

## HDCCC press release 170122

### Public consultation on HDCCC strategic statement of aspirations

**What:** The trustees of Harrogate District Climate Change Coalition (HDCCC) are consulting the public about their strategic statement of aspiration for 2022 – 2026.

The coalition's strategic statement of aspirations outlines the charity's role in communicating and raising awareness of many local actions which are needed to reach net zero emissions by 2038 and to limit the impact climate change will have on our lifestyles and livelihoods.

The coalition recognises that they have a role in connecting with regional and national leaders, for example to encourage new central government policies which will reduce national demand for fossil fuels in order to bring about change that will reduce the burden of action for the greatest number.

However, the consultation document makes clear that much of the coalition's work will be to raise awareness of the many benefits of climate friendly changes which can already be made by local organisations and residents.

Some key changes which the coalition aims to raise awareness of include reducing demand for fossil fuel heating in local buildings, increasing local renewable energy generation, enhancing carbon capture through changed land management, and improving access to shared transport.

**HDCCC Chair, Professor Neil Coles, says:** *“Our consultation document shows there are fantastic opportunities for HDCCC to raise awareness of many ways our district can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, especially carbon, very quickly. Many local businesses, organisations and individuals shared their existing decarbonisation success stories with local residents and employees during our October Climate Action Festival. We have drawn on these excellent examples of good local practice and included them in our strategic statement of aspiration for 2022-2026.”*

**Kirsty Hallett, a member of the HDCCC communications & engagement sub-group says:**

*“Many of the HDCCC trustees are employed by organisations which already have their own strategic proposals for reaching net zero. These do not duplicate the work of HDCCC but may bring added emphasis and support for key elements of the coalition's strategy. One role of the coalition will be to encourage all local businesses to plan how they will reduce emissions to net zero through actions that will increase their resilience to climate change impacts and promote carbon reductions through their suppliers.”*

### How to respond to this consultation

Members of the public and organisations in Harrogate District are invited to respond to [email@hdccc.info](mailto:email@hdccc.info) by 28<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**Who are HDCCC:** HDCCC achieved charitable status in November 2021. They believe this puts them in a strong position to accelerate action and increase their local impact. The Coalition's charitable objectives are to raise awareness of the causes and impact of climate change and to encourage practical steps to manage the climate risks and help communities and business reduced their carbon footprint. The aim of the Coalition is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to improve local resilience to climate impacts such as flooding and the increasing instability of seasonal weather patterns.

The Harrogate District Climate Change Coalition constitution allows for up to 12 charitable trustees, who have influence in sectors such as transport, buildings and local policy. The start-up group of trustees bring expertise and skills from the private, public, education and voluntary sectors: Alec Walton (Green Jumper), Alex Hornby (Harrogate Bus Company), Chris Arnott (FM-MS), Danny Wild (Harrogate College), Jemima Parker (Zero Carbon Harrogate), Mike Kaye (Energy Oasis), Professor Neil Coles (Chair), Cllr Phil Ireland (Vice Chair), Wallace Sampson (Harrogate Borough Council). Additional trustees with relevant skills and authority will bring additional capacity in the coming months.

**Chris Arnott, Chair of the HDCCC communications & engagement sub-group says:**

*"As a registered charity, the HDCCC is recognised as successful and working to high standards. This means the Coalition will be in a strong position to seek funding which will help us to make a difference to people living and working in our district."*

*"With the added capacity and expertise our new trustees bring to the table, the Harrogate District Climate Change Coalition will be able to step up the pace of our collaborative work with leaders from local businesses, councils and community groups."*

**History of HDCCC:** Kirsty Hallett, a member of Harrogate District Climate Change Coalition, said:

*"The Coalition was initially set up in 2019 by Harrogate Borough Council as part of its work to address climate change. The Coalition board agreed to become an independent body in order to increase their capacity, reach and impact in February 2021."*

*"Now that the Coalition has achieved the benefit of charitable status, work is going on to ensure our strategy and action plans will benefit from a broader representative leadership which benefits from the strengths and knowledge of a wide range of local expertise."*

**Next steps:**

**If you have any questions about our strategic statement of aspirations, or you would like to know more about how you or your organisation might be able to support the work of HDCCC , please contact us via [email@hdccc.info](mailto:email@hdccc.info).**

Prepared by Kirsty Hallett 170122