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Helen Barrington

Director of Legal and Democratic
Services
County Hall
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 3AG

Juliette.Normington@derbyshire.gov.uk

Dear Councillor

**IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – CLIMATE CHANGE,
BIODIVERSITY AND CARBON REDUCTION - MONDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2022**

Agenda No	Item
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5.	<u>Acceleration Low Carbon Growth</u> (Pages 1 - 16)
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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Helen E. Barrington'.

Helen Barrington
Director of Legal and Democratic Services

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Accelerating Low Carbon Growth

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Scrutiny Committee

7 February 2022

SCRUTINY:

Accelerating growth of a low carbon economy

Supporting skills and training

Delivering sustainable infrastructure



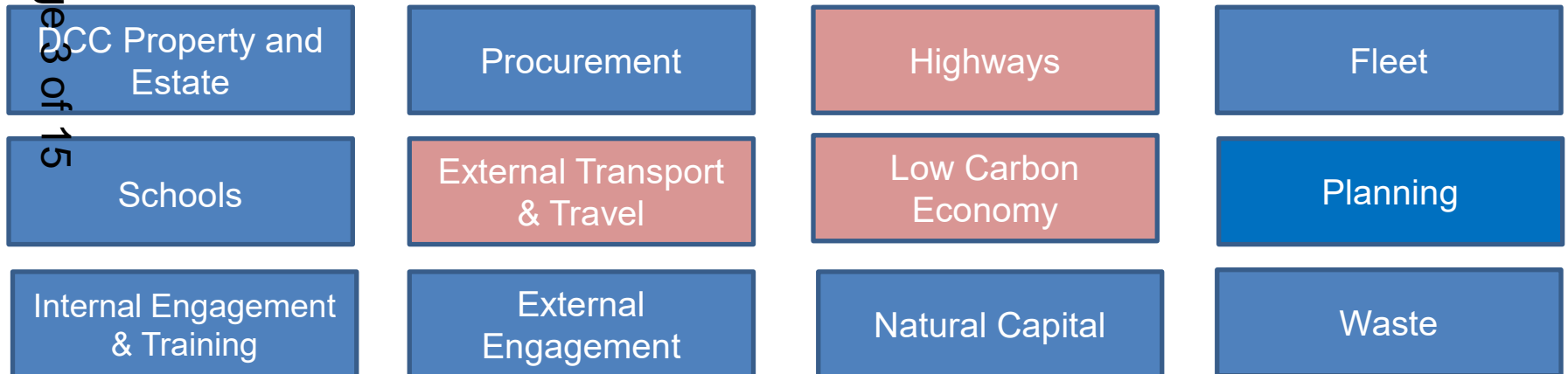
Supporting businesses

Adopting and manufacturing new technologies

Derbyshire County Council Climate Change Strategy: Achieving Net Zero (2021-2025)

- Strategy approved by Cabinet on 14 October 2021
- Sets out what the Council will do to tackle emissions and achieve net zero targets.
- 32 priority actions, supported by over 120 supplementary actions, initiatives and projects, which the Council will either lead or support.
- Twelve themes established to develop, implement, manage and monitor delivery plans.

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Priority Actions: Low Carbon Economy

1. Work with our partners to develop a Renewable Energy Strategy for the county and identify opportunities for renewable energy generation, as well as the decarbonisation of heating and energy use in homes.
2. Through Vision Derbyshire work with partners to develop a **Strategic Joint Planning Framework** for Derbyshire to ensure that planning measures for net zero commercial buildings are integrated into Local Plans.
3. Work with **local academic institutions, trade unions, and regional Chamber of Commerce to identify geographical areas for low carbon industry growth** - assessing and developing capabilities and skills of the region in supplying those industries.

Priority Actions: Low Carbon Economy

4. Deliver the Derbyshire **Green Entrepreneurs Fund**
5. Work with the Midlands Energy Hub and others to build **technical and economic capabilities across the region to deliver renewable energy** and low carbon projects.
6. Liaise with Western Power Distribution (WPD) and D2N2 LEP to understand grid capacity and constraints for future energy generation opportunities.
7. Through the **COVID Recovery Strategy**, identify high carbon commercial industries and support the business community in shifting to and benefiting from the low carbon economy.

Recovery Strategy Overview

- The Derbyshire Economic Recovery Strategy has:
 - One core objective – **to build back better.**
Support circular economy, transformational change in local communities and business, level up and accelerate work to mitigate and adapt to climate change
 - Two key themes – Economic Development and Employment & Skills
 - Five phases: Rescue, Resume, Revive, Regenerate, Renew
 - Nine priorities and 31 key actions

- Strategy developed and signed off November 2020, formally launched in January 2021

- Delivered through the Economy and Business Recovery Cell – supported by all 10 local authorities, Chamber, FSB, public transport operators, FE and HE providers, key business representatives, tourist board, Government dept (DWP, DfE and DfT)

- Recovery meetings still on-going. Impact assessment completed in November 2021

Progress: Economic Strategy

Priority	Action	Progress
Place: <i>resilient and diverse economic centres/market towns</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secured £120m from town deals, future high street and levelling up fund to support 6 market town renewal programmes Programme developed for remaining market towns – awaiting funding Mobility hub pilots and sustainable transport packages developed £100k shopappy rolled out to support independent retailers <p>Going Forward: Landlord commission, programme of heritage led regeneration</p>	
Industry: <i>protect sectors and support businesses to diversify, grow</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-invigorating OPE to review role of public assets in place £1m business start up programme launched – Vision Derbyshire £2m Green Entrepreneurs Fund launched £2m community renewal fund secured – roll out from November 2021 <p>Going Forward: Procurement strategy to support local SMEs; wider sector support (e.g. green tech)</p>	
Visitor Economy: <i>leverage unique assets to protect and transform the offer</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £100k additional financial support to MPDD Domestic market campaign for 2021 Cultural Framework developed – roll out of events programme, Shine a Light <p>Going Forward: Repurpose tourism sector deal, launch international tourism campaign</p>	
Enabling Infrastructure: <i>future proof for good growth</i>	<p>£3m to sustain public transport; £200k Capability Fund; £1.7m Active Travel; £250k e-bikes £2m 'kickstart fund' secured to prepare new infrastructure projects £1m to enhance digital connectivity – top up vouchers (hard to reach areas)</p> <p>Going Forward: pilot mobility hubs, develop future fuels infrastructure, develop Integrated Transport Plan, deliver Integrated Rail Plan,</p>	
Inward Investment: <i>enhance offer and promote opportunities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed approach and reshaping inward investment service Reviewed and refining prospectus Supporting businesses through Brexit transition <p>Going forward: support more businesses to on-shore and localise supply chains</p>	

Progress: Employment & Skills Strategy

Priority	Action	Progress
<p>Young People: <i>developing clear progression pathways</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital inclusion programmes rolled out – laptops to those in need • £60k secured to support Careers Hub roll out and virtual careers fair for South Derbyshire • £100k secured to roll out Youth Hubs • 440 apprenticeships secured through Kickstat <p>Going Forward: Graduate retention programme, Green Skills Academy, Derbyshire Accelerator roll out</p>	
<p>Adults: <i>realigning labour market, retraining and routes to employment</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 143 businesses supported to secure 83 apprentices through Levy transfer • Initial development of Green Skills Academy proposal • £2m secured to support skills development for in work and unemployed (CRF) • £3.1m secured to support digital skills support through laptop refurb scheme and programme <p>Going Forward: enhanced social value through Vision Derbyshire, digital inclusion programme and Digital Skills Strategy (LEP level)</p>	
<p>Responding to Future Skill Needs: <i>responsive skills system</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitality Charter developed with employers • Green Skills development work • Festival of Business launched • Business breakfast programme rolled out <p>Going Forward: Shared/ enhanced local intelligence, business skills research, links to Freeport Skills Academy</p>	
<p>Entrepreneurship and Self Employment: <i>stimulate enterprise and business growth</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1m for digital infrastructure to support home working • £2m Green Entrepreneurs Fund • Apprenticeship levy transfer supporting SMEs • Developing approach to ‘enterprising places’ – £1m business start up, £1.5m CRF Accelerator • Festival of Business <p>Going Forward: Social enterprise strategy</p>	

Showcase: Support to Business

Support to business: De Carbonise

- £920,000 fund from EU monies and local match of which £660,866 has been allocated as 92 grants – with more to come from Derby City underspend
- £460,000 to Derbyshire alone – almost all has been allocated for 59 grants
- Grant scheme up to £20,000 to support local business to reduce carbon emissions from fleet or premises

Grants have been for

- ✓ LED lighting and sensors
 - ✓ Controllers for copper winding machines
 - ✓ Replacement windows (double and secondary glazing) and doors
 - ✓ Wall and roof insulation
 - ✓ Replacement heating systems
 - ✓ Solar PV
 - ✓ Replacement compressor system and heat recovery
 - ✓ Doors for display fridges
 - ✓ Replacement refrigeration systems
 - ✓ Electric Vehicle charge points
- ✓ The projects have an annual carbon saving of 712 tonnes

Case studies

<https://www.derby.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/climate-change-energy-management/de-carbonise/#page-6>

Showcase: Adopting and Manufacturing New Technologies

Green Entrepreneurs:

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- £2m fund from the County Council across three strands:
 - Demonstrator grant
 - Small grants
 - Scholarships
 - Launched May 2021 – 7 full applications for grants
 - E.g. Arkwright Society: £130,632 demonstrator grant
 - 3 small grants covering construction industry, technology and engineering
 - Plus 9 scholarship grants to support training and green skills

Showcase: Sustainable Infrastructure

Transport Strategy

- Developing a new Integrated Transport Plan that will bring together all elements of travel and transport into one comprehensive package of proposals: public transport (bus and rail), new roads, future fuel infrastructure (hydrogen, electric charging), cycling and walking
- ITP will provide platform for future funding bids

Current work:

- ✓ £250,000 from Dept of Transport Capability Fund - 4 feasibility studies for walking and cycling inc. bus and rail interchange audit; commercial e-bike hire in Peak Park and market towns; scoping a blue print for 'one stop shop information portal'; capitalise on cycling networks in northern Derbyshire (Chesterfield, NE Derbyshire, Bolsover), including adult cycle training
- ✓ Extending Wheels to Work e.g. Staveley Town Deal to subsidise access to e-bikes as a means of sustainable travel to work and learning
- ✓ 218 public facing electric vehicle charging in place across the County. 1,000 points within next 2 years
- ✓ Developing strategic proposals for 'Mobility as a Service' (dial up services)
- ✓ Developing pilots for low carbon communities e.g. Travelling Light in the Hope Valley
- ✓ Low carbon mobility task force – driving activity on hydrogen infrastructure

Digital infrastructure

- ✓ In hard to reach places to assist digital connectivity, reduce the need for travel and support e-commerce - £1m for top up vouchers
- ✓ Exploring 'digital hubs' in rural locations

Showcase: Skills & Training

Green Skills: Initiating Green Skills Academy

- Working across FE sector
- Mapping existing 'green skills' training offer
- Revisit curriculum to embed as much 'green skills' within existing courses (e.g. modern methods of construction)

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Example: I Programme

- ✓ Rolled out to promote and teach digital skills to unemployed or inactive people and those at risk of redundancy
- ✓ £3.1m for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire area

Almost £75m to support market towns programme through town deals

- ✓ Staveley: Staveley Basin, town centre renewal, canal restoration, public assets (library etc), sustainable travel, new rail station (Barrow Hill line proposals)
- ✓ Clay Cross: market town renewal, public assets, sustainable travel, transport improvements
- ✓ Long Eaton: market town renewal, sustainable travel, public assets

Almost £80m to support renewal and regeneration through Levelling Up Fund

- ✓ Chesterfield - £20m for culture and heritage led- regeneration at Stephenson Hall Memorial, Crooked Spire, markets, festivals
- ✓ Infinity Park - £49m for new junction and link road to open up land for jobs and housing

Integrated Rail Plan

- ✓ HS2 line to EM Parkway, conventional station at Toton, Midland Mainline Electrification, accelerating development vehicle
- No HS2 line through Derbyshire; No Maintenance Depot at Chesterfield; Continued blight and uncertainty during further review – minimum 18 months

£2m to support businesses, employment and skills through Community Renewal Fund

- ✓ Derby Business College - £500,000 to develop/deliver/test and evaluate the efficacy of: a) an integrated employment/skills system and b) alternative methods of engagement across classroom /online /blended
- ✓ Derbyshire Accelerator - £1.5m to strengthen the place-based business support ecosystem through: Race to Zero Carbon Accelerator, Digital Transformation Accelerator, Start Up to Scale Up Accelerator, Kickstart Accelerator and Financial Accelerator

Going Forward

- We've done a lot but there's more to do.....

Key areas:

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- Continue to develop our county-wide narrative for good growth and our offer to businesses and communities
 - Retain focus on 'place' (natural and built environment) and 'people'
 - Communicate and educate – businesses and residents
 - Future fuels research and strategy development for infrastructure and skills
 - Energy strategy – work across the region to refine and deliver
 - Sector development – de-carbonising existing production and growing green businesses and technologies
 - Attracting new industries to support good growth
 - Pilot, experiment– e.g. through GEF demonstrator, centres for excellent etc
 - Share knowledge – build up local intelligence
 - Celebrate achievement



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