

Harrogate District Climate Change Coalition strategic statement of aspirations, 2022-2026

This consultation paper has been prepared by the voluntary trustees of the Harrogate District Climate Change Coalition (HDCCC) for a public consultation process in mid-January to end-February 2022.

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HDCCC objectives as stated in articles of Charitable Incorporated Organisation:

The promotion for the benefit of the public of the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the Harrogate District, in particular:

1. By raising awareness of the causes and impact of climate change; and
2. Encouraging practical steps to reduce atmospheric green house gas levels and adapt to or mitigate the impacts of climate change to improve climate resilience.

Purpose of HDCCC strategic statement of aspirations:

1. Is intended to underpin implementable action plans which involve a wide range of partners and focus on the highest impact actions for resilience and decarbonisation of Harrogate District;
2. Is informed by national, regional and local research, expertise & consultation (eg: golden thread to publications from Climate Change Committee 2020, Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission 2021);
3. Connects & inspires decision makers to ensure wide influence and shared leadership (eg: national & local government, local businesses/organisations, residents);
4. Can be published 'on a page' (the bold sections) but includes sufficient detail to ensure action plans are developed which focus on high impact actions;
5. To support consultation processes and gathering of solution focused feedback.

Summary of the 4 sections within the HDCCC strategic statement of aspirations

Section 1 Cross-cutting strategic themes

HDCCC acknowledges that urgent and ambitious action is required to reduce the district's carbon contribution to the global climate and ecological emergency and to reduce the impact of climate change on our region.

Section 2 Ensuring HDCCC can be effective

HDCCC recognise that in order to be effective we need sufficient capacity, broad understanding of potential local solutions, and support from our local communities. We will ensure our working practices and strategic approaches support rapid and measurable achievement of our planned objectives.

Section 3 Net Zero Actions – strategic overview

1.Data & evidence: HDCCC has the local target of achieving net zero by 2038 with significant progress by 2030 (80+% down from 2005).

2.Energy: HDCCC will seek to maximise local opportunities to reduce demand for energy, decarbonise energy and catalyse change through information sharing and the creation of new opportunities to share effective practice.

3.Existing buildings: HDCCC will seek to maximise local opportunities to encourage ambitious retrofit and active energy management for existing public, commercial & domestic buildings.

4.New buildings & infrastructure: HDCCC seeks to minimise the impact and maximise the whole life contribution of new developments to decarbonisation:

5.Transport & infrastructure: HDCCC will promote the development of an integrated transport plan for the Harrogate District which will encourage sustainable transport to support a reduced demand for car & aviation miles per person whilst recognising the specific needs of rural, disabled and disadvantaged residents and being mindful of the need to offer economic opportunities to local businesses.

6.Business: HDCCC seeks to support local businesses to integrate energy demand reduction and decarbonisation into procurement, supply chain and business practices, and to actively encourage local SMEs to innovate and reposition themselves to succeed in a net zero, climate resilient regional economy.

7.Land use & agriculture: HDCCC will promote sustainable innovations in agriculture and promote net zero in land use by protecting and enhancing key natural assets in such a way that supports sustainable food production, improved soil health and regenerative farm management techniques whilst fostering resilience and promoting biodiversity. HDCCC will seek to ensure that the unique local landscapes in Harrogate District are managed in a way which maximises opportunities for natural carbon capture and storage in farmlands, peatlands, woodlands and other natural ecosystems.

8.Resources & waste: HDCCC seeks to promote the highest standards in waste management whilst promoting sustainable consumption, sustainable lifestyles and a circular local economy.

Section 4 Climate resilience

HDCCC will promote changes in planning that put climate and nature at the heart of design and delivery of local plans to increase climate resilience in the district through natural solutions and risk management.

The HDCCC strategic statement of aspirations (for consultation Jan 2022)

Section 1 Cross-cutting strategic themes

HDCCC acknowledges that urgent and ambitious action is required to reduce the district's carbon contribution to the global climate and ecological emergency and to reduce the impact of climate change on our region.

HDCCC will:

- Develop a positive local vision;
- Work through collaborative partnerships and use evidence to inform real-world delivery of ambitious, accelerated change;
- Put climate, nature and a just transition at the heart of decision making;
- Improve understanding through education and engaging communities in all demographics;
- Foster skills development;
- Celebrate local successes;
- Learn from, contribute to and support regional and national initiatives (such as financial platforms, and sustainability indexes);
- Connect with national decision makers, including through formal links with 3 local MPs and via Y&HCC;
- Understand and seek to ameliorate the impact of climate change on the health and health inequalities of local people, including mental health;
- Use high quality research into climate change to inform appropriate, timely and informed communication for our local audiences.

Section 2 Ensuring HDCCC can be effective

HDCCC recognise that in order to be effective we need sufficient capacity, broad understanding of potential local solutions, and support from our local communities. We will ensure our working practices and strategic approaches support rapid and measurable achievement of our planned objectives.

HDCCC consider the following are required:

- Capacity: We will seek funding to facilitate specific projects and increase capacity by developing inclusive & collaborative relationships with influential local organisations & individuals;
- Solutions: To ensure HDCCC explore relevant range of potential local solutions we will consult partners and residents about our strategy & action plans;
- Support: To ensure our strategic & action plans can be supported by the majority of local organisations and individuals, we will seek to understand specific concerns, demonstrate respect for alternative views, and communicate the co-benefits of actions towards our collective objectives;
- How we will work: Quarterly board meetings to review impact and mitigate issues arising. Sub-groups will draw on wide range of expertise to progress objectives. Creative & flexible arrangements at all levels for effective collaborative partnerships which accelerate progress towards HDCCC objectives. We will recruit volunteers who have relevant skills, influence and who demonstrate their ability to make a difference re key priorities. Leadership of action plan priorities and projects will be

distributed amongst relevant partners (although HDCCC trustees will retain leadership of strategic planning);

- Partnership working: We acknowledge that there may be occasions on which individual trustees and partners choose to distance themselves from specific actions in future plans. We hope that partnership working brings commercial advantages to local businesses, but we will not specifically endorse any company or promote one over another;
- We will meet our objectives through a variety of strategic approaches including: convening new collaborations, signposting and disseminating best practice, celebrating success, and encouraging behaviour change. In so doing, we will seek to ensure we focus on high impact actions and consciously seek to avoid predictable pitfalls.

Section 3 Net Zero Actions – strategic overview

- 1. Data & evidence: HDCCC has the local target of achieving net zero by 2038 with significant progress by 2030 (80+% down from 2005).**

HDCCC will:

- We will develop a route-map to 2038 which clearly informs priorities for high impact action for decarbonisation across Harrogate District and put in place an annual monitoring process. Our partners' decarbonisation plans will be considered during this process but HDCCC will assume responsibility for promoting the overall local ambition and accepts that the expectations of the HDCCC route map may not always match those of our partners.
- Whilst we recognise that most readily available data relates to scope 1 & 2 emissions, evidence shows that local consumption/supply chain/scope 3 are approximately twice those of scopes 1 & 2 combined. For this reason, we will give equal effort to reducing consumption based emissions and seek to find and use relevant data sources (whilst acknowledging that this is a developing field).

- 2. Energy: HDCCC will seek maximise local opportunities to reduce demand for energy, decarbonise energy and catalyse change through information sharing and the creation of new opportunities to share effective practice.**

Key opportunities identified by HDCCC include:

- Reducing demand for energy in buildings and transport;
- Greatly accelerated decarbonisation of energy including through encouraging renewable power purchase agreements and generation of local renewables;
- Promote the development of local generation and distribution grids.

- 3. Existing buildings: HDCCC will seek maximise local opportunities to encourage ambitious retrofit and active energy management for existing public, commercial & domestic buildings.**

For example:

- This work will be informed by new quality assurance programmes as they develop and will focus on reducing fuel poverty including in rented properties;
- We will prioritise immediate action in buildings which will give most rapid maximum climate benefits but will seek to learn from those exploring climate objectives in heritage buildings;
- Signposting support for commercial and domestic (including private rented) to at least meet new EPC requirements.

4. New buildings & infrastructure: HDCCC seeks to minimise the impact and maximise the whole life contribution of new developments to decarbonisation:

Key opportunities identified by HDCCC include:

- Working with local planning and highways authorities and developers;
- Encouraging lowest possible energy demand through building design & manufacture, on-site renewable generation, sustainable travel infrastructure;
- The creation of 20 minute neighbourhoods.

5. Transport & infrastructure: HDCCC will promote the development of an integrated transport plan for the Harrogate District which will encourage sustainable transport to support a reduced demand for car & aviation miles per person whilst recognising the specific needs of rural, disabled and disadvantaged residents and being mindful of the need to offer economic opportunities to local businesses.

Key opportunities identified by HDCCC include:

- Actively encouraging the use of shared transport such as trains, buses, and car clubs and recognise the importance of active travel during the “last mile” in successful local transport systems;
- Recognising and supporting the need for EV, innovative technologies and infrastructure for road & agricultural transport;
- Recognising that three quarters of flights are taken by fewer than 15% of people and encouraging frequent flyers to seek alternative modes of travel;
- Promoting alternative ways of connecting with others.

6. Business: HDCCC seeks to support local businesses to integrate energy demand reduction and decarbonisation into procurement, supply chain and business practices, and to actively encourage local SMEs to innovate and reposition themselves to succeed in a net zero, climate resilient regional economy.

Key opportunities identified by HDCCC include:

- Encouraging and supporting business commitments to net zero;
- Signposting sources of support for the development of business routemaps to net zero;
- Supporting renewable energy generation/purchase;
- Raising awareness of sustainable principles such as the circular economy, and the value of ideas such as Doughnut Economics.

7. Land use & agriculture: HDCCC will promote sustainable innovations in agriculture and promote net zero in land use by protecting and enhancing key natural assets in such a way that supports sustainable food production, improved soil health and regenerative farm management techniques whilst fostering resilience and promoting biodiversity. HDCCC will seek to ensure that the unique local landscapes in Harrogate District are managed in a way which maximises opportunities for carbon capture and storage in natural ecosystems.

- Promote sustainable and appropriate nature-based decarbonisation activities. These can include, but are not limited to: peatland restoration, tree planting, hedgerow restoration, wetland

restoration, and improving grassland. This will be promoted at all levels, from small scale to large, landscape scale actions where appropriate. We will ensure these measures fit alongside sustainable food production and current land management practices.

- Promote land management practices that support sustainable food production and support our local farm businesses to ensure our local food security.
- Support and promote habitat creation initiatives that seek to deliver further benefits in addition to carbon sequestration, such as enhancing biodiversity and engaging local communities.
- Include and involve land managers and local residents (where appropriate, e.g. on council owned land and existing Habitats of Principal Importance) to ensure decisions and actions are balanced, achievable and appropriate.

8. Resources & waste: HDCCC seeks to promote the highest standards in waste management whilst promoting sustainable consumption, sustainable lifestyles and a circular local economy.

Section 4 Climate resilience

HDCCC will promote changes in planning that put climate and nature at the heart of design and delivery of local plans to increase climate resilience in the district through natural solutions and risk management.

Note: Key opportunities identified by HDCCC include:

Natural Solutions:

- Promote and encourage blue-green infrastructure to avoid the need for carbon-intensive grey infrastructure;
- Inspire and encourage the use of nature-based solutions in the broader landscape and urban environs;
- Foster carbon sequestration where possible.

Risk Management:

- Promote understanding of climate risk;
- Promote adaptation and mitigation strategies and options;
- Promote inclusive climate decision making and the co-creation of solutions;
- Promote resilience actions that offer health, wellbeing and community benefits.

How to respond to this consultation. Members of the public and organisations in Harrogate District are invited to respond to email@hdccc.info by 28th February 2022.

Q1: Are you or your organisation able to help us turn our strategic aspirations into targeted action plans and purposeful activity? For example, you may have access to funding or have experience in the construction industries or digital comms skills which you are willing to use as a volunteer with the Harrogate District Climate Change Coalition.

Q2: Do you think our strategic aspirations may exclude or disproportionately affect specific groups of people? If so, please let us know so that we can seek to ensure that our work benefits all sections of our local communities.