

### **POLICY COMMITTEE**

### Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 6.30pm Belle Vue Suite, Belle Vue Square, Broughton Road, Skipton

**Committee Members:** The Chairman (Councillor Foster) and Councillors Barrett, Brockbank, Heseltine, Madeley, Metcalfe, Moorby, Morrell, Mulligan, Myers, Noland, Ogden, Place, Rose and Wheeler.

Substitutes: Conservatives – Councillors Handley and Whitaker (1 vacancy); Independents – Councillors Pighills, Shuttleworth and Solloway; Labour – Councillor Mercer; Green – Brown.

#### Please note the following advice in advance of the meeting:

Whilst there is no longer a legal requirement to wear a face covering or continue to social distance, please be considerate towards the wellbeing of others.

Anyone showing Covid symptoms or feeling unwell, are asked not to attend an in-person meeting, this is in the interest of general infection control. Further guidance can be found at: <u>https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus</u>

### AGENDA

- 1. **Apologies for absence and substitutes** To receive any apologies for absence and notification of substitutes.
- 2. Confirmation of Minutes To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022. (Please note that there is a confidential minute which is not for publication.)
- **3. Public Participation** In the event that any questions/statements are received or members of the public attend, the public participation session will proceed for a period of up to fifteen minutes.
- **4. Declarations of Interest** All Members are invited to declare at this point any interests they have in items appearing on this agenda, including the nature of those interests.

(Declarations should be in the form of: a *"disclosable pecuniary interest"* under Appendix A to the Council's Code of Conduct, or "*other interests"* under Appendix B or

under Paragraph 16 where a matter arises at the meeting which relates to a financial interest of a friend, relative or close associate.

A Member of Council who has a disclosable pecuniary interest must leave the room and not take part in the discussion or vote. When declaring interests under Appendix B or Paragraph 15 of the Code, Members must move to the public seating area, not vote, and speak only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting.)

5. Select Committee Impact of Tourism Report – Report of the Select Committee. Attached.

Purpose of Report – To outline the recommendations made by the Select Committee in relation to the impact that tourism has on the Craven District.

6. Cost of Living Crisis - Report of the Chief Executive. To follow.

Purpose of Report – To update Members on the drivers and potential impacts of the Cost of Living Crisis and to request that Members consider the two proposals which will provide targeted support to residents facing the greatest impact from the cost of living crisis.

7. Community Led – Retrofit Empty Homes Action Partnerships - Report of the Chief Executive. Attached.

Purpose of Report – To share details of Craven District Council's proposed involvement in a one-year feasibility study to test and evaluate the viability of a potential three-year local community-led Retrofit Empty Homes Action Partnership in Craven.

8. LEP York and North Yorkshire's Routemap to Carbon Negative – Report of the Chief Executive. Attached.

Purpose of Report – To share details of the York and North Yorkshire Routemap to Carbon Negative that the York & North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (Y&NY LEP) board adopted in July 2022. The Routemap will be formally launched at the Y&NY LEP's Business Summit in October 2022. Y&NY LEP have approached all local authorities in the region to adopt the Routemap.

- **9. Items for Confirmation** The Committee is asked to indicate whether any of the above items should be referred to Council for confirmation.
- **10. Any other items** which the Chairman decides are urgent in accordance with Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

#### **11.** Date and Time of Next Meeting – 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

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#### POLICY COMMITTEE

#### 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022

**Present** – The Chairman, Councillor Foster and Councillors Barrett, Brockbank, Heseltine, Madeley, Metcalfe, Moorby, Mulligan, Noland, Ogden, Place and Rose.

**Officers** – Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer (S151 Officer), Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Finance Manager and Senior Democratic Services Officer.

**Apologies for Absence** – Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Morrell, Myers and Wheeler.

**Confirmation of Minutes –** The minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

#### EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

That, in accordance with the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules, the public is excluded from the meeting during consideration of Minute POL.1192 marked\$) below on the grounds that it is not in the public interest to disclose the Category 3 exempt information (financial or business affairs of any particular person including the Council).

#### **Public Participation –**

There was no public participation.

#### **Declarations of Interest –**

There were no declarations of interest.

Start: 7.05 pm Councillor Mulligan left the meeting at 8.03pm. Finish: 8.27pm

#### Minutes for Report

POL.1181

#### <u>REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT –</u> <u>QUARTER 4 2021/2022</u>

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report advising Members of the revenue budget position of the Council based on the quarter 4 review of income and expenditure to the end of March 2022.

The Council's financial position continued to be affected by the impacts of the pandemic. Some of the major income streams such as car parking and leisure that were significantly affected in the last financial year appear to be recovering albeit slowly by quarters 3 and 4.

The Policy Committee had previously made decisions that had given the Council more flexibility to deal with those issues during the 21/22 financial year including the carrying forward of some government COVID support grant.

Performance against service budgets and corporate items was a favourable forecasted draft underspend of £356k at the end of March 2022. The figure would be subject to a number of adjustments prior to a final overall outturn position The adjustments were mainly related to drawing down funds from the Planning Reserve (to help fund expenditure relating to the Planning Improvement Plan) and also from the Government's Sales, Fees and Charges Income grant that compensated local authorities for lost income due to the pandemic. **Craven District Council** 

The Council continued to hold a general fund unallocated balance of £995k but the implications of local government reorganisation in North Yorkshire would also need to be carefully considered for 2022/23.

**Resolved** – (1) That, the quarter 4 revenue budget monitoring position as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 is noted.

(2) That, a revenue budget of £6,300 is carried forward for completion of revenue commitments in 2022/23 as identified in Appendix D to the report now submitted, is approved.

(3) That, the transfer of a balance of the revenue budget surplus to earmarked reserves is approved with the allocations being delegated to the Chief Finance Officer (S151 Officer), in consultation with the Lead Member for Financial Resilience is approved.

#### POL.1182 CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUTTURN REPORT - 2021/2022

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report informing Members of the outturn position of the Council's capital programme for 2021/22 and the sources of funding.

Further to the Council agreeing a 2021/22 capital programme of £2,230k, a further £9,380k of carry forward from the 2020/21 programme as well as recognising the Langcliffe Quarry development, giving a revised programme of £13,362k.

Detailed information with an update on progress of the programme was shown in Appendix A to the Chief Finance Officer's report and at the  $31^{st}$  March 2022 expenditure on the programme was  $\pounds7,978k$ .

**Resolved -** (1) That, the outturn position of the 2021/22 capital programme and how the programme has been financed is noted.

(2) That, the carry forward of £4,768,366 for the continuation of the 2021/22 capital projects in 2022/23 is confirmed.

#### POL.1183 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT – QUARTER 4 2021/2022

The Chief Finance Officer presented performance highlighted for quarter four of the financial year 2021/22 in accordance with arrangements set out in the Council's performance management framework.

The majority of Council Plan actions were progressing as planned although four actions were not on track and rated as 'amber', these were:

- High speed broadband
- Fly tipping
- Risk management
- Recycling rates

Two actions were rated 'red'; a Cultural Apprenticeship Scheme was unlikely to start before vesting date for the new council for North Yorkshire; and Craven was unsuccessful in attempting to recruit a Waste Education Officer and therefore the Waste Education Programme was not on track.

**Resolved** – That, the performance highlights described in the report now submitted, are noted.

#### POL.1184 ENERGY REBATE - PROPOSED DISCRETIONARY SCHEME

#### Craven District Council

# **AGENDA ITEM 2**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report seeking Members' approval to implement an 'Energy Rebate – Discretionary Scheme'. The Government had announced an Energy Rebate Scheme to help protect households from rising energy costs in 2022/23 which was being administered by billing authorities. All eligible households within bands A to D were to receive a one-off payment of £150 which did not need to be repaid.

As well as the main scheme, the Government had made some monies available for local authorities to use to fund smaller scale discretionary award schemes for 7,000 eligible households in the remaining council tax bands E to H. Craven's funding allocation was £92,100 and each local authority was required to set its own discretionary scheme parameters. Were the Council to award £150 to all 7,000 households in bands E to H, it would cost £1.50m – significantly in excess of the £92,100.

Many local authorities had developed schemes that target band E to H households that were in receipt of certain benefits and given the level of allocated funding it was difficult to arrive at any other method that would make appropriate use of the funding.

The Chief Finance Officer proposal was to ward a grant to households in band E to H in which one of the liable parties was in receipt of certain qualifying benefits:

- Income Support
- Job Seeker's allowance (income based)
- Employment Support Allowance (income related)
- Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Reduction

Based on the information held by the Council, were the Council to operate on a first come first served basis, some deserving households could miss out. To mitigate that, the Council could either award a smaller grant of say £120 or underwrite any expenditure in excess of the £92,100 Government funding. The amount was estimated to be in the region of £22,000. This additional cost would be funded from underspends from the 2021/22 revenue budgets.

**Resolved** – (1) That, a payment of £150 is made to eligible households (funded from the grant allocation of £92,100) with any additional funding required topped up by the Council.

(2) That, delegated authority is given to the Council's S.151 Officer (in consultation with the Leader and Lead Member for Financial Resilience to sign off the details of the scheme and implement any subsequent amendments that may be required.

#### POL. 1185 SKIPTON CIRCULAR WALK PROJECT

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration submitted a report that explored options to deliver the Skipton Circular Walk and in particular the stage from Gargrave Road to White Hills Lane. The report established out some aims and assumptions of the route, some options that had been developed and then finally recommendations about how it could proceed. The report suggested that external funding would be sought to deliver elements of the scheme and that match funding and underwriting of the project would be provided by the Council.

During the course of the ensuing discussion, Committee Members asked a number of questions and raised concerns about whether the project would be seen as value for money as there was no apparent rush to go ahead with the scheme at this moment, and it was

**Resolved** – (1) That, the Skipton circular walk project is not proceeded with at this time.

#### POL. 1186 ROUGH SLEEPER ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORT

The Director of Services submitted a report seeking approval from Members to commission accommodation and support services for rough sleepers in the Craven District.

One of the Housing and Homelessness Strategy Action Plan's strategic priority was to support homeless and vulnerable households and the Council's Housing Options Service aimed to reduce health and wellbeing inequalities by working with partners to provide improved support and intervention services for rough sleepers and those at risk of sleeping rough.

Services to rough sleepers were currently provided from a hub located at Pinder House, Skipton, offering assessment, supported accommodation, outreach and day services. Funding was a combination of rough sleeper grant from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and rental income from the supported housing units.

In addition to the provision provided at Pinder House, the rough sleeper grant funded a tenancy sustainment worker who supported rough sleepers who had moved into their own tenancies and a drug and alcohol recovery worker.

All of the above mentioned contracts expired in 2022 and for services to continue a procurement process would be required. DLIHC had confirmed funding of £437,903 had been awarded to the Council for three years from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. However, the supported housing element of the grant was insufficient to fund the services at its current level and it was recommended that the shortfall was met by using monies held in homelessness budgets up to a maximum of £110,000 over the three-year period.

**Resolved** – (1) That, delegated authority is given to the Director of Services in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council to negotiate, award and enter into contract(s) for Rough Sleeper Accommodation and Support Services following a procurement process.

(2) That, delegated authority is given to the Director of Services in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council and s151 Officer to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

(3) That, the use of money held in homelessness budgets to fund the shortfall in grant receipt is approved.

POL. 1187

#### HORIZON PROJECT – HERITAGAMES

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration submitted a report seeking approval for Craven District Council to be part of the transnational European HORIZON Project – HeritaGames which aimed to enrich the understanding of the cultural heritage of rural areas as represented in video games. By accurately reflecting local culture in games that were accessed globally it was hoped that the video games would become a source of information that symbolised those places and cultures to people from different backgrounds around the world.

The HeritaGames would bring together universities, IT, design and research companies together with three local authorities including Craven, to address the role of gaming in culture and in shaping European societies and re-connect heritage places to younger people. Details of the partnership were included in the Strategic Manager's report and it was noted that as most of the project would be delivered by the new North Yorkshire Council, discussions had taken place with the LGR to seek support for the project going forward into the new authority.

**Resolved** – (1) That Craven District Council be allowed to participate in the HORIZON Project – HeritaGames (2) That, the Director of Services is authorised, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council and s151 Officer, to enter into a funding agreement with partner organisations if the funding bid is successful.

(3) That the Director of Services is authorised, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council and s151 Officer, to enter into a MOU or other agreement with North Yorkshire County Council for the delivery of the project.

#### POL. 1188 CRAVEN DISTRICT OF SANCTUARY

The Chief Executive submitted a report seeking approval from Members to take forward a number of recommendations to enable Craven District Council to become a District of Sanctuary. City of Sanctuary UK was an umbrella organisation, whose vision was the creation of a culture of welcome, compassion and inclusion across every sphere and sector of society to ensure that wherever sanctuary seekers went they would find people who would welcome them with understanding.

Craven had a long history of welcoming refugees displaced through conflict, war and persecution and the District had a number of long established and community groups that supported refugees and asylum seekers.

The City of Sanctuary Local Authority network was launched in December 2020 and in becoming a member, authorities were committed to working towards the 'Council of Sanctuary' award. The Council proposed the development of an action plan setting out the steps the Council would take to make Craven a 'District of Sanctuary'.

**Resolved** – (1) That, the signing of the City of Sanctuary supporting organisation pledge by the Chief Executive is approved.

(2) That, the Committee recognise and support the work of Craven Refugee Support Network.

(3) That, joining the City of Sanctuary Local Authority Network as a non-awarded member is approved.

(4) That, a voluntary annual donation to City of Sanctuary of £250 for the next 5 years is approved.

(5) That, working with City of Sanctuary, local refugee support groups and partners to develop an Action Plan for the council with the intention of submitting an application for the Council of Sanctuary Award is approved.

(6) That, Councillor Rose is appointed as the District of Sanctuary Member Champion.

POL. 1189

#### LEGACY SUB-COMMITTEE

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted a report asking Members to consider the appointment of a Legacy Sub-Committee and confirm or amend a draft terms of reference as appropriate.

Craven District Council were approaching their final year as an authority and the Council Chair had proposed a legacy scheme to formally recognise organisations and individuals who had demonstrated they had provided an exemplary service to the Craven District.

**Resolved** – (1) That, a Legacy Sub-Committee is appointed to recognise organisations and individuals who, in the opinion of the authority, have rendered eminent services to the Craven District.

(2) That, a membership of seven and three named substitutes is appointed, to include Council Officers, Chair and Vice-Chair of Council, Leader of the Council, Group Leaders, Lead member for Resilient Communities and one Member from the Opposition.

(3) That, the draft terms of reference attached to this report as Appendix 1 are approved.

#### POL. 1190 APPOINTMENT TO SUB-COMMITTEES AND PANELS

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted as report asking Members to consider the appointment of the Craven Spatial Planning Sub-Committee and the Craven Employees' Consultative Group for the 2022/2023 municipal year and to confirm or amend the terms of reference as appropriate.

Resolved – (1) That the Craven Spatial Planning Sub-Committee is re-appointed for 2022/23, with a membership of seven and three named substitutes, comprising the Deputy Leader of the Council Councillor Brockbank and Councillors Myers, Pringle, Rose, Shuttleworth, Staveley and Sutcliffe. Substitutes: Councillors Madeley, Mulligan, Solloway.

(2) That the Craven Employees' Consultative Group is re-appointed for 2022/23, with a membership of five, comprising the Leader of the Council Councillor Foster and Councillors, Brown, Madeley, Myers and Solloway.

#### Minutes for Decision

#### POL.1191 ADOPTION OF THE GOOD DESIGN SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT AND THE RURAL WORKERS' DWELLINGS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

The Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration submitted a report presenting the final version of the Good Design Supplementary Planning Document and the Rural Workers' Dwellings Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and other required documents following two, four week periods of consultation with the public and stakeholders during 2021 and 2022.

The Craven Local Plan was adopted in November 2019 and the Council's Local Development Scheme 2020 update set out that a Good Design SPD would be prepared and adopted by the Council. The SPD's provided further guidance for development of specific sites, or on particular issues such as design as well as being used as a material consideration in planning decisions, though they were not part of the development plan.

**Recommended** – (1) That, the Good Design SPD and Rural Workers' Dwellings SPD set out at Appendices A and E respectively to this report is adopted.

(2) That, the Adoption Statements for the Good Design SPD and Rural Workers' Dwellings SPD set out at Appendices B and F respectively to this report is approved.

(3) That, Approval of the Consultation Statements for the Good Design SPD and the Rural Workers' Dwellings SPD set out at Appendices C and G respectively to this report is approved.

(4) That, the screening reports for the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment on the Good Design SPD and Rural Workers' Dwellings SPD set out at Appendices D and H respectively to this reports are approved.

(5) That, delegated authority is granted to the Strategic Manager for Planning and Regeneration to make any necessary minor amendments/corrections to the above documents, to publish them on the Council's website and inform those people and organisations who asked to be notified on the adoption of the SPDs.

#### POL.1192 REDEVELOPMENT OF FORMER COUNCIL DEPOT SITE, LANGCLIFFE QUARRY, SETTLE

[A separate minute has been prepared for this item for those persons entitled to have the information]

**Date and Time of Next Meeting –** 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

Chairman



### **Review of the Impact of Tourism on the Craven District**

### **Report of the Select Committee Working Group**

**Report to Policy Committee on 13 September 2022** 

### **1.0** Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Following Select Committee's meeting on 23 June 2021 where they reviewed their work schedule for the 2021/22 municipal year, the Chair suggested that the Committee could look at the impact of tourism on rural communities, specifically in relation to high levels of visitor traffic. It was felt that this would help to understand how stakeholders such as Parish Councils, The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA), Welcome to Yorkshire (WtY) and the emergency services are dealing with the issue. The Covid pandemic has seen a significant increase in visitor numbers in some parts of the Craven district and Members were keen to find out how this was being managed and the impact it has on local communities.
- 1.2 It was agreed to establish a working group to undertake an in-depth review. The aim of the review was to make an assessment of impact and where appropriate, make recommendations on a number of key areas.
- 1.3 The review was conducted over 6 working group sessions, which took place between October 2021 and February 2022 where we received a range of evidence both written and verbal. Evidence was provided by Parish Councils and Parish Meetings, Town Councils, WtY, YDNPA, emergency services and local businesses. The information provided was interesting and valuable and we would like to thank everyone who contributed their time and expertise to support this review.
- 1.4 This report includes a number of recommendations, which outline our expectations regarding a number of improvement measures. We hope that our findings provide a clear summary of areas that require focus and action. Ongoing monitoring of the progress of the recommendations will be undertaken by the Select Committee during the course of the municipal year.
- 1.5 Select Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in this review.

Councillor David Staveley, Chair of Select Committee

#### 2.0 The Review

- 2.1 The working group agreed which stakeholders to invite and asked them to provide firsthand experiences of how tourism affects local communities and how these impacts can be managed. Members wanted to hear about both the positive and negative aspects. This would make the review fair, open and transparent, ensuring that fully informed recommendations were being made.
- 2.2 To encourage participation from parishes, who ultimately are affected mostly by tourists, an "Impact of Tourism on the Craven District" questionnaire was circulated to each Parish Council and Parish Meeting (Appendix 2). In total, 73 questionnaires were emailed and posted, and a total of 22 responses were received. A summary report was circulated to the Working Group (Appendix 3).

Key positive impacts identified were:

- Visitors contribute to the local economy
- Financial benefits for local farmers and food producers
- Jobs created
- Local communities are proud to show off the area to the rest of the country/world
- Craven is promoted as a desirable area to visit

Key negative impacts identified focussed on:

- Traffic (parking, congestion, speeding)
- Litter
- Anti-social behaviour (noise)
- Wear and tear on facilities and stakeholders not contributing to their upkeep
- Housing shortage for local people
- Perceived pressure on emergency services
- 2.3 A series of working group meetings were held over Zoom. Speakers provided a range of data, shared information and provided first-hand experiences. Members asked a variety of questions to fully understand the negative and positive impacts. The final working group meeting with Council Services reflected the key issues that had already been raised.

# 2.3.1 Working Group Session 1 and 5– Parish Councils, Parish Meetings and Town Council

- Visitor numbers have risen significantly during the pandemic and whilst many businesses have benefitted financially, this is not the case for everyone.
- Whilst it is seen as positive that the Craven District is promoted to tourists, not all villages have the infrastructure to manage high numbers (parking, litter bins).
- Some campsites have grown significantly to what they have been? given permission for, yet their financial contribution to the community doesn't appear to reflect this.
- Some villages are left with the responsibility of the upkeep of equipment (playground equipment, playing fields).

- The ratio between holiday lets and residents in some villages is as high as a 50/50 split, so local people are being pushed out of the property market. There is a risk of village community life breaking up unaffordable housing could lead to schools and shops closing and older people being "left behind".
- Staffing vacancies in the local hospitality sector can partly be due to the lack of affordable accommodation so local residents are being forced to move out of the area.
- Better public transport infrastructures could help alleviate parking and traffic issues.
- The influx of visitors, especially at large events such as the 3 Peaks Challenge creates significant issues around parking, noise, litter etc, and there doesn't appear to be any co-ordination between organisers and the YDNPA to mitigate the negative impacts.

#### 2.3.2 Working Group Session two – Welcome to Yorkshire (WtY)

- Whilst WtY has a positive relationship with CDC, the Council has not engaged with them as much as other local authorities have.
- They offer a range of support and small businesses can pay as little as £50 to promote themselves on WtY's website. Take-up amongst Craven businesses is low.
- WtY is moving away from Destination Marketing and focussing on Destination Management and promoting the Countryside Code. There is a 3-point Covid recovery plan: "Growth of overnight stays", "Industry expertise" and "Leadership and ideas".
- Members felt that WtY should increase engagement with parishes.

\*the meeting took place before WtY went into administration.

#### 2.3.3 Working Group Session three -Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA)

- Lockdown saw an influx in visitors, and between June-November 2021 over 25% of visitors were first timers. It is too early to say if this will translate into visitor spend, as businesses were closed.
- There has been a more diverse demographic of visitor which reflects the national population younger, Black and Minority Ethnic, families.
- YDNPA continued to provide services during lockdown when visitor centres were closed. This included meeting and greeting and promoting the Countryside Code. Local volunteers also assisted.
- Overcrowded YDNPA carparks often means that visitors park in areas that negatively affected local residents' daily life. It was agreed that the YDNPA has a duty of care to residents to preserve their environment and maintain their quality of life.
- YDNPA's no bin policy generates excess litter in some areas and parishes have had to either provide bins at their own expense or rely on volunteers to litterpick.
- Members requested that YDNPA engage with both residents and parishes. It was agreed that the YDNPA has a duty of care to residents to preserve their environment and maintain their quality of life.

# 2.3.4 Working Group Session four – Emergency Services (Police, Fire Service, Ambulance Service)

• It is the responsibility of event organisers to complete and pay for adequate health and safety risk assessments, which should include provision of onsite private staff.

However, it was acknowledged that these were not always robust enough, especially for large scale events.

- In Upper Wharfedale, a multi-agency working group has been established to address potential problems, formulate a response, and assess the impact. It's proven to be a successful partnership model of helping to find solutions to ongoing problems.
- Members expressed concern that emergency services were being called out to incidents caused by visitors (moorland fires, drug/alcohol incidents, walkers falling etc), which impacts on the level of service available to residents.
- Although it was acknowledged that in some cases, response rates may be slower due to "tourist callouts", Members were reassured that calls were assessed and prioritised according to those most in need.

#### 2.3.5 Working Group Session five - Council Services

- CDC received Covid funding to recruit additional Cleaner Neighbourhood Officers to engage with residents and visitors throughout the Summer of 2021. This successfully led to a reduction in litter and dog fouling. Funding has now stopped.
- There are approximately 800 properties which are defined as second homes in Craven and applications for business rates have increased by 61% from 2018. Other parts of the country e.g. Cornwall are looking to increase Council Tax charges for second homes. CDC does not have the powers to increase Council Tax, but this is something the new unitary council could explore.
- Parishes can apply to Ward Member Grants for items such as traffic cones and signs to deter visitors from on street parking. Organisations such as Community First Yorkshire can award bigger grants.
- CDC manage pay and display carparks and free carparks. NYCC have responsibility for on street parking and issuing fixed penalties. CDC have looked at introducing pay and displays in smaller villages, but some Members and parishes objected.
- It was acknowledged that improving public transport provision was a key factor. CDC can only play a lobbying role with bus services, and whilst the Council has more influence with rail networks, it is a very lengthy process that involves numerous partners, so progress is slow.
- With Welcome to Yorkshire moving into administration, it is anticipated that a new organisation will be established to promote tourism in the region. CDC wish to work closely with them.
- The multi-agency Safety Advisory Group has no enforcement powers but will advise on risk assessments and license applications for events being held in the area.

#### 3.0 National Parks

- 3.1 4 National Parks were contacted to ask how they have managed the impact of tourists, specifically since the start of the pandemic. We received 2 responses:
  - There has been an increase in visitor numbers after lockdown which led to issues around litter, fly-camping, fires, BBQs, wild swimming and an increase in emergency services callouts.
  - Visitors' cars sometimes obstructed emergency vehicles, buses, farm vehicles and residents.
  - Volunteers act as park rangers.

- Social media campaigns and onsite signage (e.g. anti-litter campaigns and Countryside Code messages) have little positive impact. Signage is often removed or vandalised.
- Successful partnership with stakeholders was deemed beneficial.
- Circulate parish bulletins/updates.
- Produce multi-lingual signage had limited impact.
- Often receive donations from events to maintain the upkeep of the parks.

#### 4.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

- 4.1 After listening to how communities, stakeholders and support services manage tourism in the Craven District, the Select Committee recognise that tourism impacts some parishes both positively and negatively. The recommendations below identify a way forward to address the issues that have been highlighted.
- 4.2 **Recommendation 1:** To encourage Local Planning/Rating Authorities to consider in their future planning the impact of tourism on local infrastructures and communities in terms of viability and sustainability. To lobby central government where appropriate.
- 4.3 **Recommendation 2:** To request that the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority review their no litter bins policy. This has a negative impact across the Dales and an adverse effect on parishes who have to provide extra litter bin capacity and recruit volunteers to mitigate the impact the policy has on their community.
- 4.4 **Recommendation 3:** To recommend a joint approach by all stakeholders to address the impact of parking in honeypot destinations by looking at improved traffic management. To include Highways, Yorkshire Dales National Park Planning Policy, Parish Councils, Economic Development, and the Police/PFCC in these discussions.
- 4.5 **Recommendation 4:** For Safety Advisory Group members to continue to consider their individual legislative powers, which help to control or mitigate large scale events.
- 4.6 **Recommendation 5:** For Democratic Services to circulate information on how a multiagency partnership approach can be used to look at community issues, and as a model to address the negative impact that tourism has on residents.
- 4.7 **Recommendation 6**: For CDC to call upon the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority to improve their engagement, communication, liaison and support with Parish Councils and communities who are negatively affected by their promotion activities. For example, intense visitor numbers at honeypot and other popular destinations, and large scale outdoor events.
- 4.8 **Recommendation 7:** For CDC to request greater on-site management by Yorkshire Dales National Park officers e.g. park rangers, to manage the large numbers of visitors at outdoor events and during key times when numbers are particularly high.
- 4.9 **Recommendation 8:** To request that Business Support promote where possible, the recommendations of this report to stakeholders (e.g. business sector, charity sector, event organisers).

4.10 **Recommendation 9:** For CDC to hand over to the new unitary authority the work that is already being done to promote greener travel plans and sustainable travel in the district. To continue to lobby for better public transport networks within the district.

#### 5.0 Monitoring arrangements

- 5.1 Standard arrangements for monitoring the outcome of the Select Committee's recommendations will apply.
- 5.2 The decision-makers to whom the recommendations are addressed will be asked to submit a response to the recommendations.
- 5.3 Following this the Select Committee will determine any further monitoring that is required. This will be in addition to the standard bi-annual monitoring of all Select Committee recommendations.

#### 6.0 Reports and Publications Submitted / Considered

- 6.1 The following information was submitted / considered by the Select Committee Working Group:
  - Written submissions from 8 Parishes and 1 Town Council
  - 22 Parish responses to Impact of Tourism Survey
  - Written evidence from Peak District National Park and Dartmoor National Park
  - Written evidence from 1 long established local business

#### 7.0 Dates of Meetings

- 7.1 The following meetings of the Select Committee Working Group took place:
  - 13 October 2021 and 12 January 2022 Parishes and Skipton Town Council
  - 20 October 2021 Welcome to Yorkshire
  - 17 November 2021 Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
  - 22 December 2021 Emergency Services
  - 16 February 2022 Council Services
- 7.2 The following Officers attended meetings of the Select Committee Working Group:
  - Alice Fox, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager
  - David Smith, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer

### Policy Committee – 13th September 2022

**Cost of Living Crisis** 

**Report of the Chief Executive** 

### Lead Member – Cllr Robert Ogden

Ward(s) affected: All

#### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Members on the drivers and potential impacts of the Cost of Living Crisis.
- 1.2 To request that Members consider the following two proposals which will provide targeted support to residents facing the greatest impact from the cost of living crisis:
  - SELFA Cost of Living Proposal -Food support for Children using SELFAs Services
  - Warm and Welcome Places Grant Scheme To provide funding to enable community venues to offer warm welcoming community spaces for people struggling to heat their homes.
- 2. Recommendations Members are recommended to:
- 2.1 Note the content of the report
- 2.3 Approve £3000 funding to SELFA to enable them to provide 1200 meals to children who need them over the winter months.
- 2.4 Approve an additional amount of £15,000 to be added to the Ward Member Grant budget to enable community venues across the District to provide warm community spaces for people struggling to heat their homes.

#### 3. Report

#### 3.1 Background

The UK is currently facing a cost of living crisis as the price for many essential goods and services are increasing faster than household income, resulting in a fall in real income. While all households are affected by rising prices, the impact is most severe in lower income households who already spend a greater proportion of their income on essentials such as food and fuel.

3.2 The current crisis is exacerbating pre-existing poverty and inequality issues, affecting many of those still recovering from the effects of the pandemic and



also impacting on those who may have coped previously but are now struggling to manage.

- 3.3 Yorkshire Leaders Board recently received a report which explores in greater detail the drivers and impacts of the Cost of Living Crisis and proposes a potential Yorkshire and Humber wide approach to support residents and mitigate some of the worst impacts of the cost of living crisis. The report is attached at Appendix1 for Members information.
- 3.4 The report notes that Councils will be considering how best to support residents in their own local areas through actions such as supporting residents to, providing other financial and practical support, and as a convenor of organisations across places.

#### 3.5 Supportive Actions in Craven

During the pandemic the Council worked closely with local voluntary and community groups to provide support to local people in need. This has resulted in stronger working relationships between local organisations, and we have continued to work together to develop community support projects.

- 3.6 This has included joining the Craven Food Partnership which was set up in 2020 in response to the difficulties that some people were having getting access to food during the Covid pandemic. The partnership has improved ease of access to emergency food across the district, set up a network of community fridges and produced the Worried About Money leaflet which provides residents with advice around how to maximise income and signposts to debt and wider support.
- 3.7 Over 6000 copies of the leaflet have been distributed across Craven including 1000 copies which were sent out to households receiving council tax reminders. Local community group Exclusively Inclusive have also produced an Easy Read version of the leaflet which makes the information more accessible to people with learning difficulties. Craven is the first area of the UK to produce an Easy Read version of the leaflet and our leaflet will be used by as a template by other areas.
- 3.8 The Council is also providing additional support to low income households through the recently agreed Discretionary Council Tax Energy Rebate Scheme. This will provide £150 energy rebates to an additional 760 households with properties in Bands E-H who are in receipt of qualifying benefits.
- 3.9 In response to the ongoing Cost of Living crisis the Council recently hosted a meeting with other local organisations to discuss how we could provide coordinated support to residents.
- 3.10 Agreed actions included:-
  - Developing a directory of local support services
  - Promoting take up of benefits and free school meals

- Holding energy advice roadshows with Warm and Well
- Identifying low-income households and providing targeted advice
- Developing a directory of Warm and Welcome community venues

#### 3.7 Targeted Support Requests

In recent weeks several community and voluntary organisations have approached council officers and members asking if the Council is able to provide financial support to community projects which will provide support for people hardest hit by the cost of living crisis.

3.8 Two community projects are detailed below, one targeted at children and families and the other targeted at people, likely older residents, who will find it financially difficult to heat their homes and will need a warm place to be during winter.

#### 3.9 SELFA Cost of Living Proposal

The council has been in discussions with a local children's charity SELFA who have submitted a proposal which will directly support children and families most affected by the cost of living crisis.

- 3.10 SELFA run activities and clubs in Skipton, Bentham and Settle for over 450 children each year. All the children and young people they work with are facing a range of adverse childhood experiences and have been referred by professionals such as social workers, health visitors or pastoral staff in schools. Many of the children are from low-income homes which are most affected by the cost of living crisis.
- 3.11 SELFA already provide healthy meals to children attending activities during school holidays and would now like to provide additional support by providing a healthy meal to any children attending their afterschool and weekend sessions and by providing weekly food parcels to families affected by the cost of living crisis.
- 3.12 SELFA have requested £3,000 to provide 100 meals and 20 food parcels each week during December, January and February to directly support local families affected by the cost of living crisis.
- 3.13 Members are requested to consider funding this proposal, further details of which are provided at Appendix 2.

### 3.14 Warm and Welcome Places Grant Scheme

In the last couple of weeks several local community and faith organisations have asked about support to provide warm welcoming spaces this winter for elderly and vulnerable people who will struggle to afford to heat their houses.

3.15 Similar schemes have been developed in other local authority areas and we have identified a good example being delivered by Gateshead Council further details of which are copied at Appendix 3.

- 3.16 The Gateshead scheme provides grants of up to £500 to local community venues such as village halls, community centres, social clubs and places of worship to provide a warm place in the local community where people can come together to keep warm, socialise and perhaps enjoy some additional activities.
- 3.17 The Gateshead Scheme also seeks to create a directory of all the places available to residents across the public, private, health and voluntary sectors so that anyone who is cold knows where they can go to get warm, stay warm and enjoy a little company and some hot refreshments.
- 3.18 We are requesting that Members consider approving the setting up a Warm and Welcome Places Scheme for Craven District.

#### 3.19 Proposed Operation

In order to deliver the scheme quickly and efficiently we are proposing that an additional £15, 000 is added to the Councillor Ward Member Grant budget to be used to support community venues that wish to provide a warm welcoming space over the winter months.

- 3.20 Applications to the scheme will be administered via the existing Ward Member Grant process and Ward Members will make the final recommendation on grant allocations.
- 3.21 To be considered under the scheme applicants will need to provide the following information and consent to this information being included in an online directory held on our website so that people know where they can access Warm and Welcome Places in Craven.
  - Venue Location
  - Dates and times that the venue will be open.
  - Contact details for enquiries.
  - What facilities will be available for example, hot drinks, biscuits, a bit of company, any activities, advice services, charging phones and other devices, free wi-fi, etc
  - Applicants will also be asked to confirm that their warm space will welcome anyone who needs it and treat everyone equally, with dignity and respect.
- 3.22 Organisations that are already providing Warm and Welcoming Places (such as libraries) but do not wish to apply for a grant will also be welcome to submit their details for inclusion in the directory.
- 3.23 Members are requested to consider approving funding this proposal, the amount of funding suggested is £15,000 however members may consider a different amount.

#### 4. Financial and Value for Money Implications

4.1 The cost of funding the two proposals set out in the report would be £18,000. This would be a one-off payment.

#### 5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Council is empowered to authorise expenditure benefiting local communities.
- 5.2 The arrangements with SELFA will require an SLA or funding agreement. This can be supported in-house.

#### 6. Contribution to Council Priorities

6.1 Supporting the wellbeing of our communities - Developing vibrant, connected and healthy communities

#### 6.2 Impact on the declared Climate Emergency

6.3 No impacts from this report

#### 7. Risk Management

- 7.1 The risks associated with the proposed SELFA scheme will be managed via the SLA or funding agreement.
- 7.2 The risks associated with the Warm and Welcome Places Grant Scheme will be managed through the monitoring processes already in place for the Ward Member Grant Scheme.

#### 7.3 Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) Statement

The proposals amount to £18,000 in one-off funding. It would be funded from the council's general contingency budget. Given the level of funding (and it being a one-off item) there are no additional s24 approvals required.

#### 7.4 Monitoring Officer Statement

The proposals are within the Council's powers.

#### 8. Equality Impact Analysis

8.1 The Council's Equality Impact Assessment Procedure **has been** followed. An Equality Impact Assessment **has been** completed on the proposals as completion of the **Stage 1 - Initial Screening** of the Procedure identified that the proposed policy, strategy, procedure or function **does not have** the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on •age • disability •gender • race/ethnicity • religion or religious belief (faith) •sexual orientation, or • rural isolation.

#### 9. Consultations with Others

#### 10. Background Documents

www.cravendc.gov.uk/community-living/craven-worrying-about-money-leaflet/ www.cravenfoodpartnership.org/ www.warmandwell.org.uk/

#### 10 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Report to the Yorkshire Leaders Board Appendix 2 – SELFA cost of Living Proposal Appendix 3 – Gateshead Warm Spaces Scheme and Charter

#### 11 Author of the Report

Name Kate Senior Telephone: 01756 756 414 E-mail: <u>ksenior@cravendc.gov.uk</u>

Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.

Appendix 1

### **Report to the Yorkshire Leaders Board**

**Report title:** Cost of living crisis

Date: 21 July 2022

#### 1. Purpose

1.1 To update Leaders on the current and potential impacts on residents and councils of the cost of living crisis, and consider whether any immediate action is required by the Yorkshire Leaders Board.

#### 2. <u>Background</u>

- 2.1 The country is currently facing a cost of living crisis, with increasing costs across a number of goods and services exacerbating pre-existing poverty and inequality issues in some communities across the region, affecting many of those still recovering from the effects of the pandemic, while also impacting on those who may have coped previously but are now struggling to manage.
- 2.2 The current crisis is being caused predominantly by high inflation outstripping wage and benefit increases; exacerbated further by recent tax increases. It not only impacts on residents, but businesses and public services.
- 2.3 This report sets out some background to the crisis, considering the impact high inflation could have on residents and councils, and considers whether any immediate action is required by the Yorkshire Leaders Board as the voice of the region.

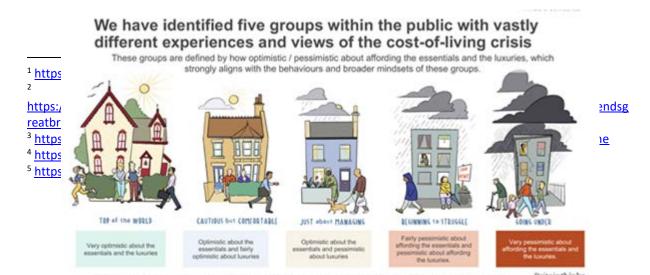
#### 3. <u>Current picture</u>

- 3.1 Latest data shows inflation currently at 9.1% in the last 12 months to May 2022, the highest rate in 40 years although if housing costs are included this comes in slightly lower.
- 3.2 The Bank of England forecast has inflation peaking at 10.2% in the fourth quarter of 2022, largely driven by cost pressures associated with the increase in the energy cap in April 2022 and the expected increase in October 2022 (previous estimates of which have been understated). Pressures linked to disruption to global supply chains and the war in the Ukraine have also impacted. It is expected inflation will remain high for the next two years.

#### 4. Impact on residents

- 4.1 Inflation remains the biggest issue for the country<sup>1</sup>, with the level of worry around inflation at its highest for around 40 years. It is reported that 91% of adults have seen their cost of living rise over the past month, up from 62% in November 2021<sup>2</sup>, due to an increase in the price of food shopping, gas or electricity bills or the price of fuel. Most common actions taken as a result of this increase were:
  - Spending less on non-essentials (60%)
  - Using less fuel such as gas or electricity at home (51%)
  - Cutting back on non-essential journeys in a vehicle (45%)
  - Shopping around more (35%)
- 4.2 It is suggested that inflation affects households differently, with inflation in the poorest households estimated by the Institute for Fiscal Studies to be around 10.9% in April, compared to 7.9% in the richest households.
- 4.3 The Joseph Rowntree Foundation<sup>3</sup> (JRF) suggests that many people in low income households have found themselves choosing between paying rent on time or feeding family members, in many cases unable to do either; with an estimated 2.3m households finding it was not a choice of heating or eating, having already gone without both. People on low-incomes have also turned to borrowing, taking on £12.5bn of new debt in 2022 out of a total £22bn, with a total of £3.5bn to high-cost lenders including doorstep lenders and illegal loan sharks. Arrears on all personal debt have more than doubled from £1.8bn to £3.8bn since October last year and, with interest rates rising, JRF expects these arrears will spiral.
- 4.4 In Yorkshire and the Humber, 17.5% of households live in fuel poverty (approximately 418,000 in 2020), the second highest in the country, ranging from 12.9% in Selby to 20.8% in Hull<sup>4</sup>.
- 4.5 With the majority of adults travelling to work doing so by a private vehicle such as a car, van or motorbike (64%), the continued increase in fuel prices is likely to have a significant impact on ability to travel to work.
- 4.6 In an interesting take, Britain Thinks<sup>5</sup> has suggested five distinct demographic typologies of people that are feeling the pressure in different ways and with different levels of optimism and pessimism, outlined below in Figure 1.

### Figure 1



#### 5. <u>Impact on councils</u>

- 5.1 The potential impact on councils is two-fold: Direct cost pressures through increased inflation and potential lost income (council tax, reduced usage of leisure services); and costs due to increased demand.
- 5.2 On 28 June 2022, during his keynote speech at the Local Government Association's annual conference<sup>6</sup>, former Secretary of State Michael Gove acknowledged the role of local councils, stating that 'every single one of the major challenges we now face as a country depends on local government.' He also referenced the accumulating demands such as in adult social care and the additional expectations in planning and housing.
- 5.3 Within adult social care there are concerns building over whether the reforms proposed by the government will be fully funded, with it feared that councils will have to pick up the bill for the difference<sup>7</sup>.
- 5.4 Analysis by the LGA<sup>8</sup> set out below shows that inflation, energy costs and projected increases to the National Living Wage (NLW) will add £2.4 billion in extra cost pressures onto council budgets this year, rising to £3.6 billion in 2024/25.

## Change in cost pressures since LGA's 2021 analysis over Spending Review period compared to 2021/22

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Inflation	£0.8bn	£0.7bn	£0.5bn
Directly employed staff (NLW compliance)	£0.4bn	£0.0bn	£0.0bn
Commissioned services (NLW compliance)	£0.8bn	£1.8bn	£2.5bn
Energy costs	£0.4bn	£0.4bn	£0.5bn
All other factors <sup>9</sup>	£0.0bn	£0.0bn	£0.1bn
Total	£2.4bn	£3.0bn	£3.6bn

- 5.5 Even before the revised forecast for the NLW, an LGA workforce survey found 15% of councils were already considering having to reduce staffing numbers, and six in 10 councils said the workforce capacity of their council to deliver services was a moderate or large concern.
- 5.6 While the government provided councils with additional funding for this financial year and council tax increased by an average of 3.6%, these

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> <u>https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/local-government-association-annual-conference-2022-</u> <u>secretary-of-states-speech</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> <u>https://www.countycouncilsnetwork.org.uk/new-analysis-reveals-the-regional-impact-on-local-councils-of-the-governments-flagship-adult-care-reforms/</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> <u>https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/inflation-and-national-living-wage-pressures-add-ps36-billion-extra-costs-council</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> All other factors are assumptions which drive demand, such as population and number of households

inflationary costs, coupled with rising demand, far outstrip these additional resources.

- 5.7 Specifically around energy cost, some quick analysis of figures provided by nine authorities from the Yorkshire and Humber region shows an average expected increase in energy costs of 141% in 2022/23 from 2021/22, with a range of between 110% and 164%.
- 5.8 At a more granular level, research released by the County Councils Network<sup>10</sup> in conjunction with the Society of County Treasurers<sup>11</sup> on 14 June 2022 warns that spiralling inflation could add £1.5bn to costs, which may need to be offset by in-year reductions to services and cancellation or delay to repairs of local roads and infrastructure. The research estimated costs of inflation in 2022/23 for 40 of England's largest councils had risen by 92% in just three months since budgets were set in March.
- 5.9 The research reveals the following breakdown of the total £1.5bn of inflationary costs being experienced by those authorities during 2022/23:
  - Adult social care services are expected to be hit with £428m of additional in-year costs, including higher fees to care providers to offset their rising costs of running care homes. Children's social care faces £72m of additional costs.
  - The cost of delivering capital projects is set to be £397m higher, including an additional £211m in building new roads and pothole filling, while the cost of building new schools and other construction and building maintenance has grown £149m.
  - Record energy prices are expected to add a minimum of £107m to council costs, including £60m for streetlights and £46m on fuel and energy bills.
  - Inflation in external contract and labour costs, including highways maintenance and waste management, are expected to add £136m to council budgets at least.
  - Rising fuel prices mean that bus, taxi and minibus providers are charging councils more for school transport services, adding £77m at least to councils' costs.
  - Increases in staff pay are expected to add £259m to the revenue budgets of councils.
- 5.10 Research by SIGOMA<sup>12</sup> released on 22 June 2022 also revealed significant inflationary pressure on budgets of metropolitan councils, with inflation predicted to be more than 4% on top of what was budgeted for, creating an estimated £570m pressure. Only 27% of councils spoken to rated their confidence in meeting this years budget as "Green" (deemed as having more

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> <u>https://www.countycouncilsnetwork.org.uk/cost-of-living-crisis-councils-face-winter-of-difficult-decisions-as-spiralling-inflation-adds-1-5bn-to-costs/</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> The Society of County Treasurers represents the chief financial officers of the 24 county councils in England as well as 16 unitary councils that share similar interests in local government issues.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> <u>https://www.sigoma.gov.uk/news/2022/sigoma-survey-reveals-significant-inflationary-pressure-on-budgets</u>

than 90% confidence), and all councils surveyed reported planning some kind of service reduction in the upcoming year, with 23% stating that they faced a threat to key services or financial sustainability.

#### 6. <u>Other analysis/impacts</u>

- 6.1 *Business/economy:* As people reduce their non-essential spending to mitigate the impacts of inflation, this will undoubtedly have a knock on impact for local economies. Latest data around retail sales in Great Britain<sup>13</sup> shows a 1.3% reduction in sales volumes in the three months to May 2022, primarily due to a 1.6% fall in sales at food stores.
- 6.2 As people potentially turn to working from home as a way to reduce travel costs, this will impact high street and town centre businesses that rely on footfall. There may also be a potential escalation in the number and impact of industrial relations, impacting provision of services and the ability for workers to travel.
- 6.3 *Third sector:* Research by Britain Thinks<sup>14</sup> highlights two key challenges for the charity sector: an increased demand for support from the public in the coming months, and a reduction in charitable donations. They report that just under a quarter of the public say they have already cancelled or reduced their charitable donation to help deal with the crisis, with a further 39% saying they will either definitely do this, or might do this. If the charity sector struggles, this will inevitably push more demand the way of local authorities, who may also receive more requests for financial and capacity support to the third and community sectors.
- 6.4 *Cities:* The Centre for Cities will soon be publishing a report<sup>15</sup> showing that some places in the UK are experiencing higher inflation than others, and that there are significant differences in how much is offset by wage growth between cities. This means that the impact of the Government's £15bn cost of living support package will be asymmetric across cities.

#### 7. <u>Government policies announced to date</u>

- 7.1 At the Local Government Association conference in June 2022, the Institute for Government highlighted that national government cannot protect everyone from the economic pain associated with the increasing costs linked to inflation, but it can influence how the pain is distributed.
- 7.2 So far government support announced throughout the year towards the cost of living totals over £37 billion, which will affect people/households differently. Measures include:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> <u>https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/retailindustry/bulletins/retailsales/may2022</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> <u>https://britainthinks.com/what-does-the-cost-of-living-crisis-mean-for-the-charity-sector/</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> <u>https://www.centreforcities.org/event/cost-of-living-report-launch/</u>

- *All households:* Energy Bills Support Scheme of £400 off bills; national insurance threshold rise to £12,570 on 6 July 2022.
- Majority of households: £150 rebate for houses in council tax band A-D.
- Vulnerable people/households: £650 one-off Cost of Living Payment for those on means tested benefits; One-off £300 Pensioner Cost of Living Payment; £150 Disability Cost of Living Payment; £500m increase and extension of Household Support Fund, extended from October to March 2023.
- 7.3 It should be noted that despite the benefit of a planned increase in the national insurance threshold, the freeze in the income tax personal allowance rate for four years will amount to a tax rise for many people on the threshold of tax brackets.
- 7.4 The government has also launched MoneyHelper, which contains free information and resources to help individuals manage their money and keep up with essential bills and payments (<u>https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/money-troubles/way-forward/</u>) and an additional website outlining the support government is making available for households (<u>https://costoflivingsupport.campaign.gov.uk/</u>).
- 7.5 In terms of councils, the then Secretary of State announced the introduction of a 2-year financial settlement from 2023, which will be consulted upon. He also announced that government will be looking at the number of funding streams and the associated bureaucracy, and committed to working with local government to reduce these burdens.
- 7.6 With the recent wide-scale change in ministerial portfolios and a new Prime Minister on the horizon, it is unclear to what extent announced measures will remain the same. There are also many unknowns linked to the levelling up agenda, which could in the longer term have a positive impact for communities in our region.

#### 8. <u>A potential Yorkshire and Humber approach</u>

- 8.1 The impacts on residents and councils of the cost of living crisis and inflationary increases is already well documented, with further research and evidence expected to emerge.
- 8.2 Councils will be considering how best to support residents in their own local areas and deal with increased demand, including supporting residents to maximise income, provision and signposting to debt and wider support, providing other financial and practical support, and as a convenor of organisations across places. Many councils run very similar schemes and initiatives to provide and signpost relevant support. Some specific examples include:

- Sheffield City Council has taken a cross-partner incident management approach, learning from the response to Covid-19, establishing a Gold command group supported by a tactical Silver group<sup>16</sup>.
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Scarborough Borough Council have launched a review of the crisis and how to support residents.
- Various initiatives to understand the nature of poverty, identify some of the underlying issues which create poverty and to further explore creative ways of addressing them.
- Connect for Help in York, which offers a free telephone assessment of needs, extra advice sessions to help with energy and money issues, and referrals to other services.
- Websites that bring together a range of information to help people on key topics such as financial support, food, housing, fuel, digital support, benefits, and accessing local services, such as Ryedale Community Connect.
- Provision of practical support and advice through services such as social housing, citizens advice, benefits services, food pantries and training within local community venues, such as Help at the Hub initiative in Wakefield.
- Supporting Families Programme in Hull, which uses caseworkers to support families in contacting debt support agencies to arrange a manageable and sustainable debt management programme, ensuring receipt of the correct benefits payments, and – in the case of poverty support families in bidding for charity funding for basic household items including, beds, wardrobes, carpets etc.
- Looking at how to use the Shared Prosperity Fund to bolster existing interventions and supporting mitigations in Doncaster.
- The officer led South Yorkshire Learning and Development Group has begun to meet to share practice and ideas in relation to the crisis across the sub-region.
- 8.3 The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commissions Regional Policy Forum has recently met to discuss the issue of fuel poverty. The Commission is well placed to add the most value and influence a regional retrofit plan to address energy consumption and improve energy efficiency, focusing on those in fuel poverty. National Energy Action has suggested a number of actions that are being considered by the Policy Forum, including: raising fuel poverty up the agenda and drawing out connections between fuel poverty and other important issues; promoting the benefit of action on warm homes for public health, loneliness, educational attainment, local economies and productivity; targeting those most at risk to inform them of wider support available via energy suppliers and others; and enforcement of regulations on energy efficiency and property standards in the private rented sector.
- 8.4 From a practical point of view, Yorkshire and Humber Chief Executives have discussed the impact of fuel price increases on staff, agreeing to collate and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> <u>https://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/documents/s52586/Cost%20of%20Living%20Crisis%2031.05.22</u>.pdf; <u>Sheffield City Council - Agenda for Strategy and Resources Policy Committee on Tuesday 5 July 2022, 2.00 pm</u>

share different approaches to mitigating petrol price rises for staff who have to use their cars for work.

- 8.5 The Yorkshire Leaders Board aims to be 'the voice of the region'. The following areas of joint work/approaches could therefore be considered:
  - *Funding:* Lobby for the introduction of a less competitive basis for prioritisation and access to funding, reducing inefficiencies for local areas having to use limited resources to focus efforts on producing competitive bids, at the expense of delivery against outcomes at a local level.
  - *Funding:* Lobby for the fast tracking of work announced by the former Secretary of State to reduce the number of funding streams.
  - *Funding:* Learning the lessons from pandemic interventions, lobby for any cost of living crisis funding to be delivered by local government to be aligned, to reduce the burden on local government of administering emergency funds/processes.
  - *Funding:* Produce a Yorkshire and Humber response to the consultation on the 2-year financial settlement from 2023.
  - Social care: Replicate the County Councils Network analysis of the potential costs and impacts of the adult social care reforms<sup>17</sup> at the Yorkshire and Humber level, with further work undertaken to explore issues raised as a specific concern for the region.
  - Learning from history: Work with Yorkshire Universities or other academic partners to understand how councils and other local services have historically responded to periods of economic hardship (e.g. the 1930's and 1970's) and whether any of these responses could be applied today.
  - Fuel poverty: Work with the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission's Regional Policy Forum to lobby around fuel poverty issues, providing support as would be viewed beneficial; and favourably consider council related recommendations made by the Commission and partners.
  - Horizon scanning and shared intelligence: Form a network of key officers in councils, linking in with other organisations such as the JRF, to ensure the Yorkshire picture is communicated to local MPs and government.
- 8.6 While not wanting to duplicate work already taking place in local authorities or sub regions, Leaders may also want to consider supporting the collation and sharing of intelligence, good practice, initiatives and case studies to help mitigate the impact of the crisis on residents, businesses and local services, such as:
  - Horizon scanning and shared intelligence: Jointly understanding both current and future pressures on residents, business and local services (e.g. energy price rises) to support planning and early intervention. This

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> <u>https://www.countycouncilsnetwork.org.uk/new-analysis-reveals-the-regional-impact-on-local-councils-of-the-governments-flagship-adult-care-reforms/</u>

could include how these pressures are likely to differently impact on differing cohorts e.g. homeowners, benefit claimants, disabled people, public transport users etc.

- Anti-poverty initiatives: Identify and share good practice within the region around anti-poverty and wider resilience work, and consider if, and how, these initiatives could be scaled up at a wider regional or cross authority level.
- Demand management: Identify and share good practice within the region and beyond around early intervention and demand management, and consider how learning from these can be wider disseminated and delivered (potentially through cross authority partnerships where applicable).
- 8.7 Chief Executives and Leaders may want to consider whether the collection of any other data/case studies would be useful, in support of a joint message or to support the LGA in its lobbying work.

#### 9. <u>Recommendations</u>

- 9.1 It is recommended that Leaders:
  - Consider whether a Yorkshire and Humber lobbying angle would be useful, particularly any of the ideas set out in 8.5 and 8.6, and any additional analysis required to develop/support a position.
  - Refer those areas of interest to the Yorkshire and Humber Chief Executives group for oversight and development.
  - Commit to make available staffing resources to collect any additional data/information required to develop a joint position.
  - Commit to fund the collection of additional data/information required to support this work, within reason.
  - Seek a meeting for the Co-Chairs with the new Secretary of State to highlight the financial challenges for councils and push for more funding for people locally in need.

#### Appendix 2

### SELFA Cost of Living proposal

**Project aim:** To provide healthy meals to children attending SELFA during the winter months; helping those most affected by the cost of living crisis.

**Background:** SELFA is a local children's charity. We run activities and clubs in Skipton, Bentham and Settle for over 450 children each year. All the children and young people we work with have been referred to us by professionals such as social workers, health visitors, pastoral staff in schools etc. Reasons for referral are varied and complex. We work with children who are facing a range of adverse childhood experiences. For those accessing our services in the last year:

- 46% had emotional/behavioural needs;
- 22% had autistic spectrum disorder;
- 21% had learning disabilities;
- 17% were young carers;
- 10% had physical health issues.

They often have low self-esteem, lack confidence and are socially isolated and they may come from low income homes, be experiencing a family crisis or help to care for parents or siblings. They are the families who have been most affected by the cost of living crisis. Many have emotional and/or behavioural problems, and gaps in provision mean they struggle to get timely support from statutory services. Approximately 10% have multiple and complex needs and require help with feeding, communication or personal care.

Since 2020 SELFA has been providing healthy meals to children and young people who attend our clubs and activities during the school holidays. We would like to extend this offer to support the children and families who attend our after-school and weekend activities during term time, in particular the harsh winter months of December through to the end of February.

Each session will include the option of a healthy meal for all of the children and young people who need one. The additional costs for ingredients will be met through repurposing food that may have previously gone to waste. We are part of the Fareshare scheme and we collect daily donations from Morrisons, Co-op, Aldi, as well as a number of local retailers and wholesalers. This ensures we can secure a significant proportion of food we need at no cost. We also have ring-fenced donations to cover any additional costs if needed.

**Request:** We would like to request £3,000 towards providing a healthy meal for every child who needs one at SELFA over the winter months. Funding would cover the following:

Item	Cost
Healthy Food Co-ordinator (10hrs/week for 12 weeks)	£1,380
Cook (10hrs/week for 12 weeks)	£1,380
Overheads (equipment, admin, resources etc.)	£240
Total	£3000

#### Outputs:

- We will provide 100 healthy meals each week to children across Craven affected by the cost of living crisis (1200 meals over the 12 weeks of winter)
- We will provide 20 family food parcels a week for those families affected by the cost of living crisis across Craven (240 parcels over the 12 weeks of winter)

#### Outcomes:

- Support local families during the cost of living crisis
- Promote health, growth and development.
- Increase resistance to illness over the winter months
- Children will eat more healthily and not go hungry
- Promotion of healthy eating habits for later life
- Improve children & young people's concentration and performance in school and other local services

#### **Appendix 3**

### **Gateshead Warm Spaces Scheme**

There is a cost-of-living crisis in the UK resulting in unprecedented pressures on people already in poverty, and this winter despite the support given by Government, thousands of people in Gateshead will be forced to make tough decisions about when and what they eat, what they can do in life, and when they can afford to heat their home.

Gateshead wants to do more to help its residents, delivering upon its Thrive ambitions to ensure:

- We put people and families at the heart of everything we do
- Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance
- Support our communities to support themselves and each other
- Work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead
- Invest in our economy to provide opportunities for employment, innovation and growth

In doing so, we wish to work with our local partners, building on the great work we did during the pandemic, to create a network of Warm Spaces, a group of places where Gateshead people can come together to stay warm, perhaps enjoy a cup of tea and a biscuit.

Our intention is to create a directory of all the places available to our residents across the public, private, health and voluntary sectors so that anyone who is the cold knows where they can go to get warm, stay warm and enjoy a little company and some hot refreshments.

#### Creating Warm Spaces for people in Gateshead

There is a cost-of-living crisis in the UK resulting in unprecedented pressures on people already in poverty, and this winter despite the support given by Government, thousands of people in Gateshead will be forced to make tough decisions about when and what they eat, what they can do in life, and when they can afford to heat their home

Could your organisation offer a Warm Space for people in your community who need it?

#### Why we need Warm Spaces

From April 2022 Ofgem **increased their price cap** for default (standard variable tariffs) and prepayment meter tariffs by 54%. This is expected to raise the bills of 22 million gas and electricity customers by an average of between £693 and £708 depending on how they pay.

This is on top of the price increase that came in October 2021, which saw an average increase of  $\pounds$ 139 -  $\pounds$ 153.

However, Ofgem reviews the Price Cap twice a year, in February and August, and implements changes in April and October. The price cap for October 2022 has not been announced but current estimations are that <u>another 20%</u> could be added. This would see the average bill increase to around £2300 a year for gas and electricity, with some families, such as those with disabilities running clinical machinery reaching as much as £3,000 per year.

The government's position on support is evolving, with some measures already announced, including:

- Residents in council tax band A to D (or band E where there is a disabled reduction) are eligible for a £150 <u>council tax rebate</u>.
- All domestic energy customers in Great Britain will receive a £400 grant to help with the cost of their energy bills through the Energy Bill Support Scheme.
- All pensioner households will receive an extra £300 to help them cover the rising cost of energy this winter.
- People with disabilities will receive an extra £150 to help with the particular extra costs they face.
- The Household Support Fund helps households who are not eligible for other kinds of help or need further support. The Government announced a further £500 million of support via the scheme, which will now run until March 2023.

The reality is that for most families, this support barely covers the increase imposed in April - it does not address the increase coming in October or the current price rises for food and fuel and other necessities.

This means that although people will have an extra money to go towards their energy costs it may not make enough of a difference.

#### Sharing Warm Spaces for Gateshead

We know that many of our partners across Gateshead already provide this type of facility, so if this is you, we're asking you to consider registering your facilities and/or services with us so we can create a Warm Spaces directory and begin to let our residents know how to access the Warm Spaces near them. We're also asking you to think about how you can enhance your space even further, perhaps by accessing our Warm Space Grants details of which you can find below.

If you've got a Warm Space already, please <u>tell us about your facilities and</u> <u>services</u>. It should take you less than two minutes to complete the form.

We are in discussion with Connected Voice about linking Warm Spaces to a grant programme to support VCSE groups with energy costs, which they will be launching later in the year. We anticipate Warm Space participants will be granted additional credit in this upcoming process.

#### Warm Space small grant programme

Small grants ( $\pounds$ 50 -  $\pounds$ 500) have been awarded to organisations in Gateshead for the creation and improvement of Warm Spaces for local communities, leading to a positive difference for those living in the area.

#### What you can expect if you offer a Warm Space

If you want to offer a Warm Space you will be asked to sign up to the <u>Warm Space</u> <u>Charter</u>, developed in collaboration with the Gateshead Poverty Truth Commission. The Charter is intended to help local people who want to use the Warm Spaces to know what to expect when they step across the threshold of a Warm Space building; a guarantee of respect, dignity and warmth.

Two training modules are available to you, the first is mandatory for all Warm Space participants, it includes:

- Understanding the Warm Space Charter
- Things to consider in preparing your venue to receive visitors
- The importance of confidentiality in a Warm Space Understanding the Cost of Living Crisis and how this affects people
- Making Every Contact Count
- Signposting visitors to advice, advocacy, and support
- Communicating under different circumstances and managing difficult conversations.

•

The second training module is discretionary, it includes:

- Basic energy efficiency information and signposting
- Signposting for energy advice to include charitable grants
- Understanding the Household Support Fund and how to refer

Further, you'll receive branding guidance and a social media toolkit so you can create own materials to promote your Warm Space.

Warm Space participants will be expected to adhere to their own safeguarding policies and ensure that all staff and volunteers are briefed on these procedures.

### Warm Spaces Gateshead Charter

#### You'll get a warm welcome as well as Warm Space

Every time you come to a Warm Space you'll be given a warm welcome from the staff and volunteers there.

#### Everyone is treated equally, with dignity and respect

Everyone has a right to be warm, so everyone in a Warm Space treats people, and is treated by people, with dignity and respect.

#### Your Warm Space will be a safe space

Your Warm Space will stick to the safeguarding policies that it always uses, and it will stick to food hygiene rules too!

#### We'll not tell anyone about you needing a Warm Space

If you want to share the reasons you need a Warm Space, someone will listen, but they won't tell anyone else unless you give them permission, or they must because of their safeguarding policies.

#### It doesn't matter why you need a Warm Space

Every Warm Space is a non-judgemental space; whatever the reason you have for needing to come in, you'll be treated the same and never judged.

### Policy Committee – 13 September 2022

Community-led Retrofit Empty Homes Action Partnership

**Report of the Chief Executive** 



### Lead Member – Greener Craven, Cllr Chris Moorby

Ward(s) affected: All

#### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To share details of Craven District Council's proposed involvement in a oneyear feasibility study to test and evaluate the viability of a potential three-year local community-led Retrofit Empty Homes Action Partnership in Craven.
- 2. Recommendations Members are recommended to:
- 2.1 Agree to work in partnership with Action on Empty Homes on the feasibility study to develop a three-year local community-led Retrofit Empty Homes Action Partnership in Craven.
- 2.2 Agree that officers can help identify empty properties or conversions that could be part of options to enable a potential full-retrofit demonstration project to take place in Craven.
- 2.3 Agree that officer time can be utilised to identify and connect with local project partners and community groups to be involved in the feasibility study.
- 2.4 To authorise the Chief Executive to negotiate the terms of a pilot project to purchase and convert empty properties into low carbon affordable dwellings.

#### 3. Report

- 3.1 This report provides an outline of a pilot project to work in partnership with Action on Empty Homes (AEH) on a one-year feasibility study to test and evaluate the viability of three-year local community-led Retrofit Empty Homes Action Partnerships (REHAP), to retrofit empty homes, deliver green skills training and build local supply chain markets, which together will help drive action on climate change at the local level.
- 3.2 AEH has received a funding grant of £60,000 to work with three local authority areas to deliver community-based empty homes full-retrofit demonstration projects. Craven has been approached as one of these areas due to its rural nature, and the specifics of local properties (including stone buildings that are

harder to retrofit). This is alongside a lack of specialist skills for retrofitting in area.

- 3.3 Empty homes are an untapped resource. Communities have already defined access to affordable rented housing, climate change and rising fuel costs as issues of concern to them. The feasibility study aims to help develop and support community-led collaborations to deliver affordable low-carbon housing from empty homes, train and upskill local people through retrofitting and renovating the homes, and build local green economies, fit for the future.
- 3.4 The full retrofitting of an existing home is complex and requires substantial changes to the infrastructure of the house. The result is an integrated system of low-carbon energy generation, efficient energy use and internal climate control. Empty homes are unoccupied and so provide an ideal opportunity to green-skill local trades and build viable local green supply chain markets, generating employment and supporting enterprise, while at the same time increasing the supply of sustainable homes that are affordable to rent and to live in. It is very difficult to undertake the scale of remodelling needed with residents in occupation. The expertise and supply chain developed by fully retrofitting empty homes could then be scaled up across the area and a wide range of house types. Communities reliant on private sector housing, especially privately rented housing, may be left behind as their homes are considered 'too difficult' to fully retrofit, leaving low-income households to meet the increasing cost of fuel delivered through the national grid.
- 3.5 Through the feasibility study Craven District Council will assist AEH to:
  - Work closely with communities to explore attitudes to climate change, retrofitting, and the need for secure affordable housing.
  - Convene multi-interest focus groups and workshops to 'walk through' and test project delivery options, to evaluate strengths and opportunities and identify potential barriers and challenges.
  - Design and test approaches to messaging and engagement around the three-year community partnership project to retrofit empty homes, deliver green skills training and build local supply chain markets.
  - Identify empty properties or conversions that could be part of options to enable a potential full-retrofit demonstration project to take place in Craven
  - The feasibility study will link to CDC's Empty Homes Strategy. Adopted in 2019, the Strategy seeks to encourage empty home owners to return long term empty properties to use through advice and assistance, culminating in enforcement action as a matter of last resort.

#### 4. Low Carbon Affordable Homes Retro Fit Pilot

4.1 As part of the Devolution Deal, the Government and the York and North York Local Enterprise Partnership have identified the opportunity for Craven District Council to draw down approximately £400,000 to part fund a pilot project. The project will involve the purchase of three empty properties, retrofit low carbon measures and renovate them as affordable houses. It is expected that the houses will have been vacant for at least two years, or the property is no longer able to be used for its traditional use.

4.2 The funding is subject to the development of a strategic business case which will need to be agreed with Government. It is anticipated that there will need to be match funding from Craven District Council in addition to the £400,000 from the Devolution Deal. The business case setting out the project, including the finances will be presented to the Policy Committee in October for approval.

#### 5. Financial and Value for Money Implications

- 5.1 The feasibility study will include the development of a proposal for delivery of a three-year local community partnership project to retrofit empty homes and help rebuild local economies, initially across three local authority areas.
- 5.2 AEH will work with Craven District Council to explore and negotiate potential funding streams for revenue and capital works and on-site training, developing relationships with private, public and third sector funding bodies. A negotiated framework with funders will be established with detailed options to deliver community-led retrofitting of empty homes
- 5.3 Any capital expenditure will be brought back to a committee for approval should need for it arise. Section 24 approval will be sought should it be required.

#### 6. Legal Implications

6.1 The Council will require a Service Level Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding to agree the level of resource contribution from each party. This legal work can be undertaken inhouse.

#### 7. Contribution to Council Priorities

7.1 This study will help with progress towards addressing the Council Plan priority 'Carbon Neutral Craven. - - Facilitating economic growth in a low carbon and our objective to provide affordable energy efficient homes. The study will take direction from our 2019 Empty Homes Strategy.

#### 7.2 Impact on the declared Climate Emergency

Twenty percent of all greenhouse gas emissions in the UK are 'operational' carbon emissions from residential housing. Energy efficiency and sustainable fuel production achieved through retrofitting are essential to reduce the climate impact of housing. Embodied carbon emissions make up a large proportion of the emissions from the construction sector, often 20-50% of the whole life carbon emissions of a new building, retrofitting existing homes reduces the need and unnecessary waste of new-build expansion

#### 8. Risk Management

8.1 No risk envisaged at this stage

#### 8.2 Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) Statement

None required at this stage

#### 8.3 Monitoring Officer Statement

The proposal is within the Council's powers.

#### 9. Equality Impact Analysis

9.1 The Council's Equality Impact Assessment Procedure has been followed. An Equality Impact Assessment has not been completed on the proposals as completion of Stage 1- Initial Screening of the Procedure identified that the proposed policy, strategy, procedure or function does not have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on •age • disability •gender • race/ethnicity • religion or religious belief (faith) •sexual orientation, or • rural isolation.

#### 10 Consultations with Others

- 10.1 Service Managers,
- 11 Background Documents AEH proposal to Esmée Fairbairn Foundation AEH website - <u>Action on Empty Homes</u> Empty Homes Strategy 2019

#### 12 Appendices

#### 13 Author of the Report

NameFiona Protheroe, Climate Emergency OfficerE-mail:fprotheroe@cravendc.gov.uk

Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.

### Policy Committee – 13 September 2022

York & North Yorkshire's Routemap to Carbon Negative

**Report of the Chief Executive** 



### Lead Member – Greener Craven, Cllr Chris Moorby

Ward(s) affected: All

#### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report shares details of the York and North Yorkshire Routemap to Carbon Negative that the York & North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (Y&NY LEP) board adopted in July 2022. The Routemap will be formally launched at the Y&NY LEP's Business Summit in October 2022. Y&NY LEP have approached all local authorities in the region to adopt the Routemap.
- 1.2 While there are limited implications for Craven District Council over the next 6 months, and the LEP team are working with the new North Yorkshire unitary to map out appropriate sign-off and adoption processes, it is felt that the endorsement of the routemap is in keeping with the commitment that Craven District Council has shown to addressing the climate emergency, and an important step in promoting awareness locally that there is much to be done in this area longer term.

#### 2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to endorse the York and North Yorkshire's Routemap to Carbon Negative.

#### 3. Report

- 3.1 Over the past two years, the Y&NY LEP have led on the development of York and North Yorkshire's Routemap to Carbon Negative, which provides a clear, co-owned plan to achieve net zero by 2034 and carbon negative by 2040.
- 3.2 The initial draft of York and North Yorkshire's Routemap to Carbon Negative went out for consultation from the 28 February to 17 March 2022. Over 40 organisations responded to the consultation, including Craven District Council, and other local authorities, national park authorities, private sector partners, business networks, academia and community groups.
- 3.3 To ensure an evidence based approach to delivering on York and North Yorkshire's ambitious carbon targets, a number of studies have informed the development of the Routemap. This includes initial research undertaken by

the Tyndall Centre to establish a carbon budget for the region that ensures we make our 'fair' contribution towards the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

3.4 The Routemap contains a series of high-level action plans which include clear timeframes for implementation, as well as clear ownership of actions. The full version of the Routemap document can be found in Annex A. The table below outlines the scale of ambition targets for high emitting sectors that are included in the Routemap:

Power			
Upgrade the electricity infrastructure to enable over double the			
existing demand by 2038 (up to 102% higher annual demand)			
Install an additional 1,500 megawatt (MW) of capacity from solar,			
onshore wind and hydropower by 2030 and over 2,500 MW by 2038			
• Deploy a 300 MW first-of-a-kind hydrogen (H <sub>2</sub> ) turbine online by 2030,			
with 300 MW subsequent increase every 3 years			
Reduce peak demand by 10% by 2038			
<ul> <li>Increase installed anaerobic digestion (AD) generation capacity by 14MW by 2030 and 16MW by 2038</li> </ul>			
<ul> <li>Increase installed small bioenergy generation capacity by 42MW by 2030 and 60MW by 2038*</li> </ul>			
<ul> <li>Deploy battery storage to a scale of 441 MW capacity by 2030 and 736 MW capacity by 2038</li> </ul>			
<ul> <li>Install Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) to large biomass and fossil</li> </ul>			
plants, with 2 biomass turbines fitted with CCS technology at Drax by			
2034, capturing 8 MtCO <sub>2</sub> /yr by 2030 (only 20% of which is attributed to			
region)			
• Deploy CCS retrofits onto Energy from Waste (EfW) generation by 2030			
Heat & Buildings			
<ul> <li>Retrofit homes to at least an EPC C rating - 180,000 by 2030 and 250,000 by 2038</li> </ul>			
• Retrofit public buildings to at least an EPC C rating or above by 2027			
<ul> <li>Large-scale deployment of heat pumps – 130,000-200,000 will be</li> </ul>			
required by 2030, and 200,000-270,000 by 2038			
• Deploy district heating to 10% of buildings by 2030 and over 18% of			
buildings by 2038			
<ul> <li>Install H<sub>2</sub> boilers in between 13%-40% buildings by 2038 (dependant</li> </ul>			
on gas grid deployment)			
Eliminate oil boiler use by 2030			
Deploy rooftop solar PV on 70,000 homes by 2030 and 101,00 by 2038			
<ul> <li>Deploy biobased construction materials in 2,000 new homes by 2030, and 14,000 new homes by 2038</li> </ul>			
Transport			
Reduce private car usage by 48% by 2030			
Increase active travel for short journeys, ensuring walking and cycling			
accounts for 17% of distance travelled by 2038:			
Increase of 40% in walking kms travelled by 2030			
Increase of 900% in cycling kms travelled by 2030			

- Increase of passenger modal share by bus to 8 % of all journeys and by train to 16% by 2030:
- Increase in bus passengers km by 49% in 2030 and 56% by 2038
- Roll-out of battery electric buses, ensuring they account for 25% of the fleet by 2030 and 95% by 2038.
- Roll-out of battery electric vehicles, ensuring they account for 33% vehicles on the road by 2030, and 76% by 2038 (Battery electric vehicle sales to be in the order 20,000 per year by 2038)
- Van activity decreasing by 10% with share of vehicle stock being 16% battery electric vehicles by 2030 and 55% by 2038
- HGV activity decreasing by 19% with share of vehicle stock Diesel ICE decreasing from 74% in 2030 to 10% in 2038.
- 10% of freight is shifted from heavy goods vehicles to rail
- 2% of van traffic is replaced by cycle freight
- Sales of zero emissions heavy goods vehicles increasing from around 250 per year in 2030 to close to 700 per year by 2038

#### Industry & Business

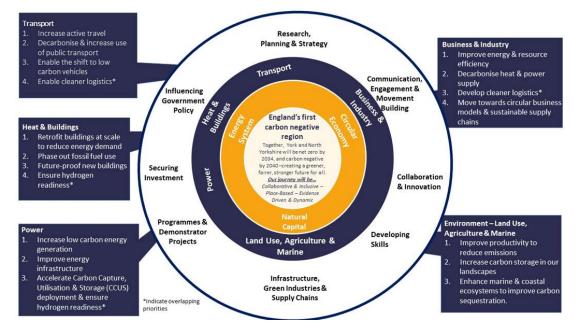
- Retrofit over 62% of existing business premises by 2038
- Increase installation of rooftop solar on business premises, approximately 48 Gwh each year up to 2038
- Increase energy efficiency of businesses to reduce energy demand by 25% by 2030
- Increase electrification of industry, particularly for low temperature heat and heat on smaller sites\*
- Increase fuel switching to bioenergy, so that bioenergy accounts for 10% of industry fuel use by 2030 and 11% by 2038
- Increase material efficiency and circularity of business processes and products, resulting in a 15-40% reduction in energy consumption by 2038
- Shift short journeys of light freight to cycle and double the proportion of freight carried by rail by 2030 (from 10% to 20%)
- Deploy district heating to cover between 12-22% of non-domestic heat by 2038
- Deploy hydrogen boilers to supply approximately 11% of nondomestic heat by 2038

#### Environment – Land Use, Agriculture & Marine

- Plant 37,000 hectares of new woodland by 2038
- Increase amount of hedgerows in the region by 20% by 2038, alongside improvements in hedgerow width and health
- 100% of upland and lowland peatlands under restoration by 2038
- Improve manure management
- Decarbonisation of on-farm machinery
- Increase bioenergy crops to reach over 5,000 hectares by 2038
- Achieve 30% reduction in food waste by 2030

3.5 The Routemap strategic framework summarises the "what" – the <u>strategic</u> <u>pillars</u> and <u>priorities for each sector</u>, alongside the "how" – the <u>key enablers</u> to create a carbon negative economy. The strategic pillars of decarbonising

our energy system, moving towards a circular economy and enhancing our natural capital build upon the region's existing strengths, and ensure that we are taking a holistic approach to deliver benefits beyond carbon reduction to create a greener, fairer, stronger economy.



- 3.6 Within our places and across high emitting sectors Power, Heat & Buildings, Transport, Industry & Business, Land Use, Agriculture & Marine– transformative change is needed. The Routemap sets out a long term direction of travel and key strategic priorities to deliver these changes. The Routemap identifies a number of enablers (as shown in the outer ring of the framework diagram) to enable the transformation to a carbon negative York and North Yorkshire. Within the Routemap, cross-cutting enabling actions are identified, as well as enabling actions for each sector.
- 3.7 A key piece of feedback received from LEP boards and the stakeholder consultation was that the delivery of net zero was dependant on a number of critical factors that are outside of the direct control of the York and North Yorkshire sub-region, particularly national funding and policy change. As a result of this feedback, for each of the Routemap sections, the team have identified such risks and dependencies, and a strategy to mitigate them.
- 3.8 The implementation of the Routemap will be overseen by the LEP Board until new structures are established through the proposed Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA).
- 3.9 To ensure the effective implementation of the Routemap, the LEP team and partners including Craven District Council will build on the high-level action plans to develop detailed implementation plans. As part of these implementation plans, key milestones, success criteria and risks registers will be developed to enable performance to be tracked against the interventions set out in the Routemap. Members' feedback on the Routemap will feed into the development of detailed implementation plans.

#### 4. Financial and Value for Money Implications

Substantial investment from organisations across York and North Yorkshire will be required to deliver the Routemap. No financial commitment is required this year from Craven District Council beyond projects committed to in our Climate Emergency Strategic Plan

#### 5. Legal Implications

No additional legal implications, the projects to be supported are already identified in the Council's Climate Emergency Strategic Plan.

#### 6. Contribution to Council Priorities

6.1 This study will help with progress towards addressing the Council Plan priority 'Carbon Neutral Craven'.

#### 6.2 Impact on the declared Climate Emergency

The Routemap complements the actions taken by the Council and its partners according to the Climate Emergency Strategic Plan, which was agreed in March 2020 following the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019.

The Y&NY LEP team are working with the new North Yorkshire unitary to map out appropriate sign-off and adoption processes. The Routemap will also be designed up, ensuring branding aligns with the forthcoming devolution consultation, alongside NYC's Climate Change Strategies.

#### 7. Risk Management

7.1 No risk envisaged at this stage

#### 7.2 Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) Statement

None required at this stage

#### 7.3 Monitoring Officer Statement

The recommendations are in accordance with the Council's constitution and statutory powers.

#### 8. Equality Impact Analysis

8.1 The Council's Equality Impact Assessment Procedure has been followed. An Equality Impact Assessment has not been completed on the proposals as completion of Stage 1- Initial Screening of the Procedure identified that the proposed policy, strategy, procedure or function does not have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on •age • disability •gender • race/ethnicity • religion or religious belief (faith) •sexual orientation, or • rural isolation.

#### 9. Consultations with Others

9.1 Service Managers

#### **10.** Background Documents

York and North Yorkshire's Routemap to Carbon Negative

#### 11. Appendices

#### 12. Author of the Report

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Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.