

Transport

Transport is the sector that emits the most greenhouse gas emissions across the UK, accounting for 31.5% of carbon dioxide emissions in 2021. In East Riding, the transport sector is second only to industry as the highest emitting sector, making up 30% of all carbon emissions within the East Riding of Yorkshire. The majority of transport emissions in East Riding are from road transport.

To achieve our net zero ambitions there will have to be a transition to low and zero emission vehicles, a modal shift towards active travel and public transport, and an avoidance of unnecessary travel through digital and rational solutions. As set out in the UK Government's Transport Decarbonisation Plan, the electrification of road transport is only part of the solution and it is essential we avoid a car-led pathway to net zero and instead make public transport, cycling and walking the natural first choice for all who can take it.

Reducing carbon emissions and improving healthy lifestyles is a key objective set out in East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Local Transport Plan (2021-2039) which sets our transport funding priorities and solutions to help us meet net zero and increase climate resilience.

What we have done

- Supported and encouraged the use of electric vehicles (EV's), through our Public Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy, by installing a basic network of charging points across the East Riding including at 15 Council owned car parks and across our leisure centre facilities.
- Implemented a number of initiatives to support and encourage more people to use active travel modes more often. This has included:
 - the development of a series of 14 Local and Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP's) covering all our main settlements, to target investment in walking and cycling routes, such as the infrastructure improvements between Cottingham and Hull and Beverley and Hull, completed in 2022.
 - development of numerous town centre walking and cycling maps and several leisure cycle maps for settlements including Pocklington, Driffield, Goole, South Holderness and Beverley.
 - the *Walking the Riding* website which contains details of over 300 local walks of varying lengths and difficulties.
 - the *Walking for Health* programme run in partnership with the NHS to encourage people to attend a group walk led by a qualified and experienced walk leader.
 - the Council's partnership with British Cycling to run a programme of SkyRide local cycling events at locations across the East Riding.
- Encourage more people to travel by public transport as an alternative to using their cars. Examples of schemes we have successfully delivered to encourage public transport use have included:

- the completion of the Bridlington Integrated Transport Plan (Phase 2) in 2020, providing a coach pick-up and drop facility and a new bus hub adjacent to the railway station.
 - in partnership with bus operators, the development of an app to enable passengers to access real time bus information, such as arrival times, on their smartphones, improving passenger experience by making users aware of any delays and reducing waiting times.
 - accessibility enhancements have taken place at transport hubs, like the footway surface improvements and additional signage at Goole station to support those with mobility issues and encourage active travel integrated with rail travel.
- Supported and empowered a number of local community transport groups and schemes to assist people who cannot access private or public transport, including through:
 - setting up a network of 'Parish Transport Champions' and 'Parish Transport Toolkit' to help identify transport barriers and devise innovative solutions which meet local need.
 - help and support the volunteer led East Riding Community Transport Operators Network.
 - The rollout of seven new zero-emission electric vans, three electric cars and one electric minibus for the council to use in delivering services, with charging points installed at three of our depots so far.
 - We manage and maintain a large proportion of the East Riding's transport network. This includes a highway network of approximately 2,206 miles, a footway/cycleway network of over 1,082 miles and other transport assets such as street lighting and road signs. The impacts from climate change are reducing the service life of transport infrastructure, requiring more regular maintenance and management which means more energy and raw materials are consumed.

Key Challenges & Opportunities

Challenges to Delivery

- **Addressing the heavy reliance on car travel** - In East Riding, the distance between remote settlements and local services, coupled with higher than average car ownership, means there is estimated to be more trips made by car compared to other areas in the Yorkshire and Humber region.
- **Addressing freight transport** - The East Riding generates a high proportion of carbon emission from freight transport, with a large amount passing through the Ports of Hull and Goole. High volumes of road freight on the M62/A63 corridor and other major road networks are a specific challenge.

- **Capital cost of Zero and Ultra Low Emission Vehicles** - The current market for ultra low emission vehicles makes them unaffordable for many residents and businesses across East Riding.
- **Rurality** - East Riding of Yorkshire is predominantly rural (93% rural by area) which is a key factor for high car ownership rates and car use being the preferred mode of transport; both fundamental challenges to reducing carbon emissions. This means community transport services and electrification of road transport will be vital in our decarbonisation effort for these areas.
- **Funding** - There is currently insufficient funding to undertake all of the proposed transport schemes set out in Council strategies, with reductions seen in funding from National Government for many areas of sustainable and active travel, including for our Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans.
- **Levels of Walking** - Despite national government strategies and local improvements in infrastructure and promotion, there has been a decrease in average trips made by walking across England.
- **Impact of Covid-19** - The pandemic and social distancing has caused disruption to bus and rail patronage and industry forecasts suggest a recovery to previous levels will take years.

Opportunities

- **Encouraging healthy lifestyles** - Encouraging and supporting active travel to reduce emissions, can help to reduce the negative effects of a sedentary lifestyle and also reduce the likelihood of developing chronic health conditions and associated long-term healthcare costs.
- **Homeworking** - There is an opportunity to take advantage of the demand for homeworking across the East Riding, since the Covid-19 Pandemic, to reduce emissions associated with commuting.
- **Active travel opportunities** - The rural scenic nature, flat landscape and compactness of East Riding's large towns offer local residents and visitors an enticing option to travel on foot or by bike.
- **Reducing congestion** - Schemes to encourage active travel and use of public transport will also reduce traffic congestions by encouraging more people away from using the private car.
- **Efficient maintenance** - We continue to develop new approaches to minimise the environmental impact of road maintenance schemes. For instance, since 2011 we have swept up loose chippings and stockpiled them for washing, grading and recycling. This has resulted in savings of £40,000 a year. It has also led to carbon emission reductions from making less deliveries of road chippings and less consumption of virgin aggregates for road surfacing.
- **Uptake in cycling** - The Covid-19 pandemic led to a change in travel patterns and an uptake of cycling across England with cycling levels increasing to the highest levels since national travel surveys were undertaken. There is a huge opportunity to capitalise on this at a local level.

Areas of Action

Please note that until the final Climate Change Strategy has been approved, we have chosen to use the wording 'East Riding of Yorkshire Council can.' Once the Strategy has been fully consulted on internally and with the public we will commit to 'East Riding of Yorkshire Council will.'

East Riding of Yorkshire Council can...

- Explore how the Council can expand the installation of publicly accessible EV charging points across the East Riding.
- Explore measures to reduce the carbon emissions of the Council's fleet by:
 - Transitioning to electric vehicles.
 - Procuring vehicles at the highest emission standards.
 - Monitoring driving behaviours to reduce fuel consumption and carbon emissions.
- Undertake infrastructure improvements to the local walking and cycling networks, funded through the Local Transport Plan process.
- Invest in infrastructure to support sustainable multi-modal journeys, such as improved cycle parking at bus and rail stations.
- Support and encourage residents to walk or cycle for short trips through promotional tools, free cycling training and other behaviour change programmes.
- Work with schools to encourage children and parents to walk, cycle or scoot to school and provide support to schools to help them achieve a Modeshift sustainable travel accreditation.
- Promote car sharing for residents who cannot use or access more sustainable forms of travel.
- Maintain the Public Rights of Way network in the East Riding to provide a better experience for all users, supporting the shift away from car travel.
- Develop an East Riding Local Plan that supports developments where there are services, facilities, homes and jobs which reduce the need to travel and can be served more easily by sustainable modes of transport.
- Support and empower parish councils, local communities and groups to devise innovative and sustainable transport solutions, offering our Parish Transport Toolkit we have created and utilising the network Parish Transport Champions.
- Work with other authorities, local universities, businesses and healthcare providers to encourage and support active travel across the region.
- Work with partners on innovative projects that improve the experience of rail and bus journeys in the East Riding.
- Explore with partners projects to decarbonise the rail network and continue to put forward proposals for rail electrification in the Humber area.
- Work with other authorities, East Yorkshire Buses, the Rail Industry and the Highways Agency to improve accessibility to public transport and continue to encourage use of public transport in areas with high quality public transport links.
- Help create a network of public and privately owned electric vehicle infrastructure across the East Riding.
- Explore with partners innovative projects that support on-street EV residential parking and the creation of EV charging community hub locations.

- Assess ways to reduce emissions associated with freight transportation, such as by using renewable fuels or through transportation by rail or water instead of roads.
- Through our Broadband East Riding Programme, work with suppliers to ensure our residents, visitors and businesses enjoy faster broadband connectivity enabling digital options that reduce unnecessary travel.

How can you reduce your carbon footprint?

- For shorter trips, walking and cycling is a good way to reduce your carbon footprint and can have a positive impact on your health.
- If you cannot access more sustainable forms of travel, have you considered car sharing? It is a great way to help the environment and can save you money on travel costs too. Liftshare manages a car sharing scheme that is open to all. See link <https://liftshare.com/uk>

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