

## York and North Yorkshire’s Routemap to Carbon Negative – Consultation Feedback

### Summary Report for “Business & Industry” Section

The initial draft of York and North Yorkshire’s Routemap to Carbon Negative went out to consultation between the 28<sup>th</sup> February and 17<sup>th</sup> March. The consultation aimed to gather feedback on the draft Routemap, with a specific focus on the “strategic priorities” and “actions plans”.

This report provides a summary of key themes from the consultation feedback focused on the Business & Industry section of the Routemap.

Questions	Key themes from stakeholder feedback
Are we focusing on the right strategic priorities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>General consensus that we are focusing on the right priorities</b> to decarbonise businesses and industry in Y&amp;NY.</li> <li>• <b>Retrofitting buildings</b> noted as key to business transition, as well as <b>future-proofing current construction projects</b> by requiring high energy-efficiency standards.</li> <li>• <b>Education</b> to help businesses understand their position is crucial; SMEs need <b>straightforward decarbonisation information</b> to be able to adapt to net-zero, understanding that there is <b>no one-size-fits-all solution</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Some concern</b> that the Routemap focuses on decarbonising our <b>current levels of production and consumption</b>, rather ceasing carbon emitting activities or <b>growing and supporting low-carbon industries</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Inter-relation between Routemap sections noted</b>; ensuring rural areas have the electrical grid infrastructure to support the electrification of industry.</li> </ul>
Have we missed any priorities that you feel are important?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several respondents noted potential missed priorities around <b>business engagement/adaptation</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Education, knowledge, and skills</b> for SMEs on net zero noted as <b>key to transition</b>, regardless of sector, though different sectors may need different support. <b>Lack of knowledge</b> is a major barrier to action for SMEs, and by <b>supporting them and communicating the opportunities</b>, we can create action – bringing businesses with us.</li> <li>• Several stakeholders noted the <b>need to change our notion of ‘business as usual’</b>; circular economy, prioritising designing for long-term use and repair, and reducing production of new items should drive our interventions for industry.</li> <li>• There is a need to shift away from fossil fuels and <b>decarbonise the industrial/manufacturing processes</b> central to industry if we want to achieve net zero.</li> <li>• There are <b>opportunities in LGR and new government requirements</b> to maximise recycling in the region and pursue a <b>wider circular economy</b>; on a level with what has been developed in Wales.</li> </ul>
Are we focusing on the most impactful interventions in the Business & Industry Sector Action Plan (“How” section)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Strong consensus that we are focusing on the right interventions</b>.</li> <li>• Encourage the use of a <b>wider set of toolkits in public sector procurement</b>, such as Green Public Procurement/Government Buying Standards, and <b>developing additional guidance</b> where needed to enable <b>easier sustainable procurement</b>.</li> <li>• It may be worth emphasising <b>the importance of local supply chains</b> to procurement for SMEs, as this is a <b>key way to reduce emissions</b> and can enable resource sharing/reuse/repair networks.</li> <li>• <b>Circular business practices</b> must be transferrable between different businesses, and scalable to achieve net zero.</li> <li>• <b>National policy will affect the speed of transition</b> for SMEs, so the LEP must take a key role in influencing it.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must ensure <b>cohesion</b> between the ‘<b>one-stop-shop</b>’ (for businesses) <b>energy intervention</b> from Heat and Buildings section, and the <b>SME net zero programme</b>, to avoid duplicating programmes.</li> </ul>
<p>Do you feel there are any gaps in the interventions to ensure York &amp; North Yorkshire reaches net zero by 2034 and carbon negative by 2040?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple stakeholders were concerned that there were <b>no interventions relating specifically to the tourism and hospitality industry</b>, which is a major sector for YNY. Two key factors were noted as being necessary to change; <b>decarbonising transport</b> and <b>supporting SMEs to reduce carbon</b> and offer visitors lower-impact choices. Although they will be encompassed by the SME Net Zero programme, <b>targeted interventions</b> may be needed.</li> <li>• Significant interest in the potential for <b>developing CE supply chain opportunities for SMEs</b>, to assist with emission, waste, and cost reduction and wider bottom-up greening of supply chains. Businesses need to be <b>encouraged to collaborate</b>, with the Circular Business Champions network leveraging the engagement of existing business networks.</li> <li>• Potential role to <b>inform consumers</b> on the impact their choices can have, and <b>encourage them to shop locally</b> to make CE business models more widespread and aid transition.</li> <li>• We must ensure our places have the <b>right infrastructure and services</b> to retain the decarbonisation benefits of homeworking.</li> <li>• There was some concern that the interventions for SMEs don’t target <b>critical barriers</b> such as <b>cost</b> and <b>skills</b>, particularly with a <b>significant skills shift</b> needed to reach net zero.</li> <li>• <b>Clear and consistent policy</b> is key to creating change; the <b>proposed devolution</b> and formation of a Mayoral Combined Authority could <b>offer us opportunities</b> to develop the policies needed.</li> <li>• Ensuring there is a <b>mix of business types</b> – both <b>offices</b> and <b>light engineering/production</b> – on business parks to help retain and build a <b>variety of sectors</b> in the region.</li> </ul>
<p>Please detail below any further feedback that you would like to provide on this section.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Some inconsistency was noted</b> in the structure of the interventions compared to the other sections, and one stakeholder requested <b>clarity on the national green procurement guidelines</b> and how local public sector procurement could be utilised to encourage supply chains to decarbonise.</li> <li>• It was noted that <b>funding and access to resources will be critical for this sector to decarbonise</b>. Increased solar PV deployment on new industrial premises will need to be implemented via changes in Local Plan reviews, preferably backed by national policy.</li> <li>• It was noted by one stakeholder that most commercial properties are controlled by <b>landlords</b> who may be reticent to retrofit.</li> </ul>
<p>Key Actions</p>	<p><u>All feedback has been reviewed and will be addressed where deemed appropriate and feasible. Headline actions from the consultation include:</u></p> <p><b>Update narrative and strategic priorities:</b> to show linkages between other sections and emphasis on specific areas (including circular economy, building retrofit and SME-specific challenges).</p> <p><b>Further partner &amp; stakeholder engagement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LA Climate Action Leads:</b> key challenges discussed at meeting (10/05) – including ensuring that decarbonising tourism is more prominent in the Routemap.</li> </ul>

- **LEP Business Board Net Zero Task & Finish Group:** discussion around building circular economy into strategic priorities and interventions; further developing interventions for SMEs; and measures to support developing clean sectors.
- **“Net Zero Tourism” workshop:** session with key stakeholders to co-design approaches to decarbonise tourism and make the most of the opportunity (June)