

# **Buildings and Retrofit Working Group**

## **Terms of Reference**

### **Purpose and remit**

Carbon emissions from domestic and non-domestic buildings in York account for around two-thirds of the city's locally produced carbon emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>e).

The purpose of the Buildings and Retrofit Working Group is to inform, influence and help shape civil society, governmental, and business decisions in and around York concerning the built environment and climate change mitigation and adaptation. It will do this both directly (as a working group talking to key stakeholders) and through feeding its work through the machinery of the wider York Climate Commission. It will seek to add value to existing climate and built environment action in the city and to support the scaling up of positive activity in keeping with the city's Climate Change Strategy and Climate Action Plan.

### **Scope**

It is not the role of the working group to make executive decisions but it can advise and make recommendations and issue 'calls for action' on specific issues within its remit or that impact upon its remit.

To this end it will make decisions on its own work plan and on recommendations it will make to the Climate Commission Steering Group and/or to the annual York Climate Commission gathering.

In keeping with approved city strategies, the Working Group will always promote the social benefits of climate action in the built environment, including lower energy costs for households and businesses and improved health for individuals and communities.

### **Overarching objectives**

1. To keep informed of what is already happening in the city and to facilitate the sharing of information, experience and expertise on climate action in the built environment sector in York.
2. Openly share relevant research and expertise among its members and where relevant with the wider Climate Commission.
3. Actively seek out feedback on blockages to progress and suggestions for policy proposals from key stakeholders in the built environment sector in the city.

4. Reach out to York residents and raise the visibility of activity in the built environment sector to tackle the climate and nature emergencies.
5. Seek to positively influence key actors as appropriate including the council, the York and North Yorkshire Mayor and Combined Authority, relevant partnership groups and sectoral policy and strategy.

### **Ways of working**

The working group is strictly non-party political and independent and recognises it is a self-selected collective of interested parties with experience in this policy area.

It will seek to avoid duplicating work that is already being addressed by others or is better suited to being conducted by other working groups of the Commission

Its work will always be evidence-based and seek to positively influence policy and practice.

Group members will work collaboratively between themselves and with others in the sector towards delivering the overarching objectives.

The group will create and maintain a Work Plan setting out strategic priorities and the actions the Group will aim to take, which will be reviewed annually.

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