If local authorities do not lead, who will?"

**Alice Owen, Associate Director, Arup**, discussed the challenges and opportunities related to climate change, discussed the capability requirements for local responses to climate change building on work completed by the Sustainable Development Commission. Alice then led an action planning session, to develop the concepts discussed into practical outputs.

<sup>1</sup> NYCC, City of York C, Harrogate BC, Scarborough BC, Craven DC, Hambleton DC, Richmondshire DC, Ryedale DC, Selby DC

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.arup.com/Publications/Entering\\_the\\_Ecological\\_Age.aspx](http://www.arup.com/Publications/Entering_the_Ecological_Age.aspx)

## Summary

After initial information input, the focus of the workshop was on generating ideas and concepts that could be developed and progressed at a future date, to assist the sub-region in dealing with climate change issues. Sections 1.1 to 1.5 below, reflect the comments of participants and the suggested actions they recorded.

**1.1 Collaboration to reduce emissions from council operations**

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Ensure that question is always asked corporately - what is the climate change impact - is it in any way making things better or worse

Economic case is strong

Focus on behavioural change

Organisational changes to lead the way

Reinforce the integrated nature of environmental management within the organisation and explore regulatory boundaries to further facilitate this

Limit environmental outcomes to economic outcomes in climate change arguments

Recognise potential of the sub region

Exemplar communities

Remind ourselves of need for learning

Vision for future

Early action

Need for more evidence to win hearts and minds

Action on ground

Kirklees Insulation experience- take up and get comments back from each LA and meet up again to resolve issues.

Opportunities to work with waste and Environment Agency to install waste digesters and infrastructure to capture heat as well as electricity.

Use of exemplars e.g. Kirklees

Framework – targets

Quick wins – buy in

Review to identify opportunities, gap analysis, quick wins

Look at things on buildings

Need a recognised structure/evaluation through outcomes

N1185- Carbon Trust surveys for every district council asset

All local authorities completing the 1-1 programme and share results

All authorities to complete the EST & Green Fleet Review

Need a structures action plan to demonstrate corporate/partnership action

Capital investment on good practice, low paybacks, carbon reducing solutions

Increase the use of Salix where appropriate<sup>3</sup>

Regard the whole issue as an opportunity to everyone as well as a challenge

**1.2 Collaboration to reduce emissions in the sub region**

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“Communications is the key – sub regional/regional message”

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.salixfinance.co.uk/home.html>

“Retrofitting housing, encourage more public transport and more efficient personal travel”

“Personalised Transport Plans, Retrofit on buildings”

Sustainable communities can be unsustainable with no public transport – farms going bankrupt from fuel prices but lots of land available for sustainable development – need greater understanding between rural and city, i.e. no green roof investment if better for farms to be helped to use their land – total view not separate solutions

3rd tier parties like Parish Councils – good to get on side. Community funds etc

Need for a national over view to be established- e.g. best place for wind farms

Establish a structure which works to act on CO2 sub-regionally

Awareness raising initiatives tough actions such as smart meters, thermal cameras etc.

Creation of exemplar communities – a focus of effort to drive change elsewhere

Vision for sustainable economic future

Establish partnership including local business/estates/farms

Create demonstration projections – show deliverables – low carbon car/freight transport – carbon communities (positive)

Create regional resource plan

Similarities of energy efficiency in homes, transport, schools etc.

How going to pull together individual approaches into a fit for purpose, coherent method of leading change. Focus to be on how engage with community (external focus) as own estate/behaviour issues are more within our gift – but still hard!

Holistic Approach across agencies and voluntary sector

Create a framework which from within initiative can be delivered across the sub-region

More shared resources

More investment in LTP3

1-1 Programme rolled out across NY

Promote business support on every NYCC/District council's web page

Promote water efficiency

N188- A York/North Yorkshire commitment to show a partnership approach, aligning with

Funding- regional sources, locally relevant grants, particularly how to get access to large, but more difficult to obtain EU funding

Transport efficiency in a rural area- every village/parish to have a transport coordinator to arrange lift-shares/errands/journeys- web based? Local knowledge of people essential.

Encourage local leadership for local renewable energy schemes

Develop local food markets together with education of public on food miles

Sub-regional renewable energy strategy

Green transport initiatives developed to help rural communities continue use of cars

Guidance from planning officers on renewable technologies but also on area based initiatives

Accredited schemes for renewable installers

Educating the public

Secure finance to input into community schemes

Support for the idea of having an example town/village/community to concentrate efforts and funding

Action plan across sub-regions to show exactly what is being done. Addressing- Learning and good practice, will enhance a collective capacity, diseconomics of activity

Identify natural resources that can be 'harvested' to benefit the NYorkshire community

Set up structures for sharing information- no need re-invent the wheel

Community wide group, high level support.

There needs to be an energy/sustainability body to facilitate and lead education, bug in and put over a constant message. This could be done on a regional/sub regional basis linked to central government. Local government should lead the response to change.

Education in simple things for ALL to do, citizen, business, LA's etc.

Engagement process – Total place – across partnerships, private and public, utility provides, food producers, transport provides, public engagement

Opportunities – distinctive rural capital base – what is benefit of this. Already have some shared services. Diverse skills within communities. Nidderdale – already has uplands project, sus dev fund etc. York already has eco depot, exemplars etc

### **1.3 Best practice sharing**

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“Keep it simple, Better publicity”

More collaboration to share best practice

Knowledge and education – councils and community led initiatives

Look for another region to partner with – similar issues e.g. Wales

Need to capture and show issues to increase understanding

See similarities e.g. in sustainable community strategies, partnership issues e.g. around waste. Develop a vision – prioritised for N.Yorks

Full review of the key strategies across NY (Housing waste, transport, LDF etc.) to ensure they are co-ordinating and will deliver sustainable communities

Leadership, Joint working, communication mechanisms for York and N Yorkshire. Leadership team to exchange thoughts.

Mechanism to stock take all climate change activity in the region, so that the scatter gun approach is lessened to support evidence based delivery.

Greater awareness of sustainability 4 Yorkshire, EST funded company that is meant to deliver agenda through partnership work.

Pick the brains of officers re. Similarities in organisations

Arm's length leadership for the sub-region with relevant representation from each of the important parties. This would act as an independent lead and give each party the opportunity to follow and work as they choose. It would be useful for this lead to identify projects and scheme's which touch each and every of the parties and enables them to act proactively and deliver a unifying result.

Create a “whole place” partnerships – public, commercial, private, community.

Shared vision/priority – joint partnership to take one or two opportunities, big scale, e.g. energy efficiency in homes/schools/public buildings/commercial briefing. E.g. use of natural resources to produce/export renewable energy – land owners and planners

Find out what my own L.A does/can do better

NE, Las, EA etc, to work together to promote best practise and innovation to education other communities and encourage the spread of ideas

#### **1.4 Understanding and managing climate risks in the sub region**

Difficult issues because so many sources of information and expertise, finding impartial advice difficult and contradiction between government departments – e.g. for wind turbines have planning advice but can be running against MOD objections. Contradiction between long term plans and short term actions

All areas having a climate change strategy plan

Have a climate change web page on every district council's and NYCC website

Have a high level climate change meeting every 6 months to show results, monitor and progress the climate change agenda

More joined-up working across the country

#### **1.5 Discussed Actions**

“1. Give free insulation to ALL private householders 2). Offer personal planning advice

Integrate economic and social well being into spatial infrastructure and other planning

Smart meters would be a quick gain

Progress the ‘green diving’ training

Report to Council through oversight briefings. Task group to follow up

Need North Yorkshire Environment LSP sub group. Regional leadership and working group to push forward. Raise awareness of Kirklees progress

Would like a rural version of P.H talk – what a sustainable area looks like

Discuss with leaders/CEO/Partners via existing structures e.g. N.Yorks SD groups

Discussions with NYSPG and Strategic Communities Partnership

“My concern is how do we set targets and monitor performance i.e. if there are reduced car journeys how to we capture them. Also, when do we accept that we have reached a level where, for the local area, there is very little/no scope for improvement without significant investment”

Would be very good to use creative concern or like minded groups to organise a strap line/slogan for N.Yorks in manner of Texas anti littering campaign

Strong enough controls do not exist through the planning process, relating to CO2 – no control after development and no enforcement. (Cllr Galloway)

How to encourage planning policies and LDF framework so the answer is not always “no”, as old fashioned responses need now to share planning polices across region and encourage renewable with regional agreement for confidence to say in a protected area

Willingness to provide leadership, currently lack of willingness to change, finding examples like N.Yorkshire elsewhere in the world that can be learnt from would be useful – not urban ones.

Concentrate effort on examples, will draw in funds and criticism from other areas but will stimulate interest

Microgeneration – hydroelectricity at a community level – Clapham project for local food supply

Role of LA's as employers "have to be the change you wish to see in others" new ways of working, green travel etc.

Need and arrow to shoot through the various tiers and departments – activities have to join up if they are to be successful, should not be hard to learn from others – current problem is that we are so busy going straight to the next job and few tacking the time to make sure the old job is done well and has permanence.

Need stock take of region on what others are doing, but who is to do this? Not have relevant partnership to tackle CC, have one which should but it is not working.