

COMBINED AUTHORITY MEETING

22 JULY 2024

An Economic Framework for York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority

Report of the Head of Strategy

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 The report sets out a revised Economic Framework for the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority, building on the previous Framework approved by the Combined Authority in March 2024 and incorporating the priorities of the newly elected Mayor. The Framework also sets out current activity, proposed delivery and investment to achieve the Framework's priorities.

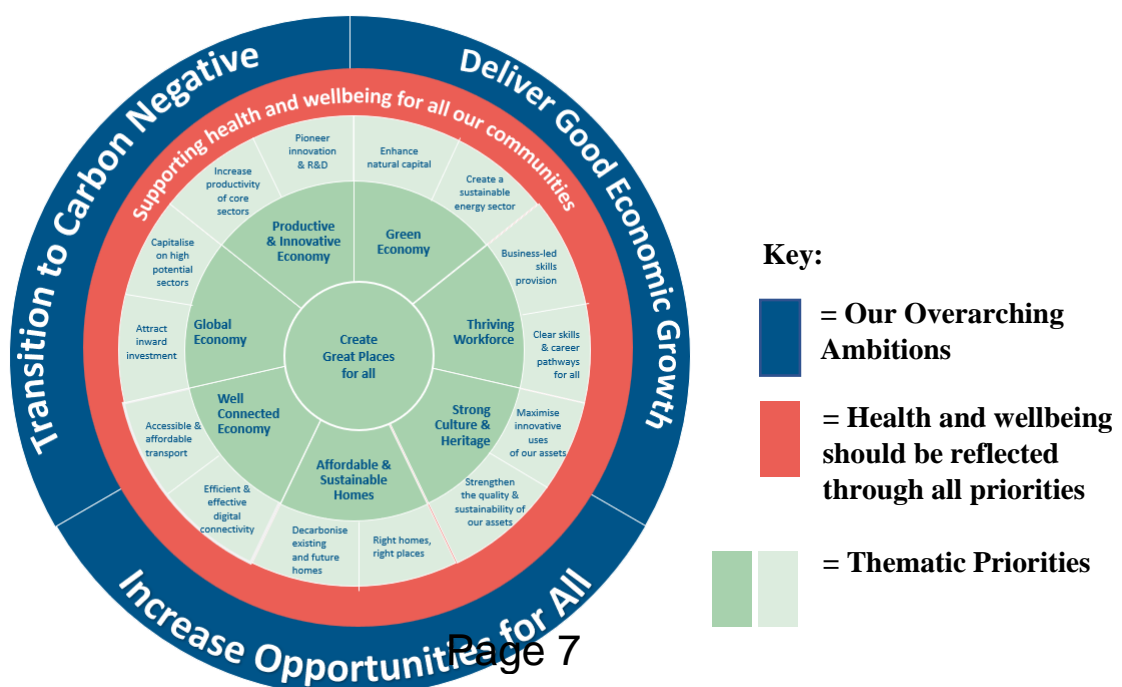
2.0 Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Combined Authority approve the revised Economic Framework as a key strategic document.

3.0 Background

3.1 On 18 March 2024, the Combined Authority (CA) approved an Economic Framework. This document provided the initial priorities and direction for the CA, with the intention that it would aid decision-making and prioritisation around CA investment (such as the Mayoral Investment Fund). It was always intended as a Framework, not a full strategy, recognising that once a Mayor was elected, they would want to shape the focus and direction of the CA.

3.2 The below diagram sets out the original ambitions and priorities which were agreed by the Combined Authority:



3.3 The election for the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire took place on 2 May 2024. Following the election, the Mayor needed to be engaged on the Framework, particularly to ensure alignment with the Mayor's priorities. Some initial mapping was undertaken and a draft framework was created, which was included within the ['Mayoral priorities and budget update 2024/25' paper](#) submitted at the May 2024 Combined Authority Meeting. The paper noted that work would continue to develop these priorities over the months ahead and new, emerging priorities would be considered in a future report. Approval was not sought on this diagram in May as it was recognised that further work and consultations would be undertaken. However, this was included to support initial decision-making around the mayoral budget.

3.4 After engagement with the Mayor and CA members, alongside workshops with relevant Local Authority representatives, the diagram has been refined further and simplified. These consultations build on the work from the first approved Framework which was invaluable in finalising a final focus for the Combined Authority.

4.0 A Revised Framework

4.1 From the consultations, it was recognised that a number of amendments would need to be made to the Framework. These primarily included simplifying the Framework diagram and building on the previous work, rather than starting from scratch again.

4.2 A summary of the required changes is included below:

- There should be greater emphasis on communities with this sitting at the heart of the Framework and the focus on wider determinants of health will be incorporated into this theme. This would also provide a strong connection to Police, Fire and Crime colleagues that are now integrated within the CA.
- Given the scale of powers and investment devolved around transport, this should be an individual thematic priority. Digital is still a critical part of connectivity, but this is now reflected in a 'Place' theme as explained below.
- The 'Place' priority should now incorporate the 'Green Economy', 'Strong Culture and Heritage' and 'Digital Connectivity', as this is focussed on our key assets and infrastructure USPs (or challenges).
- The business and skills sections should be combined, reflecting their strong interconnectivity and the importance for skills to be business-led.
- Finally, housing remains the same as a separate thematic priority, given it's a major challenge for York and North Yorkshire.

4.3 The revised Framework diagram, for which approval is being sought, has been included below:



4.4 Although it is not identified as a thematic priority within the Framework diagram, reference is made to the need for the CA to champion York and North Yorkshire across all our thematic priorities. This activity will include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Joint working with other Combined Authorities and their Mayors;
- Ensuring York and North Yorkshire's voice is being heard when engaging with relevant government departments;
- Constantly pushing for the next best thing for York and North Yorkshire, including further investment from government and exploring a Devolution Deal 4.

4.5 Further detail on the thematic priorities can be found in the full Economic Framework document at 'Appendix A: York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority's Economic Framework', which also sets out some of the initial activity that the Combined Authority would like to undertake to support the thematic priorities.

4.6 This activity primarily includes:

- Delivery that has already been approved and is underway (e.g. Net Zero Fund, Brownfield Housing Fund);
- Strategy development to ensure the Combined Authority has a strong evidence base to help shape interventions that will be long-lasting and impactful, rather than quick, short-term fixes; and

- Proposed investment activity, including use of the Mayoral Investment Fund.

5.0 Next Steps

5.1 For the Economic Framework to be meaningful, it needs to be fully integrated into the Combined Authority, particularly around decision-making and prioritisation of activity. Therefore, there is a commitment to the following to deliver the requirements of the Economic Framework:

- **Strategy:** Build on the needs outlined in the Framework and ensure that the CA is strategic, evidence and plan led. The Framework provides the headlines, but further development work is needed to ensure investment is utilised for the most appropriate intervention.
- **Developing Opportunities:** Investment will be strategic led, so we will develop programmes and investment opportunities based on the needs in the Economic Framework and our findings from evidence.
- **Excellence in Delivery:** The CA will deliver programmes through our investment to ensure we make an impact and deliver on the ambitions of the Economic Framework.
- **Strong Strategic Partnerships:** Collaboration will be critical to deliver greater impacts for all our residents, so the CA will work closely with key local, regional and national stakeholders, particularly identifying opportunities to deliver shared ambitions.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications from the approval of the Economic Framework. The financial implications will come when the Combined Authority starts investing in projects and programmes that deliver on the priorities of the Economic Framework.

6.2 However, it should be noted that the Framework will help prioritisation of investment for the Combined Authority.

7.0 Legal Implications

7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from approval of the Framework. However, it will underpin future governance arrangements around how the CA will achieve these priorities. For example, Full Business Cases may be developed to incorporate the ambitions set out in the Framework.

8.0 Equalities Implications

8.1 It is not anticipated that the Framework will cause any negative impacts on equalities. An overarching ambition set-out within the Framework is ensuring 'Opportunities for All', which will be embedded in all activity undertaken by the Combined Authority. Communities also sits at the heart of the Framework.

9.0 Environmental Implications

9.1 It is not anticipated that the Framework will cause any negative impacts on the environment. An overarching ambition set-out within the Framework is a 'Transition to Carbon Negative', which will be considered in all activity undertaken by the Combined Authority. The Framework also recognises York and North Yorkshire's rural strengths and natural capital, which must be protected and enhanced, ensuring it does not deteriorate any further.

10.0 Combined Authority Areas Impacted (Council Areas/Wards/Divisions)

10.1 The Framework covers the whole of York and North Yorkshire.

11.0 Recommendations

11.1 It is recommended that the Combined Authority approve the revised Economic Framework as a key strategic document.

12.0 Reasons For Recommendations

12.1 The Framework will help the Combined Authority with prioritisation of future investment and activity.

13.0 Contact Details

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Appendices

Appendix A: York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority's Economic Framework

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Economic Framework

July 2024



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Version Control

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Page 14

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Rural powerhouse



Contents

Foreword

- [Mayor of York and North Yorkshire](#)

Part 1: Introduction

- [Introduction](#)
- [Key Economic Headlines for York and North Yorkshire](#)
- [Economic Framework Summary](#)

Part 2: Three Overarching Ambitions

- [Transition to Carbon Negative](#)
- [Deliver Inclusive Economic Growth](#)
- [Opportunities for All](#)
- [Our 5 Thematic Priorities](#)

- [Prevention, Protection, Early Intervention](#)

Part 3: Thematic Priorities

- [Healthy & Thriving Communities](#)
- [Affordable & Sustainable Transport](#)
- [Vibrant & Sustainable Places](#)
- [Boosting Business & A Thriving Workforce](#)
- [Affordable & Sustainable Housing](#)

Part 4: Measures of Success

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Note: any data referenced within the Economic Framework is included within an Appendix 'Economic Framework References', which also includes the source and link to the data.

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Foreword

Page 16

Mayor of York and North Yorkshire

As the first Mayor for York and North Yorkshire, I am excited to take this role forward and start to make a positive impact for all our communities.

We are a trailblazer as the first Combined Authority spread across a large rural, coastal, and urban landscape. Our diversity of places is our greatest strength, and at the heart of my vision for York and North Yorkshire are healthy and thriving communities.

For York and North Yorkshire to work for everyone, and for us to reach our full economic potential, we need to tackle some of our biggest challenges. This means delivering more affordable housing and improving transport connectivity. We also need to ensure that every town, every high street is enabled to adapt to future needs as resilient and vibrant places. We want every business to thrive and be connected to the best talent to help them achieve their ambitions.

We also need to recognise the significant economic potential available to us when we connect our capacity for innovation with our land. York and North Yorkshire has a unique and powerful contribution to make to UK Growth and Net Zero targets. I want to ensure that as the economy grows, opportunities are made available for all; for every business to thrive, for every young person to achieve their greatest ambitions and for every community to reap the benefits.

We cannot achieve any of this alone and I am excited to lead change alongside our unitary council leaders in City of York and North Yorkshire. We are united in our ambition to achieve more for York and North Yorkshire.

The Economic Framework sets out the path forward for York and North Yorkshire as a vibrant place with opportunities for all. As we transition to a carbon negative economy, deliver inclusive, economic growth and ensure opportunities for all - our communities will remain at the core of our efforts.



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Part 1
Page 18
Introduction

Introduction

What is the Economic Framework?

The York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority approved and [published its first Economic Framework in March 2024](#), prior to the election of its first Mayor. The first Framework draft built on the strategic economic plans and policies of its two constituent local authorities, the [City of York Council](#) and [North Yorkshire Council](#).

With the election of the Mayor in May 2024, the Framework was revised, ensuring the Mayor's priorities were incorporated and putting communities at the heart of what the Combined Authority delivers. Strong collaboration with our constituent authorities and other stakeholders is integral to the Framework, recognising that working together will enable a greater impact for the residents of York and North Yorkshire.

The Economic Framework sets out the Mayor's and Combined Authority's ambitious plans for York and North Yorkshire.

Three overarching ambitions underpin the Framework and include:

- **Transition to Carbon Negative** - A carbon negative, circular and more resilient economy.
- **Deliver Inclusive Economic Growth** - A global, innovative, productive economy with strong and thriving businesses.
- **Ensure Opportunities for All** - A thriving and inclusive economy.

Why is the Economic Framework needed?

The Framework has been developed to provide the following:

- An outline of the key challenges and opportunities for the economy of York and North Yorkshire;
- An initial set of agreed priorities and direction for the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority; and
- A basis for a set of key actions and headline delivery plans for the Combined Authority.

Who does the Economic Framework apply to?

The Framework's priority is to support the work of the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority. However, it recognises that its ambitions will require collaboration and partnership working.

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Page 20

Key Economic Headlines

Productivity lags behind national levels - From 2004 to 2023, the average output was approx. 90.5% of the national average

Wage levels are below national levels, particularly along the coast and in rural pockets, and a proportion of residents commute out of the area for jobs that are better paid

~13% of people are still paid below the Real Living Wage

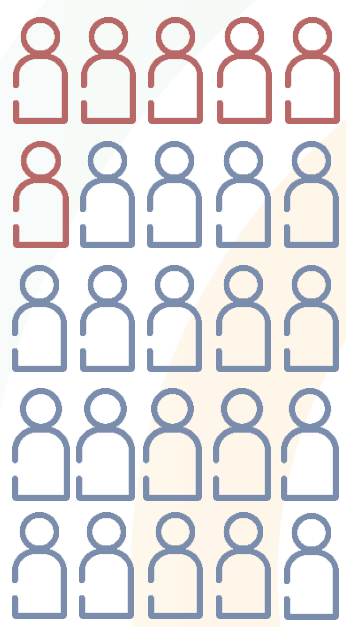
21% of people are employed in the 5 lowest paid occupations compared to 17% nationally

6% of neighbourhoods are in the 20% most deprived in England

For men, there is a 13-year gap for life expectancy between the healthiest and unhealthiest communities; and a 12-year gap for women

Decline in young people (aged 16 to 24) – from 2011 to 2022, there was a decrease of 6.3%

High levels of happiness – approx. 78% scored their happiness as good or very good in 2022-23



Ageing demographics - 24% of residents are aged 65 and over compared with a national average of 19%

A diverse economy with a strong business base that is predominantly made up of micro and small businesses

Signs of employment growth in higher skilled sectors

High Potential Sectors – Industrial Biotechnology, Manufacturing specialisms, Agritech, Creative and Digital, Healthy Ageing and Rail

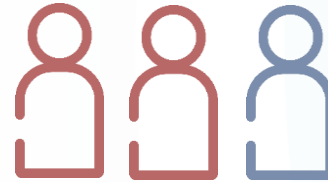
Core Sectors that significantly impact the economy – Food & Farming, Hospitality, Retail & Construction

Opportunity to pioneer the transition to carbon negative – through our natural asset base, our people and businesses

Higher than national average employment rates and low unemployment levels at 1.7% against a national rate of 3.8%



Some of the strongest qualification profiles in the North with 45.9% of residents qualified to RQF Level 4+

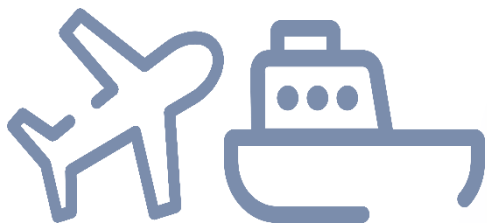


2/3 of employers have upskilling needs and 36% of employers have underutilised staff

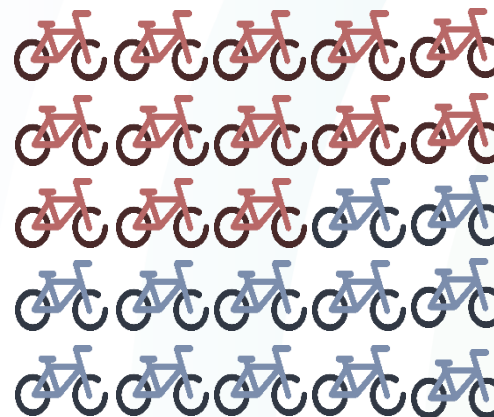
Shrinking labour market - increasing numbers of 'inactives', ageing demographics and a decline in young people



Strong rail connectivity -
York is also directly connected by rail to 150 cities, towns and villages across the UK



Strong access to ports, airports and key conurbations via neighbouring regions



Mixed use of active travel – in York, nearly 52% of adults walk or cycle for travel purposes at least once per week, whilst North Yorkshire drops to 31.5%

Transport is the biggest contributor to carbon emissions – 99% of vehicles have conventional fossil fuel engines

Significant number of journeys are taken by car compared to England's average – 85% in YNY compared to 78% in England

Connectivity varies greatly across York and North Yorkshire - There are some excellent connections, but many areas require significant improvement

YNY includes a **significant area of energy crops** and North Yorkshire is home to 27% of England's blanket bog

Renewable energy strengths, mostly based within Selby, which is the largest contributor to the UK's renewable electricity - ~8% in 2022

An abundance of heritage assets, ranging from prehistoric, Roman, Viking and medieval



2 National Parks & 3 National Landscapes

Gaps within digital connectivity – some of our communities are in the 10% for worst 4G coverage within England

Unaffordable housing - York and North Yorkshire had an affordability ratio of approximately 8.8 in 2023, over 2.5x the amount considered affordable

York and North Yorkshire covers 6% of England and is **incredibly diverse, covering urban, rural and coastal communities**



Approximately 2/3 of building emissions are from domestic buildings

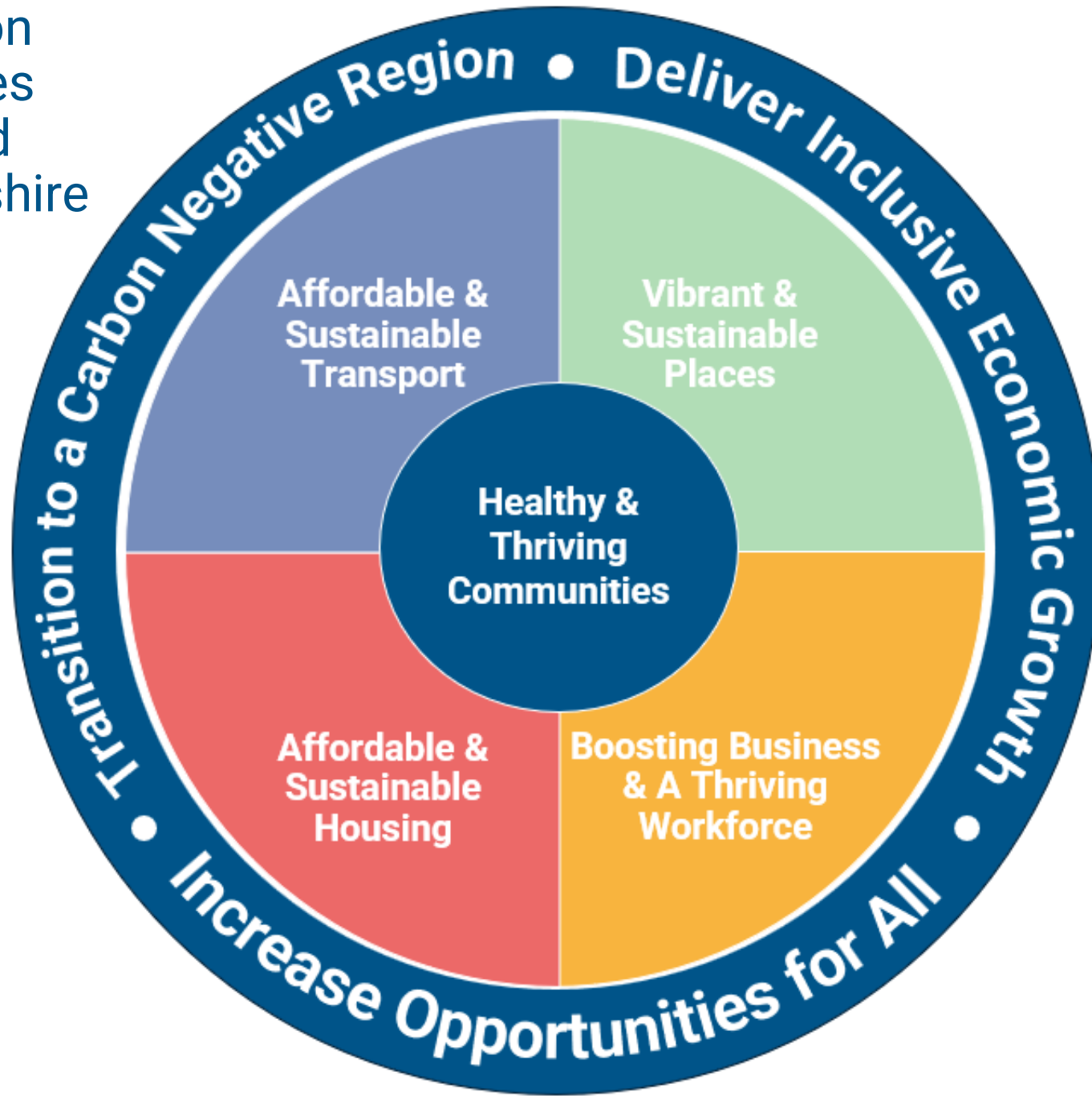
High private rents – in some areas, prices greater reflect the South than northern counterparts

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Economic Framework Summary

Page 25

Our Ambition and Priorities for York and North Yorkshire



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Champion York & North Yorkshire

Although it is not identified as a thematic priority within the Framework, **we commit to championing York and North Yorkshire across all our thematic priorities**. This is particularly important as economies don't stop at the York and North Yorkshire boundary so we need to look beyond this, which will include:

- Joint working with other Combined Authorities and their Mayors;
- Ensuring York and North Yorkshire's voice is being heard, amongst some of the larger, more established areas;
- Constantly pushing for the next best thing for York and North Yorkshire, including further investment from government and exploring a Devolution Deal 4.

Transition to a Carbon negative region

- Our ambition is to be England's first Carbon Negative region through a refreshed **Routemap to Carbon Negative**

Deliver Inclusive Economic Growth

- Our ambition is to deliver economic growth through a **10-year Inclusive Growth Plan**

Increase Opportunities for All

- Our ambition is to ensure that we create opportunities that benefit all our communities and businesses

Summary of Actions

Healthy and Thriving Communities

- **Develop a Cost of Living Recovery plan**
- **Deliver a community investment fund**
- **Strengthen our partnerships** with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector, Local and national Government, Health and Social Care Sector; and Police

Affordable and Sustainable Transport

- **Develop an ambitious Strategic Transport Plan** which will include: A Plan for Rail; A Bus Service Improvement Plan; An Active Travel Plan; An agreed Key Route Network
- **Deliver Investment in transport infrastructure**
- **Strengthen our strategic partnerships** with Local, Regional and National Transport bodies to enable us to deliver our transport ambitions for the region

Vibrant and Sustainable Places

- **Develop Strategic Plans for:** Coastal; Rural, Town, City and High Streets; Natural capital; Infrastructure; and Culture.
- **Deliver A Town Centre and High Streets Fund**
- **Deliver an investment programme to support our green economy**, including: Natural Capital; Energy; Circular Economy; Climate Adaptation
- **Strengthen our strategic partnerships** with York Central as an exemplar City redevelopment, Government bodies and the private sector

Boosting Business and A Thriving Workforce

- **Develop Strategic Plans** for Skills; Innovation; High Potential Sectors; Core Sectors; Business Infrastructure
- **Deliver a programmes to: boost business; attract new investment; and increase trade**
- **Deliver People and Skills Funding**, including: Adult skills Fund; Skills Bootcamps; and supporting people programmes
- **Strengthen our strategic partnerships** with Government Departments, private sector, Training and Learning Partners, Community and Social Enterprise Sector

Affordable and Sustainable Housing

- **Develop a 10 year Housing Investment Plan**
- **Develop & deliver housing investment programmes**, including the Brownfield Housing Fund
- **Develop a retrofit strategy and Investment Programme**
- **Strengthen our strategic partnerships** with Homes England, Local Housing Authorities, York and North Yorkshire Housing Partnership, Public Estates, Housing providers and other key housing agencies, Training providers

Our goal is to...

- **Raise living standards**
- **Reduce inequalities**
- **Create safer & sustainable communities**

- **Enable economic growth opportunities**
- **Unlock the potential of York and North Yorkshire**
- **Make our transport greener**

- **Maximise the potential of our places**
- **Stimulate local economic growth**
- **Make our places greener**

- **Boost business productivity & resilience**
- **Increase wages and higher-quality jobs**
- **Grow our skills base to meet economic needs**

- **Create the right homes in the right places**
- **Ensure that people have access to a good quality and safe home**
- **Make all our homes greener**

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Page 28

Part 2
**Three Overarching
Ambitions**

Transition to A Carbon Negative Region

A carbon negative, circular and more resilient economy

York and North Yorkshire is in a prime position to support national and global efforts to combat climate change, even going beyond net zero and becoming England's first carbon negative region. York and North Yorkshire can take advantage of the sustainability opportunities from both urban and rural settings. For example:

- Natural carbon capture and sequestration supported by the two National Parks and three National Landscapes and marine assets;
- Innovative pilot opportunities through our urban assets (including Retrofit One Stop Shop and Heat Network Zoning Pilots in York);
- Key sectors that support the agenda, e.g. electric bus manufacturers Alexander Dennis in Scarborough and Switch Mobility in Sherburn in Elmet, which are used on York's Park and Ride.

York and North Yorkshire is able to understand and pioneer the sustainability opportunities from both a rural and urban setting.

To date, significant progress has been made to reduce carbon emissions. However, there is still a long journey to achieve this ambition and tackle climate change. Without intervention or acceleration, there are massive economic risks, resulting from changes to our climate such as increased frequency and severity of flooding, increased temperatures, water shortages and rising

sea levels. Businesses could face disruptions on food production, damages to physical assets and destruction of ecosystems that underpin our key sectors (such as agriculture and tourism).

Pace and scale will be needed to reach our ambitious target of carbon negative, but the benefits will be massive for our communities, economy and our planet. York and North Yorkshire is ready to provide strong leadership on the climate agenda.

What is the economic opportunity?

The transition to carbon negative is not just good for the environment, but can also support our businesses, people and communities:

- New jobs (e.g. growth within the renewable energy sector)
- Increased public and private sector investment
- New skills (e.g. retrofitting requirements for the construction sector)
- Resilience for key sectors – agriculture, food and drink manufacturing, and tourism – all of which are extremely vulnerable to impacts of climate change
- Healthier people and communities (e.g. cleaner air, improved energy efficiency of homes)
- Cheaper, cleaner and more secure energy, a benefit for both businesses and residents

We will...

- **Refresh our Routemap to Carbon Negative, setting out the scale of ambition and the opportunities, actions, and investment required.**

Deliver Inclusive Economic Growth

A global, innovative, productive economy with strong and thriving businesses

Compared to many Northern counterparts, York and North Yorkshire has a strong economy, particularly driven by York's performance. But there is an opportunity to strengthen it further and tackle economic insecurity, attracting new investment and driving our businesses to be more productive, innovative and resilient.

The York and North Yorkshire economy is valued at £26bn in 2022. This is comparable to similar geographies and areas across the UK. However, productivity is behind national levels.

From 2004 (the earliest available data from ONS) to the latest in 2022, York and North Yorkshire's average productivity (as measured by GVA per hour worked) was 90.5% of the national average. In 2022, it reached 94.1%. The gap is primarily driven by North Yorkshire, which lags behind whilst York's productivity has historically been much closer, or above, national levels.

During this period, productivity for York and North Yorkshire remained on a positive trajectory, except a minor decrease in 2009 likely driven by the 2008 financial crash. Productivity has significantly grown over this period (49.6%), but the average annual growth was 2% with some years being somewhat stagnant.

York and North Yorkshire will not sit back and accept that stagnation, we're ready for an ambitious and

thriving future with York and North Yorkshire operating on a global stage. Our innovation, academic and sectoral assets will be the key drivers to deliver this – from our traditional, core businesses to our unique and growing sectors.

Our people, which make up our highly skilled workforce, are also one of our biggest assets to achieve our ambitions, so we will continue to support and strengthen their continued development.

Food and farming is part of the DNA of York and North Yorkshire. From our significant agricultural sector across our rural geography to our major food manufacturing presence in York and along our major transport routes. Although the sector faces many barriers, it needs to be celebrated and supported. It could put York and North Yorkshire at the forefront of improving food security.

Retail and hospitality are also core sectors – these businesses make our high streets and towns vibrant and attractive places for our residents and visitors.

Our high growth potential sectors are varied, covering: Industrial Biotechnology, Manufacturing, Agritech, Creative and Digital specialisms, Healthy Ageing and Rail – each bringing an opportunity to attract new investment, create growth and also increase wages and support the transition to carbon negative.

Renewable energy is also a core sector to our decarbonisation ambitions. Most of the UK's renewable electricity is generated within York and North Yorkshire, but the market is still modest and could be massively

expanded.

The focus needs to be on long-term and sustained economic growth that supports all our residents.

What is the economic opportunity?

- New investment and growth in the economy
- Increased productivity levels
- Higher quality and higher wage job opportunities
- Increasing skill levels
- Better quality of life for residents
- Greater business resilience and productivity
- Shift towards a green economy

We will...

- **Develop an ambitious local growth plan that creates economic growth and opportunity for all.**

This will develop further the priorities set out in this economic framework establishing how we will increase innovation, productivity, resilience, and wealth creation with thriving businesses and a strong local economy playing its part in a growing the UK economy.

Opportunities for All

A thriving and inclusive economy

York and North Yorkshire has some of the most desirable places to live, work and visit. In 2023, Skipton, Harrogate and York were voted the top three happiest places to live in the region. However, this is not a consistent picture across the whole of York and North Yorkshire. The benefits of living and working within York and North Yorkshire are not felt equally across all of our residents.

Some of our communities are falling behind, and this is a result of varying factors.

For many, work doesn't pay enough, with wage levels in York and North Yorkshire lagging behind when compared to the national average. Underperformance is mostly concentrated along the coast and in rural pockets. Resident pay is stronger than workplace measures across all areas of North Yorkshire (although noting this trend is not reflected in York), indicating that a proportion of residents commute out of the area for jobs that are better paid.

There are people sitting within low-waged and low-skilled roles (around 13% of people are still paid below the Real Living Wage) with huge potential and transferable skills to move into our growing sectors. Our residents that sit at the lower end of the wage scale have limited resilience as a consequence and are most vulnerable to the Cost of Living crisis. The challenge of low wages needs to be addressed.

Even our well-paid workers are falling behind compared to national levels and there is a large

proportion of underemployed people. The highest paid jobs in the region are paid significantly less than the highest paid jobs nationally and this is the main source of the overall pay gap in York and North Yorkshire.

Low wages coupled with unaffordable housing could see many of our residents put at risk, as both house prices and private rents continue to increase. There has been a rise in homelessness nationally, which is also reflected here. The homelessness levels could even be greater with many people considered homeless going under the radar due to reliance on accommodation such as "sofa surfing", meaning they're not necessarily counted in statistics.

Unaffordable housing is exacerbated by high energy prices, so even our residents in social housing are facing the pressures of rising costs.

A lack of resilience within our communities will have detrimental impacts on the health and wellbeing of our residents, putting greater strain on NHS services, and leading to wider health inequalities. Tackling the social determinants of health, such as good jobs and good pay, will help close the gap between our richest and poorest areas.

We recognise that some of our inequalities exist between neighbouring communities and are not simply in our most isolated areas or concentrated along the coast.

Many inequalities often start early in life, particularly linked to education. York and North Yorkshire may

have some of the best qualification levels in the North, but 'Education, skills and training' is also the biggest contributor to the area's deprivation rating, particularly for children and young people. This is mostly concentrated in York and Scarborough.

All of our residents should have the opportunity to thrive – where they are born should not be a barrier. The scale of our ambitions are massive and we can't achieve this alone. Collaboration with key partners, such as Public Health and the Police (to name a few), will be critical.

What is the economic opportunity?

- Create a stronger, healthier and more resilient workforce
- Improve living standards and resilience for residents
- Encourage more people back into learning and the labour market and reduce labour shortages
- Higher quality, higher paid jobs

We will...

- **Ensure that people, communities and social value are central to the decisions, actions and investments we make as a Combined Authority.**

Our 5 Thematic Priorities

Healthy and Thriving Communities

Our communities sit at the heart of our ambitions. We want everyone to be able to thrive within York and North Yorkshire, but there are barriers for some of our residents across health, connectivity and low wages, to name a few. Our communities are key enablers to address these challenges, so we need to empower and strengthen them to drive solutions forward.

Our priority is to increase living standards, address inequalities and build **healthy and thriving communities**.

Vibrant and Sustainable Places

Our places make our region special. Expansive natural capital, coast, world-leading heritage and culture, distinctive towns and cities, offer great opportunities for growth and transitioning to carbon negative.

Our priority is to strengthen our places, support our high streets and town centres, and develop the green economy, creating **vibrant and sustainable places**.

Boosting Business and a Thriving Workforce

Our businesses and residents will be supported to reach their full potential. With a strong skills base, distinct core sectors and high potential sectors, there is an opportunity to position York and North Yorkshire as a global leader and increase investment, alongside higher wages and higher skilled job roles for all.

Our priority is to drive innovation and make York and North Yorkshire the ultimate trailblazer through **boosting business and a thriving workforce**.

Sustainable and Affordable Housing

Our homes are in high demand due to the attractiveness of York and North Yorkshire. But this has created a market of unaffordable and poor-quality homes, across all tenures, contributing to our carbon emissions.

Our priority is to build the right homes in the right places, improve the quality of properties and drive forward retrofit needs to create **sustainable and affordable housing**.

Sustainable and Affordable Transport

Our transport could unlock opportunities for residents, but for many it is a constraint and leaves York and North Yorkshire divided. Strong connectivity means access to education and training, employment and social inclusion, a major contribution to living standards and health and wellbeing.

Our priority is to improve connectivity for all, so residents from our city centres all the way to those in our most rural communities have equal access to **sustainable and affordable transport**.

Prevention, Protection and Early Intervention

Working closely with colleagues across Police, Fire and Crime and Public Health will be integral to the Framework

The Economic Framework primarily targets impacts for York and North Yorkshire's residents through economic drivers and investment. However, the thematic priorities of the Framework align with the wider determinants of health, wellbeing and safety.

Given the integration of the Office for Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner into the Combined Authority, there are even greater opportunities to work towards shared outcomes across economy, crime and health. This should also be aligned with the work of our Public Health colleagues and Local Authorities, alongside other key stakeholders working within health and social care.

A focus on prevention, protection and early intervention is just one mechanism to explore the overlaps between the economy, crime and health.

The success of an economy should not just be measured alone by how fast or how aggressively it grows, but also by how well wealth is created and shared. The CA's three overarching ambitions demonstrate the focus on businesses and productivity, but also the environment, our people and communities.

We will...

- **Build a close working relationship with our Police, Fire and Crime colleagues and explore opportunities for collaboration on shared outcomes, such as reducing social inequalities**
- **Engage with key stakeholders, such as Public Health, to address health and wellbeing outcomes through economic intervention**



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Part 3
Page 34

Thematic Priorities

Page 35

Thematic Priority: Healthy & Thriving Communities



Healthy & Thriving Communities

York and North Yorkshire's opportunities and strengths are not shared equally across our communities

York and North Yorkshire is one of the most desirable places to live in the UK, and often excels compared to other northern counterparts. However, not all of our communities are in this position. Some neighbourhoods lag behind and are among the 20% most deprived in England.

Most of the deprivation is concentrated along the coast, but there are also neighbourhoods within York, Skipton, Harrogate and Selby, signifying deprivation is not simply coastal-based and can be in isolated pockets, often close to our most affluent areas. Although this only equates to 6% of neighbourhoods overall, we need to ensure that these people aren't left further behind.

The inequalities within York and North Yorkshire vary across multiple indicators, such as health, rural isolation, low wages and increasingly unaffordable housing, to name a few.

Good health is not evenly distributed across York and North Yorkshire. For men, there is a 13-year gap for life expectancy between the healthiest and unhealthiest communities; similarly there is a 12-year gap for women.

Our rural communities face challenges around isolation and accessibility to key services, whether that's employment, education or health services. Transport will be key enabler in addressing these inequalities.

Our older residents are likely to feel the impact of rural isolation to a higher degree and there is a significant number of older people in York and North Yorkshire.

24% of residents are aged 65 and over compared with national levels (19%). The only exceptions to this trend are York and Selby.

Those at the lower end of the income scale are also likely to suffer more from mobility issues and rurality. A lack of accessibility to opportunities risks driving away our young people.

Widening inequalities as a result of the 'Cost of Living' Crisis

There is a risk that any existing inequalities will worsen due to pressures from the 'Cost of Living' crisis. Inflation drastically increased across the UK during 2021 and 2022. The rate in October 2022 was the highest in over 40 years.

Rates are decreasing due to lower costs from gas and electricity. However, a slowing or falling inflation rate means that prices are rising more slowly than before; it does not mean that price levels are actually decreasing. So many of our residents may still be struggling with the impact of inflation.

The Bank of England increased interest rates to try and get the inflation rate back to its 2% target, but this has led to higher borrowing costs for households, particularly for mortgage interest rates. Within York and North Yorkshire, the impact from rising mortgages and rent has varied. There are high levels of households affected by mortgage increases within York (14%), Harrogate (14.5%) and Selby (17.9%).

Income is an important indicator to measure resilience against economic shocks such as inflation, with those at the lower levels of income typically hit the hardest.

Pay levels within York and North Yorkshire lag behind the national and regional average. This gap is felt more strongly within North Yorkshire, whilst York is much closer to the national level.

Evidence suggests that growing economic inequalities could also lead to poorer health outcomes and an increase in crime and anti-social behaviour.

Our communities and strong collaboration could be catalysts for change, leading to greater impacts across economy, safety and health

Collaboration will help us to ensure that we're meeting local needs, particularly addressing the unique and diverse requirements of our residents, but also collective efforts can amplify our impact. Whether that's working closely with our two constituent authorities, our Police, Fire and Crime colleagues, Public Health and the NHS, maximising voluntary and community sector organisations, or supporting our anchor institutions.

Community Wealth Building approaches have the potential to unlock and enable local expertise, knowledge, lived experience, assets and innovation to reduce inequalities, create opportunities and retain more wealth and opportunity for the benefit of local people.

We will empower our communities and provide them with the tools to implement change to create stronger, safer, more inclusive and more sustainable communities.

Healthy & Thriving Communities Activity

Our Goals are to:

- Raise living standards
- Reduce inequalities
- Create safer & sustainable communities

Our Actions	What does this include?
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Develop a plan to address the impacts of the 'Cost of Living' Crisis

Page 37

An ambitious plan to reduce inequalities within our communities, which will address the challenges exacerbated by the 'Cost of Living' crisis. The scope of the plan is to be determined, but will likely include the following:

- Gap analysis of existing support to limit any duplication;
- A strong evidence base to help shape interventions;
- Identify and target our most vulnerable communities;
- Identify the biggest impacts to our communities (e.g. deteriorating mental health, reduction in disposable household income, greater reliance on food banks etc.) and where the CA can best influence, recognising that some factors (e.g. inflation) are beyond our control;
- Scope the role of the CA in supporting early prevention measures and partnership opportunities with Public Health and the Police;
- Explore mechanisms to empower our communities to take ownership of solutions and opportunities, such as community wealth building approaches;
- A project pipeline to help shape investment, in particular identifying projects that can become self-sustaining and don't require ongoing financial support.

The plan will be developed in collaboration with key stakeholders, covering the public and private sector (such as anchor institutions), to ensure a coordinated approach and avoid duplication.

Deliver a community investment fund

The priorities of the fund will be identified within the Cost of Living Recovery Plan, but the fund will seek to support the following:

- Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise Sector
- Community Wealth Building Initiatives
- Encourage the growth and importance of volunteering
- Early prevention measures

The fund will also explore additionality to existing investment, rather than duplication. For example, building on existing community funds.

Strengthen our partnerships

Engagement with key stakeholders operating within this agenda in order to work collectively and strengthen resources to address the cost of living crisis and achieve our ambition to increase opportunities for all. Stakeholders could include, but are not limited to:

- Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector
- Health and Social Care Sector; and
- Community Safety, Policing, Fire & Rescue and Criminal Justice Sector

Thematic Priority: Affordable & Sustainable Transport



Affordable & Sustainable Transport

Strong connectivity between our urban communities to pan regional, national and international markets

Transport is a key enabler for economic opportunities. Some of our residents commute outside of York and North Yorkshire to a range of areas, including Leeds in West Yorkshire and significant connections to the Humber for those in the South, whilst our Northern communities have strong links to Darlington and the Tessa Valley.

Many of our businesses are reliant on attracting employees outside the patch and the international connectivity through ports and airports in our neighbouring areas. We're close to 3 international airports at Manchester, Leeds/Bradford and Tees Valley. But it's not just our neighbours where connectivity is significant. York to London is less than 2 hours on the train.

There are excellent North-South connections by both road and rail and on the TransPennine route across to Leeds and Manchester. But it is in our built-up, urban communities, such as York, Harrogate and Northallerton, where connectivity is most effective.

Although Scarborough has a significant population, there are some constraints along the coast. There are high numbers of people travelling between Scarborough and York, but rail connectivity is limited, and road congestion is often a challenge, exacerbated

by tourism travel. Elsewhere, along the coast, transport options are even more restricted.

A lack of connectivity in our most rural areas could further drive inequalities within York and North Yorkshire

Connectivity varies greatly across York and North Yorkshire and can be very localised. There are some excellent connections, but many areas require significant improvement. The gaps in our connectivity are a big contributor to the inequalities between our communities, with many residents unable to reach services easily, from employment and training to social opportunities, all of which are important for health and wellbeing and the resilience of our residents.

Part of the challenge is the vastly rural geography of York and North Yorkshire. Many of our rural communities do not have easy access to trains or buses. Where public transport is available, it is often unreliable, includes longer journey times and is too expensive, making it unviable for many of our residents.

This pushes people to rely more on private car usage. But for some people, even this will not be an option, putting them further at a disadvantage.

Decarbonisation of our transport systems is critical to achieving the transition to carbon negative

Currently, transport is the largest emitting sector for York and North Yorkshire, particularly private vehicle use. More than 99% of vehicles have conventional fossil fuel engines with less than 0.5% of cars and vans plug-in hybrids or battery electric.

The transition to carbon negative will not be feasible without the decarbonisation of our transport systems. Alongside environmental benefits, it can also support the health and wellbeing of our residents through cleaner air and increasing active travel.

But changing our transport systems will not be easy. Alternative modes to traditional cars are not accessible to everyone. Electric vehicles are incredibly expensive and in some places the required infrastructure is lacking. Active travel can be difficult in rural communities and is often better placed for shorter journeys and flatter terrain. Similarly, public transport viability can be difficult in such a sparse and widespread geography.

Innovation with transport will be fundamental to unlocking our ambitions. We can no longer do things in the same old way.

Everyone within York and North Yorkshire should have the choice to go about their business in the most convenient and affordable way, wherever they are in York and North Yorkshire. Transport should help to unlock people's opportunities, not hold them back.

Affordable & Sustainable Transport Activity	
<p>Our Goals are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable economic growth opportunities • Unlock the potential of York and North Yorkshire • Make our transport greener 	
Our Actions	What does this include?
<p>Develop an ambitious Strategic Plan for a more sustainable, affordable and accessible transport system.</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 40</p>	<p>An ambitious plan for transport in place by March 2025 which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significantly improve coast to country connectivity – developing a corridor approach connecting the coast to York and beyond and the coast to Tees Valley and beyond; • Address connectivity constraints West of York to Harrogate; • Connect YNY to neighbouring regions and beyond. <p>There will also be sub-plans developed by mode of transport, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Rail Plan to set out clearly how rail infrastructure and services will help to achieve our ambition for transport and ensure that railways are fit for future passenger growth; • Bus Service Improvement Plan will set out how we will work alongside bus operators to achieve the goals of the National Bus Strategy, which set out a plan to revolutionise bus services through simpler fares, new buses, improved routes and higher frequencies; • Active Travel Plan will identify how we can enable more routes to be taken via active travel, building on the strengths of our urban infrastructure and increasing accessibility within our rural communities; • Identification of the Key Route Network, which is a network of some of the most important roads in the combined authority area. <p>As part of strategic development, we will also explore the future powers and functions that we may need to achieve our ambitions, for example, bus franchising may be considered.</p>
<p>Deliver investment in transport infrastructure that supports our ambition for a better-connected York and North Yorkshire.</p>	<p>The priorities of the fund will be identified within the Transport Plan, which will ensure that transport infrastructure contributes to our three overarching ambitions. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition to Carbon Negative: investment that supports the decarbonisation of our transport systems, e.g. EV charging infrastructure, new or improved cycle paths and opportunities to increase active travel etc. • Deliver Inclusive Economic Growth: increased public transport services around key employment sites etc. • Opportunities for All: schemes that improve accessibility, particularly our most isolated communities, alongside schemes that will reduce costs. <p>We will work with key partners to identify key strategic projects and develop a strong pipeline.</p>

Our Actions	What does this include?
Strengthen our strategic partnerships to enable us to deliver our transport ambitions for the region.	Engagement with key stakeholders operating within this agenda, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local, Regional and National Transport bodies• Police, Fire & Crime colleagues to identify opportunities to create a safer whole transport system

Thematic Priority: Vibrant & Sustainable Places



Vibrant & Sustainable Places

York and North Yorkshire is a diverse geography, including urban, rural and coastal communities

York and North Yorkshire covers 6% of England and is incredibly diverse. At the centre is the city of York, the largest urban area within York and North Yorkshire, including 17% of our population.

Integrated closely with the York and West Yorkshire economies is Harrogate, the second largest population area (9%), a key economic centre that attracts significant residents, visitors and businesses.

York and North Yorkshire has an incredible coastline with a strong maritime history, a buoyant visitor economy, manufacturing base and emerging offshore renewables sector. Scarborough is one of our largest coastal communities and home to 7% of York and North Yorkshire's population.

Equally, the uniqueness of our places means not all of our settlements fit neatly into the classification of rural, urban or coastal.

The economy is also dominated by a number of distinctive market towns, such as Knaresborough, Selby, Skipton, Malton, Northallerton and Richmond, which play a significant role in community wellbeing and business growth. And many of our urban areas are surrounded by smaller, but still significant, settlements.

The diversity of York and North Yorkshire's geography makes it a highly attractive place to live, work and learn,

but our places also differ in terms of their success. Some areas are doing very well and have massively recovered since the Covid-19 pandemic, whilst others are grappling with significant challenges.

There are also a number of factors that could threaten many of our places, particularly our high streets. For example, the growth of online retail, the rise in home working since the Covid-19 pandemic, and the increased cost of living. We need to support our places to adapt so they can continue to be vibrant and sustainable.

Crime and safety is also a contributing factor to the attractiveness of our places with activity such as anti-social behaviour impacting our residents and our businesses. A whole systems approach should be taken to support our places.

Carbon storage and biodiversity improvement opportunities from our high potential natural capital assets

The natural beauty of York and North Yorkshire is one of our most distinct qualities. We have two national parks (North York Moors and the Yorkshire Dales) and three National Landscapes (Howardian Hills, Nidderdale and the Forest of Bowland), alongside marine opportunities from our coastline.

But the landscape is more than an attractive draw for tourists and residents. There are significant decarbonisation benefits from the natural capital

through sequestration and carbon capture. Restoring and protecting these assets could help us to decrease our greenhouse gas emissions, creating a healthier environment for our residents. Access to green space also provides health and wellbeing benefits.

Due to the rural nature of our region and our natural capital, we also have a significant presence of food and farming businesses.

Climate change is predicted to increase the frequency and severity of flooding, increase temperatures and cause water shortages, putting our land and these businesses at risk. We need to make changes now and protect our land, so that we can prevent and minimise the threat.

Local and national carbon emissions targets will drive growth in the renewable energy sector

York and North Yorkshire has renewable energy strengths, mostly based within Selby, which is the largest contributor to the UK's renewable electricity (~8% in 2022). Outside of Selby, the renewable capacity in York and North Yorkshire is modest.

Disproportionately low solar and onshore wind assets represent the lack of distributed generation in York and North Yorkshire. Despite having 3.4% of UK land and 1.24% of UK population, solar and onshore wind capacities are only ~0.8% and ~0.4% of the UK total, respectively.

We must expand our renewable energy capabilities rapidly to meet our carbon negative target.

Growth in this sector also provides employment opportunities for people that risk being displaced in some of our carbon-intensive, declining sectors. To enable this transition, training support for career changes and upskilling/reskilling will be critical. Growth and the transition to carbon negative will not be possible without the right people and skills.

Culture and heritage can be a catalyst for regeneration and economic growth

York and North Yorkshire has an abundance of heritage assets, ranging from the Prehistoric, Roman, Viking and Medieval. The diversity and distinctiveness that has developed over centuries combines to create an unmistakable sense of place and community identity.

Culture is also a major asset for York and North Yorkshire. Culture can mean many things to different people and is difficult to define, often interlinked with an area's heritage, creative industries and tourism. It can range vastly, covering art, music, film, literature, architecture, museums, theatre and sport.

These assets are integral to creating vibrant and sustainable places for a number of reasons.

They can provide recreational opportunities and the chance to socialise and connect, great for all ages of our communities, but particularly vital to help us to retain and attract young people. We need to give our

younger population an exciting reason to stay, otherwise we'll lose most to larger urban centres and this creates major challenges for our businesses and the future workforce.

There are major economic benefits from heritage and culture, particularly driving tourism. We're not short on hotspots for tourists, including UNESCO-recognised Studley Royal and Fountains Abbey, the York Minster and Whitby Abbey. These assets also employ a significant level of our residents.

Building sustainability of our heritage assets (buildings of historical construction (pre 1919) including homes and non-domestic buildings) is critical, both for the transition to carbon negative and to future proof these assets. Appropriate conservation will require specialist construction skills, such as stone masonry.

Limited digital connectivity, particularly within our rural communities

Digital connectivity is quickly evolving and improving, but some of our communities barely have access to basic services and are in the 10% for worst 4G coverage within England. Progress has been made, but there is much more to be done to close the gaps, particularly within our rural communities.

Digital solutions will only be possible if people have the capabilities to best utilise it. Many residents still face barriers to accessing services digitally and need support to improve their skills in order to access and use online services safely.

York and North Yorkshire's distinct geography is one of its biggest USPs, but it often means there isn't a "one size fits all" solution. We will take a place-based approach to ensure none of our communities are left behind, as we protect and enhance our key assets.

Vibrant & Sustainable Places Activity

Our Goals are to:

- Maximise the potential of our places
- Stimulate local economic growth
- Make our places greener

Our Actions	What does this include?
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 45</p>	<p>Strategies for each of the key geographical areas within York and North Yorkshire (including: Coastal, Rural, Town, City and High Streets), recognising the diversity of York and North Yorkshire and the need for tailored approaches. There will also be a focus on the long-term and lasting impacts rather than short-term solutions. Each strategy will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masterplans for key settlements • A vision for the area and identification of local priorities • Evidence base identifying the unique challenges and opportunities • Project pipeline / investment plan <p>We will work closely with our two local authorities, City of York Council and North Yorkshire Council, to undertake this action.</p>
	<p>Local Investment in Natural Capital Programme which will help us to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand how we can attract investment into natural capital that can restore and sustain the natural environment, whilst unlocking significant economic value; • Increase green finance for nature-based solutions such as tree planting and peatland restoration, and support farmers to access new private sector investments that increase resilience in the landscapes they manage. <p>We will be working together and with our key stakeholders with an ambition to deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Land Use Assessment and Natural Capital Investment Plan (NCIP) • a pipeline of investible natural capital projects and piloting projects that test mechanisms for private investment • business cases for a self-sustaining Accelerator Programme and a local investment vehicle to reduce reliance on public funding
	<p>Explore the potential requirements of an Infrastructure Plan and whether this is a gap in achieving our ambitions. This could include infrastructure linked to energy, digital, business sites and transforming brownfield employment sites, for example. This would need to be scoped further before any commitments are made, particularly to avoid duplication with current plans (e.g. Local Area Energy Plans).</p>

Our Actions	What does this include?
Deliver A Town Centre and High Streets Fund	This investment will be established to help drive growth and rejuvenate our towns so that our businesses can thrive. Recognising each area is unique and has different needs, the fund will explore opportunities for flexible approaches.
Page 46	Deliver an investment programme to support our green economy The Net Zero Fund is a £7m investment, including capital and revenue, to support projects that can deliver significant carbon reductions and support carbon capture and sequestration, alongside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • create a pipeline of net zero projects that will drive economic growth • create jobs • reduce energy costs for businesses and communities • leverage further investment for the region
	Natural Capital Investment which will support projects that will restore, enhance and protect our unique rural, marine and coastal environments, following these overarching principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that food production is central to the approach • Support more resilient businesses (e.g., income diversification, “marketable products”) • A bottom-up, flexible approach that empowers farmers and other land managers to make their own decisions and ensures no one is left behind • Maintain and strengthen biodiversity for positive environmental impacts overall (e.g. avoid monocultures, support changes that benefit nature and landscapes) • Enhance coastal and marine management and develop connectivity with land-based initiatives.
	Energy Investment will focus on creating a resilient power system that provides affordable energy to all with particular focus on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mix of complementary technologies (e.g., co-locating renewables and storage); • Energy generation and storage is community-led and decentralised where possible to maximise benefits to local communities • Making the most of existing landscape and infrastructure – where possible, seeking multiple benefits (e.g., flood management, biodiversity) and avoiding land use conflicts • Creates high value and sustainable jobs
Strengthen our strategic partnership	We will continue to develop close relationships with key stakeholders to support the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the York Central development to be an exemplar of City redevelopment • support good place-making, particularly across key development sites, new developments and regeneration schemes • our ambition for a carbon negative region • our places are all fully digital enabled • The potential of our world class heritage and cultural offer

Thematic Priority: Boosting Business & Thriving Workforce



Boosting Business and a Thriving Workforce

Strengthen the resilience and productivity of our core sectors, particularly to adapt to climate change impacts

The York and North Yorkshire economy does not rely on one singular industry. All our businesses play an important role. But some sectors are more vulnerable and need to adapt to future trends, particularly due to pressures from the climate crisis, digital advancements and changes to our high streets. By acting now, we're ensuring our businesses are primed and able to overcome these challenges.

Food and farming are sectors traditionally associated with York and North Yorkshire. Although employment is low overall in farming, we have 4x the proportion of businesses here than England and nearly 80% of our land is being used for a variety of farming, covering a range of arable and livestock. With a distinct coastline, aquaculture also has a unique role within York and North Yorkshire, both as a business opportunity but also to support carbon capture.

Farming is clearly a significant asset, supporting our large food and drink manufacturing sector and it provides the **opportunity to strengthen food security** within the UK. We need to support the food and farming sector to manage the risks of climate change as one of the most exposed sectors to increased flooding, drought and heat waves. We could be the trailblazer area for new ideas and support national needs.

Every business has a part to play in delivering net zero and beyond to carbon negative. York and North Yorkshire's ambition will provide our businesses with distinct advantages, from accessing new markets and saving money, to improving public perception and attracting talent.

Tourism is also important to York and North Yorkshire. We have a significant employment base, particularly accommodation and food service activities which employs 12% of our labour market. The sector is extremely multifaceted and can offer a range of opportunities for young people to develop meaningful careers.

Viewing tourism at a York and North Yorkshire level provides an opportunity to bring the full subregion together and strengthen our offer, retaining people for longer and increasing their spend.

Alongside **food and farming and tourism, retail** is a large employment sector and plays an integral role in the quality and attractiveness of our high streets and towns.

The **Construction** sector could make massive contributions to our ambitions to be carbon negative, as retrofitting needs are massive across our building stock. But industry isn't maximising this opportunity right now. We need to bring more "green" skills into this sector by showing businesses a clear pipeline of demand.

Development of our high potential opportunity sectors could put York and North Yorkshire on the global stage.

Alongside our valuable core sectors, there are a number of USPs within York and North Yorkshire that, if developed, could be major assets, driving productivity, high wage jobs and supporting the transition to carbon negative.

The sectors include the following:

- **Agri-tech** includes any science-based, technology-based, or practice used to improve productivity and sustainability of agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture, and forestry.
- **Rail** subsector priorities include: digital rail/signaling; train operating companies; infrastructure maintenance; civil engineering consultancy; electrification; green rail technology.
- **Manufacturing specialisms** in food and drink, bus and transport innovation, engineering, future materials and processes.
- **Creative and Digital specialisms** within: creative innovation & research (e.g. heritage tech); digital transformation; and AI and safe autonomy.
- **Industrial Biotechnology** with subsector expertise and focus areas to include: high value bio-renewables/low value, high volume bio-renewables; biorefining, waste valorisation.
- **Healthy Ageing** is a focus due to our ageing population and the opportunity to be part of the whole Northern Life Science and Health cluster.

A key strength to these assets is our high-performing academic institutions, research and development facilities, innovation and sector specialisms. These assets can support our businesses to be more resilient, productive and innovative.

And supporting these sectors is a strong presence of Business and Professional Services in York and North Yorkshire, including notable organisations such as Aviva, TSYS, VocaLink and others. There's a large number of people employed in these sectors, undertaking high value work (particularly in York, Harrogate and Skipton).

Build on global recognition to increase investment and export capabilities of our businesses.

Inward investment, from foreign and indigenous businesses, can make a significant contribution to a local economy, from job creation and wages to productivity gains and encourage innovation and R&D. To increase this and build on the global brand recognition of our places and products, York and North Yorkshire needs to be promoted as a destination for people to invest, do business, live, work, study and visit. Place branding and recognition also plays an important role in developing export opportunities and trust in our products and services.

Major developments and the creation of high-quality workspace in York and North Yorkshire often bring new exciting businesses and sectors to the area. This is one of the main drivers for investments such as York Central and along the A1 corridor and in Selby.

Ensure all our residents have a clear and accessible career pathway, no matter their age or the stage they are at in their career

Finding the right career can be a challenge at any age. From those looking to enter the job market for the first time, including our graduates; or someone at a later stage looking to have a career change. Those experiencing social inequalities (e.g. excluded from school, victims of crime, unemployed, homeless, offenders etc.) may also find it challenging to understand their career pathways.

But this doesn't have to be a daunting prospect for people. Having the right, high-quality Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) in place will help to remove this pressure.

Supporting people into jobs could also help combat our labour shortages. Over the last 5 years or so, York and North Yorkshire has had a consistently low unemployment rate, but York and North Yorkshire faces a tightening labour market. This has been partly a result of an ageing population and decline in young people (with exceptions for York and Selby), alongside increasing numbers of inactives.

Given our largely older workforce, they are critical to bridging employment gaps and we need to retain them for as long as possible. This could include a change in career, such as becoming a training instructor for people looking to enter the sector – something that is in high demand for the construction sector, but it is difficult to attract the professionals.

It's also important to help people to identify the different career pathways that exist and recognise that university is not the right route for everyone. Apprenticeships are an alternative option and provide employers the opportunity to invest and grow their own skills.

Create a skills system that is business-led, easy to access and navigate and responsive to emerging opportunities in core sectors, such as Green and Digital Skills

York and North Yorkshire performs strongly in terms of its qualification profile, with York having the highest skills levels of any city in the North of England. But these skills don't always address the needs of industry and changing trends mean upskilling and reskilling is needed.

The skills system needs to be able respond to a range of demands - from specialist and technical skills; to supporting residents to progress from basic level skills through to higher level skills.

Transferable skills will be increasingly important for those transitioning into emerging sectors or for those displaced from contracting sectors.

The transition to carbon negative offers the opportunity of new jobs (e.g. in renewable energy sector) and new skills (e.g. retrofitting requirements for the construction sector). New technologies and increasing digitalisation are transforming the world of work. Digital skills are very much a core skill, equivalent in importance to literacy and numeracy and needed for most jobs.

The skills system must support this range of provision if York and North Yorkshire is to develop and sustain a highly skilled workforce.

Flexibility in the system must also extend to the modes of delivery, particularly as inability to release staff for training is a key constraint for employers. Given the rurality of York and North Yorkshire and the challenges we face with transport and connectivity, there is a real place for online provision.

Create healthy workplaces

Absence from work due to sickness has grown since the beginning of the pandemic, particularly in those aged 50 and older. Across York and North Yorkshire more and more people are unable to work due to poor mental health and musculoskeletal problems.

Effective training and support for employers can help to safeguard the health and wellbeing of their staff, support them to make reasonable adjustments and retain employees. Inclusive workplaces can unlock the potential of staff who are neurodiverse, disabled or experiencing mental health challenges. Health and wellbeing at work has never been more important to recruitment and retention.

We will make York and North Yorkshire a trailblazer. Whether that's being at the forefront of our high potential sectors or boosting our core sectors and addressing national challenges such as food security. Alongside leading innovation within skills and training to address challenges and maximise the opportunities from new and developing sectors.

Boosting Business and Thriving Workforce Activity

Our Goals are to:

- Boost business productivity & resilience
- Increase wages and higher-quality jobs
- Grow our skills base to meet economic needs

Our Actions	What does this include?
<p>Develop Strategic Plans that drives up productivity, decarbonisation, skills and investment</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 51</p>	<p>Skills Strategy which will set out the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on existing strategies and research including York Skills Strategy, North Yorkshire Plan for Economic Growth, Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP), UKSPF Investment plans for York & North Yorkshire as well as the suite of recent research reports produced by the former York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership including the Routemap to Carbon Negative. • Reflect the opportunities and challenges facing York and North Yorkshire • Incorporate changes in the skills and funding landscape including devolution of Adult Skills Fund (ASF) • Align with wider provision: including DWP, National Careers Service, Apprenticeships, 16-19 provision, Technical and Vocational education and Higher Education
	<p>Innovation Strategy which will build the evidence base and recommendations around how to increase innovation and R&D activity within York and North Yorkshire. This activity will include business engagement and close collaboration with the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, the Department for Business and Trade and UKRI/Innovate UK.</p>
	<p>High Potential Opportunity Sectors Plans will set out the assets and opportunities to drive forward sectors that will support our overarching ambitions. This will include the following sectors and help to build a trade and investment pipeline: Agritech, Industrial Biotech, Creative & Digital technologies, Manufacturing, Healthy Ageing and Rail.</p>
<p>Deliver a programme of activity to boost our core sectors</p>	<p>Growth Hub specialist support team: The Growth Hub team has an overarching objective to provide specialist support to businesses operating in any sector and of any size, from pre-start to well established across York and North Yorkshire. That support typically involves acting as a trusted advisor to business owners and senior leaders, providing them with specialist information about products & services plus introductions to third parties. Our ambition is to deliver positive impact in the businesses we support, collaborating with public and private sector partners across the region, and highlighting success stories to our business communities.</p>

Our Actions	What does this include?
<p>Deliver a Programme of activity to boost our core sectors</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 52</p>	<p>Deliver specialist Business Support Programmes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Made Smarter: support to help manufacturing businesses adopt new technology, covering a range of bespoke advice on anything from skills and leadership to innovation strategies. The programme also runs roundtable events with leading industry figures to discuss key topics (e.g. skills, recruitment, government policy and support etc.) and works closely with the local universities to develop knowledge transfer partnerships. <li>• Grow Yorkshire: support and resources to help farmers and food businesses across the region with a strategic remit across environment, innovation, skills and wellbeing. <li>• Enterprise Centre: locally based business support services including at York St John University, the Enterprise Centre provides office space, practical support and expert advice. <li>• Shared Prosperity Fund Programmes: The Growth Hub delivers a range of business support and development programmes funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. <li>• Specialist Programmes: including Skills and Workforce Development, Net Zero and Energy Cost Reduction, Digital and Tech Adoption, and Pre-start Enterprise Advice to meet the needs and challenges of local businesses. <li>• International Trade and Exports: supporting our businesses with Department of Business and Trade, to reach opportunities for new overseas markets and realise growth.
<p>Deliver a Programme of activity to invest in our high potential opportunity sectors; and increase trade and investment</p>	<p>Deliver Trade and Investment support services to increase business investment from inside and outside the region. This includes 4 programmes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inward Investment Service: Manages the regional relationship with DBT Investment and HM Government’s Office for Investment. Designed to unite and manage regional partners to deliver a client focused “one stop shop” concierge service to attract businesses to choose York and North Yorkshire for investment <li>2. High Potential Sector Programme: Defining, developing and marketing our high potential sectors and assets to attract and target future investment from around the world. <li>3. Key Account Management: Actively supporting the most influential business in the region to feel valued and encouraged to remain and grow. <li>4. Invest in York and North Yorkshire: Partnership & Marketing development to coordinate stakeholders and maximise regional resource to maximise inward investment

Our Actions	What does this include?
<p>Deliver People and Skills Funding</p>	<p>Investment will boost apprenticeships, simplify the skills system, address specific sector skills needs, and widen careers information and advice to all ages. Funding will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Skills Fund (ASF) which Government will fully devolve to York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority from academic year 2025/26. ASF supports the delivery of education and training to people aged 19 and over to provide the skills and learning needed to progress into, or within, work; or equip them for an apprenticeship or other learning. The devolved ASF will enable more place based flexible tailored programmes to help YNY residents to engage in learning, build confidence, and enhance their wellbeing. • York and North Yorkshire Careers Hub, which brings together schools, colleges, employers, and apprenticeship providers. The goal is to make it easier for schools and colleges to improve how they prepare young people for their next steps. • Skills Bootcamps offer a wide range of courses in areas such as digital marketing, construction, and green energy – reflecting the diverse needs of the modern economy. Skills Bootcamps are free, flexible courses of up to 16 weeks for adults aged 19 or over. They give people the opportunity to build up valuable sector-specific skills based on local employer demand and provide a direct path to a job on completion. • Shared Prosperity Fund Programmes: The Combined Authority delivers a range of people & skills support programmes currently funded through North Yorkshire Council’s Shared Prosperity Fund.
<p>Strengthen our strategic relationships</p> <p>Page 53</p>	<p>Develop our partnerships to achieve our ambition for economic growth with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Departments, such as the Department for Business & Trade and the Department for Education; • Individual businesses and business networks; • Training and learning providers; • Community and Social Enterprise Sector • Local Visitor Economy Partnership

Thematic Priority: Affordable & Sustainable Homes



Affordable & Sustainable Homes

Housing is a key enabler of everything – building the right homes in the right places will improve the health and wellbeing of our residents, it will support the next generation of workers, it will contribute to carbon negative targets and support the construction sector. But there are challenges to address and the picture of housing demand is complex

Our residents have a wide range of housing needs, and it will be a complex challenge to address all of these.

Recognising the high numbers of older people across York and North Yorkshire, it is important that new housing supply is both accessible and adaptable to enable people to stay living within their own homes at different life stages. Safer and accessible homes also means reduced pressures on health and social care services.

Housing also needs to be targeted at our younger households so that they can stay living in York and North Yorkshire, particularly in our rural communities where there is the biggest decline in young people. This is critical to develop the next generation of workers, which will address skills and labour shortages.

A variety of homes is needed to suit different needs – for example, it is not necessarily the ambition of all our residents to buy a house. There is high demand for rental accommodation, but this can lead to high rental values and poor-quality accommodation. There is a lack of security for renters.

The rise in homelessness has led to a marked increase in the need for temporary accommodation at a time when the supply of private rented accommodation is under pressure. The cost of temporary housing is massive and there are limited alternatives to social housing. In addition, there is a shortage of specialist housing provision to meet specific needs.

When addressing housing needs, we need to ensure all our residents are considered, including those experiencing potential social inequalities (e.g. excluded from school, victims of crime, unemployed, homeless, offenders, those experiencing mental health challenges etc.).

Creating more homes for people is one challenge to overcome, but these also need to be in the right places with access to services (employment, transport etc.).

The increasingly unaffordability of homes is driving young people and working age households elsewhere

There is an affordability challenge for many areas of York and North Yorkshire. Many of our workers can't afford to stay here and we're seeing a decline in the young people that live here.

The challenge isn't only for first time buyers, as average rents are also unaffordable in some places, particularly in the city centre of York, where prices much closer reflect the prices within the South-East. The mean monthly cost of rented accommodation in York in May

2024 was £1,103, nearly a 13% increase from the previous year.

High rental costs mixed with low wage levels means that rented accommodation is equally unaffordable for residents.

Affordability is heavily impacted by the number of second homes and holiday lets in our most popular tourist spots, together with the high cost of delivering new affordable rural homes means that ensuring a supply of new homes is vital to the sustainability of our rural communities.

Decarbonisation needs of our housing stock will support our people through improvements to comfort, cost and carbon reductions, whilst providing a pipeline of projects for the construction sector

There will be a large demand for retrofitting within York and North Yorkshire due to its current housing stock and this need applies to all tenures.

York and North Yorkshire contains a large proportion of homes that are very old (pre-1919); typically these are less well insulated and often more difficult to retrofit. As a result, York and North Yorkshire has a high proportion of homes with poor thermal efficiency – around 68% of homes have an EPC rating below C.

Improving the efficiency of our homes creates an opportunity for the construction sector from both a skills and employment perspective and means warmer homes and reduced costs for our residents. Skills opportunities could include the development of a Construction Skills Village, extending on the existing training within Scarborough and bringing this to York, but supporting further afield into North Yorkshire as well.

Alongside decarbonisation of our current housing stock, building sustainable homes for the future is also critical. Sustainable building methods should be prioritised, particularly given the scale of carbon emissions produced using concrete. Building more homes could be at odds with our carbon negative ambitions unless we ensure sustainability within

construction.

Housing underpins all our economic ambitions. All our residents should have equal access to affordable, high-quality and sustainable homes. We will be proactive about housing development and work with key private and public sector bodies to champion change in this sector.

Affordable & Sustainable Homes

Our Goals are to:

- Create the right homes in the right places
- Ensure that people have access to a good quality and safe home
- Make all our homes greener

Our Actions	What does this include?
Develop a 10 year Housing Investment Plan	<p>The Housing Investment Plan will identify the strategic housing needs of York and North Yorkshire to ensure that the right homes are built in the right places, enabling us to facilitate more affordable and sustainable homes. For example, exploring opportunities of homes built around train stations or the significant opportunities from MoD sites. We will also review how we can balance the challenges of sustainability and quality Vs affordability.</p> <p>Housing can't be viewed in isolation and is a key enabler of many of our ambitions, so placemaking will also be integral to the Housing Investment Plan, alongside quality and design.</p> <p>This will be developed in close collaboration with our two local authorities, housing associations and other stakeholders. This strategy will closely align with our Retrofit Strategy.</p>
Deliver housing investment programmes	<p>Investment will be made into projects that enable new affordable and sustainable homes. For example:</p> <p>Brownfield Housing Fund: a commitment of £12.7 million to support the building of up to 1,000 homes. Priority was given to projects that enable the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unlock brownfield land• Support provision of affordable housing• Contribute to economic growth priorities• Enable high quality homes with great place making• Deliver sustainable and low carbon housing
Develop a Retrofit Strategy and Investment Programme	<p>A substantial level of homes need to be retrofitted, achieving a minimum of EPC C rating, in order to achieve our ambitions to be carbon negative. This strategy will outline a phased approach for delivering retrofit at pace and scale. The approach will be aligned with national strategies and funding landscape, with a particular focus on incorporating innovative financing mechanisms and leveraging market enablers throughout the supply chain. The plan will be based on a fabric-first approach to retrofit and will build upon archetypal retrofit plans to ensure that measures are suitable for proposed types of property, alongside maintaining local character (e.g., heritage, conservation areas). The strategy will relate to all of our housing stock, including tourist accommodation.</p>

Our Actions	What does this include?
Strengthen our strategic partnerships	<p>We will work closely with housing stakeholders to unlock the potential for more new homes. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• York and North Yorkshire Housing Partnership• Homes England• National Parks Authorities• Local Housing Authorities• Public Estates;• Housing providers and other key agencies.

City region
Rural powerhouse

Part 4
Page 59
Measures of Success

Measures of Success

To support the Economic Framework, measures of success need to be identified as this will enable us to assess the progress being made against our ambitions. A number of provisional indicators have been identified, but these will need to be explored further to ensure we're measuring the most appropriate outcomes.

Thematic Priority	Proposed Measures of Success
Healthy & Thriving Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of neighbourhoods in the 20% most deprived • Reduce rural isolation • Increase living standards • Reduce health inequalities
Affordable & Sustainable Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce transport emissions • Decrease the level of journeys using private car vehicles • Increase active travel usage • Increase public transport usage • Improve the quality and accessibility of our public transport • Reduce the number of residents at risk of transport-related social exclusion
Vibrant & Sustainable Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced vacancies on the high street • Increased resilience of our high street businesses • Increase the vitality of our high streets • Enhanced attractiveness as a place to invest and live • Reduced 'digital divide' • Increased take-up of connectivity solutions • Increase in renewable energy production • Reduction in carbon emissions • Decarbonisation of buildings through retrofit • Increase energy efficiency of businesses • Increase material efficiency and circularity of businesses • Increases to woodland coverage and the number of hedgerows • Peatland restoration

Thematic Priority	Proposed Measures of Success
Boosting Business and Thriving Workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in business turnover and productivity • Increase in business survival rates / resilience • Increase in R&D spend • Decarbonisation of our businesses • New high-quality jobs created • Increases in export and inward investment • Increases in the level of people undertaking training • Reduction in skills gaps, underutilisation and labour shortages • Increases to apprenticeships • Increasing use of apprenticeship levy • Decrease underrepresentation in the labour market • Employment increases in high potential sectors • Narrow the skills and employment gap
Affordable & Sustainable Homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the delivery of new homes • Increase the number of new affordable homes • Increase the number of homes retrofitted and achieving a minimum of EPC C rating • Improve the quality and design of new homes • Narrow the housing gap

City region
Rural powerhouse

For more information,
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