

Report of the Council Representative on the Yorkshire Energy Partnership (YEP)

13 December 2011

Yorkshire Energy Partnership (YEP) is a not-for-profit company offering money-saving, energy-efficient solutions to help people in their homes, businesses and communities to live and work more sustainably as well as cutting costs.

YEP is owned by the local authorities in North Yorkshire and York and it gets a small amount of funding direct from local authorities every year by way of a contribution to its core costs and most of its directors are drawn from the local authorities. YEP aims to become the main delivery agent for all energy efficiency projects led by the local authorities in the area.

“Heating up Hambleton” is the main project that YEP is running in the District. This project is a two year contract between YEP and the Council to develop and deliver an Affordable Warmth Strategy. The overall aim is to reduce the number of fuel poor households in Hambleton over the life of the strategy. An action plan forms part of the strategy and sets out a series of tasks to be undertaken over the two year period, which will lead to the main objective being achieved. The project commenced in January 2010 and will run until the end of December 2011. The project is running to target and there are no issues of concern.

Other YEP activities that are relevant to the District are:-

- Management of the local Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre. Customers are put in touch with accredited local installers and are helped in applying for grant funding or discounts for installing energy saving measures and renewable technology.
- The North Yorkshire Green Business Club, which assists small to medium businesses by offering expert advice and training to help them become resource-efficient, save money and reduce their environmental impact.
- The Green Neighbourhood Challenge; this is a year long project working with seven community groups in North Yorkshire which aims to encourage communities to understand their carbon footprint and energy use, then take steps to reduce it by cutting carbon emissions by 11% in 2011. The Brompton Allotment Association is the group in Hambleton which is taking part.
- The North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales sustainable communities’ projects offers free practical help, advice and support for measures which reduce the carbon footprint of communities. Co-ordinators work with communities to facilitate the delivery of energy efficiency, renewable energy and other environmental projects.
- The North Yorkshire Schools Insulation Programme is a project to insulate about 600 schools which YEP is managing for the Education Authority. Schools in the Thirsk area were the first to be assisted under the programme.

**Councillor Mrs Caroline Patmore
Council Representative on the Yorkshire Energy Partnership (YEP)**