

Public Document Pack



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PUBLIC

To: Members of Improvement and Scrutiny Committee - Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon Reduction

Friday, 8 September 2023

Dear Councillor

Please attend a meeting of the **Improvement and Scrutiny Committee - Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon Reduction** to be held at **2.00 pm** on **Monday, 18 September 2023**; the agenda for which is set out below.

Yours faithfully

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

Helen Barrington
Director of Legal Services

A G E N D A

PART I - NON-EXEMPT ITEMS

1. Apologies for absence
To receive apologies for absence (if any)
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive Declarations of Interest (if any)

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 1 - 8)

To confirm the non-exempt minutes of the Improvement and Scrutiny - Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon Reduction meeting held on 3 July 2023.

4. Public Questions (Pages 9 - 10)

30 minutes maximum in total for this item. Questions may be submitted to be answered by the Scrutiny Committee or Council officers who are attending the meeting as witnesses, on any item that is within the scope of the Committee. Please see the procedure below for the submission of questions.

5. Climate Change Portfolio Update (Verbal Report)

6. Reducing the Environmental Impact of Business Travel (Pages 11 - 18)

7. The Council's Role in Decarbonising Derbyshire's Housing (Pages 19 - 48)

8. Work Programme (Pages 49 - 50)

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY AND CARBON REDUCTION** held on Monday, 3 July 2023 in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Matlock.

PRESENT

Councillor W Major (in the Chair)

Councillors J Bryan, S Bull, D Collins, M Ford, G Hickton and D Taylor.

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillor B Bingham and A Hayes.

Officers present: Daniel Ayrton (Assistant Director Resources & Waste), Rupert Casey (Assistant Director - Climate Change and Environment), Stuart Etchells (Principal Procurement Officer), Juliette Normington (Democratic Services Officer) and Caroline Toplis (Programme Manager - Climate Change).

The meeting commenced with the Chair offering his condolences to the family of Councillor Roger Redfern, member of this committee, following his recent sudden death.

17/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

18/23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – to confirm the non-exempt minutes of the meeting of the Improvement & Scrutiny – Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon Reduction committee held on 22 May 2023.

19/23 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Question from Mr Ring (in relation to the workstream on Decarbonising the Domestic Sector, within Derbyshire CC's Climate Change Strategy 2023-25):

“A draft action plan was published in April of this year, on "Homes fit for the Future: Decarbonising Derbyshire's Housing", setting out a major multi-sector programme of work beginning in May (2023), with the Council assuming lead responsibility in many of the actions proposed. This followed an extensive consultation with Derbyshire householders and local community groups about the barriers to retrofitting. Early findings were considered by the Committee (in

November of last year), when it was resolved to "co-design and co-deliver a programme of activities to support homeowners to undertake energy efficiency work".

The closing date for comments on the draft Action Plan was 5th May. It is now July 2023. A final action plan has not been published. Many of the goals set out there cannot be achieved without this, and the extensive leadership from the County Council envisaged in the plan.

What steps (beyond increasing the capacity of the Officer Team in the Climate Change Section, which is in progress) do the Committee consider are needed to ensure immediate and effective leadership by the Council of this urgent programme of work to decarbonise Derbyshire's housing?"

Response:

"Thank you for your question, Mr Ring. The County Council, along with Derbyshire's district and borough councils, undertook extensive community engagement during late 2022 and early 2023 to understand the barriers that exist to Derbyshire's homeowners undertaking energy efficiency retrofitting activities on their homes, and to ascertain the support that could be provided by local authorities and their partners to help remove these barriers.

The Homes Fit for the Future Action Plan was developed in response to the engagement findings and, following the securing of support from the Council's senior management and Elected Members, the draft Action Plan was shared with groups and individuals for comment between March and May 2023. Feedback received on the draft Action Plan has been positive and we do therefore not expect there to be any significant changes to the final version of the Action Plan, which will be signed off for delivery this summer.

The Action Plan is seen as the foundation of a long-term strategy and approach to decarbonising Derbyshire's housing. There are two crucial factors that will underpin the effectiveness and success of any approach: funding and partnership working.

In terms of funding, running in parallel to the Action Plan development, officers have been exploring funding opportunities to enable the Action Plan and any subsequent long-term strategy to be delivered. This includes a collaborative bid with local authority partners in Derby, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire to help fund the provision of face-to-face and tailored retrofitting advice and support to homeowners. We are hopeful that this bid will be successful and expect to hear the outcome

over the coming weeks.

In terms of partnership working, and recognising the scale of the challenge, the Action Plan needs to be delivered through joint working with residents, other local authorities and wider stakeholders. As such, officers are establishing plans for the co-delivery of many actions in the Action Plan, which also includes working with contractors, colleges and training providers to enable a growth in the domestic retrofitting supply chain in the county.

We recognise that this is an important area of work that requires urgent action locally, but that it is also a national challenge, and therefore greater action, funding and commitment is needed from national government. Through its membership of organisations such as the UK100 and the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT) the Council will continue to use its influence to lobby government for greater national commitment and action.”

The following supplementary question was asked by Mr Ring:

“Does the Committee envisage that the County Council's other resources can be used to (1) engage householders in the "Homes Fit for the Future" programme of work eg via printed media such as Derbyshire Now and the Derbyshire Adult Learning Service; (2) to enlist the support of further and higher education providers in developing the "green skills" workforce; and (3) engage with local planning authorities to encourage applications to retrofit Derbyshire's Housing stock?”

The response of the Chair of the Committee was:

"Thank you for your question. Regarding publication, I think we all agree that the methods suggested including going in Derbyshire Now should be utilised. As a committee we will make the request however, I suspect it would have happened as a matter of course anyway.

I understand there is always a desire to be speedier on these projects however, we need to ensure they are done correctly and deliver on our aims.

Finally, to cover your last point, as a committee we are aware of the lack of capacity to deliver at scale. This needs to be a focus going forward so the Derbyshire economy has the skills and trades to adapt people's homes to reduce emissions."

Councillor Wayne Major, Chairman

Question from Councillor Gez Kinsella:

“The 32 Priority Actions against which the Climate Change Strategy is monitored are divided into themes. The traffic light indicators against the Low Carbon Economy Theme shows two of the actions are denoted as green and five as amber. This has not changed since the performance reports were devised 18 months ago.

There are other examples within other themes, but focusing on the Low Carbon Economy theme we see there are two actions that are not within timetable and are not delivering the required outcomes. What does it take for an action to be recorded as red – ‘unlikely to achieve timetable and/or to deliver required outcome’?”

Response:

“Thank you for your question Cllr Kinsella. We understand that the two actions referred to in the question relate to:

1. Taking forward the COVID Recovery Strategy to identify and work with high carbon commercial industries
2. Working with the district and borough councils to develop a Strategic Joint Planning Framework for Derbyshire

In these two cases, the specific deliverables referenced in the actions (the COVID Recovery Strategy and the Strategic Joint Planning Framework) have not been progressed as originally planned due to delays in national government action, including delays to publication of the Planning White Paper, which has paused the development of a Strategic Joint Planning Framework.

As a result, delivery of the required benefits and outcomes are being progressed through other mechanisms, such as the Council’s work with the Minerals Products Industry on net zero, and the development of Climate Change Planning Guidance and an associated Assessment Metric.

However, your comments have been taken on board and will be considered during the ongoing quarterly review and reporting of performance.

The Council’s Programme Manager for Climate Change, Caroline Toplis, would be happy to meet with you separately to discuss any specific

points of query.”

Councillor Wayne Major, Chairman
Improvement and Scrutiny – Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon
Reduction Committee

20/23 SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

Stuart Etchells, Principal Procurement Officer introduced the report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting and gave an update on the implementation and impact of the Council’s new sustainable procurement policy and the use of the Social Value Portal.

The report was accompanied by a presentation that highlighted the three key principles of sustainable procurement and the three projects that had been trialled and were progressing to contract award:

- Supply of Disposable Gloves;
- Road Marking, Studding Works, and High Friction Surface Treatment; and
- Supply of Traffic Management

One of the key criteria identified in the Sustainable Procurement policy was to drive sustainability through the Council’s procurements and to begin getting the supply chain to commit to sustainable goals and measures. A wider review of procurement documentation was under way and County Procurement were working with its provider, Procontract, to ensure availability of documentation on line where possible and to reduce duplication for suppliers.

Members asked a number of questions which around the social values, medium-term framework and SCAPE.

RESOLVED to note the update provided on the implementation and impact of the Council’s new sustainable procurement policy and the use of the Social Value Portal.

21/23 WIDER UPDATE ON WASTE MANAGEMENT TEAM AND PROJECTS

Daniel Ayrton, Assistant Director of Resources and Waste gave an overview of resource and waste management. This was supported by a presentation which gave a review of performance; a summary of objectives and actions for 2022/23; a review of outcomes for 2022/23; an overview of national waste strategy landscape; and future actions.

The presentation gave a breakdown of the responsibilities of district,

county and unitary councils with the County Council being responsible for green waste – it shared responsibility with other councils in the county around strategy.

Performance data showed a steady decline in the proportion of waste being landfilled locally and nationally. A 1.8 percentage point improvement had been seen locally however a marked reduction in residual waste had been seen due to the cost living crisis. The presentation outlined the specific and country wide targets for the department and gave actions and objectives progress for 2022/23. There had been a 42% carbon reduction since 2024/15 from landfill with an increase in recycling performance.

Climate outcomes were presented, some of which included carbon recycling, provision for the development of up to three re-use shops at the County's recycling centres plus the creation of a new Waste Strategy and Engagement team.

Members initiated discussion around the differing practices experienced around the county on waste collection, composting and monitoring of practises. Mr Ayrton advised that councils need to consider a number of components in order to provide economical and practical systems including the introduction of incentives and stated that it would soon be unlawful to collect garden waste with other waste. Fly-tipping was an area that needed consideration.

The Chair thanked Mr Ayrton for his presentation and attending Committee.

22/23 WORK PROGRAMME

The Chair informed the Committee of the need to consider the draft Tree and Woodland Strategy; the final draft would go to Cabinet on 21 September 2023. The Chair invited Committee members to form a working group where the draft Strategy would be considered.

The Chair made two suggestions for future consideration by the Committee:

- Grey fleet – to consider the impact on the environment by the Council's grey fleet (use of personal vehicles for business use), best practice and incentives in place to help improve effects; and
- The decarbonising of Derbyshire's homes.

RESOLVED – to

1. Form a working group made up of Councillors Major, Hickton and Ford to meet with officers outside of the Committee to consider the draft Tree and Woodland Strategy and to circulate the draft document to all committee members; and
2. Accept the suggestions made by the Chair for future consideration.

The meeting finished at 3.15 pm

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Procedure for Public Questions at Scrutiny Committee meetings

Members of the public who are on the Derbyshire County Council register of electors, or are Derbyshire County Council tax payers or non-domestic tax payers, may ask questions of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committees, or witnesses who are attending the meeting of the Committee. The maximum period of time for questions by the public at a Committee meeting shall be 30 minutes in total.

Order of Questions

Questions will be asked in the order they were received in accordance with the Notice of Questions requirements, except that the Chairman may group together similar questions.

Notice of Questions

A question may only be asked if notice has been given by delivering it in writing or by email to the Director of Legal Services no later than 12 noon three working days before the Committee meeting (ie 12 noon on a Wednesday when the Committee meets on the following Monday). The notice must give the name and address of the questioner and the name of the person to whom the question is to be put.

Questions may be emailed to democratic.services@derbyshire.gov.uk

Number of Questions

At any one meeting no person may submit more than one question, and no more than one such question may be asked on behalf of one organisation.

Scope of Questions

The Director of Legal Services may reject a question if it:

- Exceeds 200 words in length;
- is not about a matter for which the Committee has a responsibility, or does not affect Derbyshire;
- is defamatory, frivolous or offensive;
- is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of the Committee in the past six months; or
- requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.

Submitting Questions at the Meeting

Questions received by the deadline (see **Notice of Question** section above) will be shared with the respondent with the request for a written response to be provided by 5pm on the last working day before the meeting (ie 5pm on Friday before the meeting on Monday). A schedule of questions and responses will be produced and made available 30 minutes prior to the meeting (from Democratic Services Officers in the meeting room).

It will not be necessary for the questions and responses to be read out at the meeting, however, the Chairman will refer to the questions and responses and invite each questioner to put forward a supplementary question.

Supplementary Question

Anyone who has put a question to the meeting may also put one supplementary question without notice to the person who has replied to his/her original question. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. The Chairman may reject a supplementary question on any of the grounds detailed in the **Scope of Questions** section above.

Written Answers

The time allocated for questions by the public at each meeting will be 30 minutes. This period may be extended at the discretion of the Chairman. Any questions not answered at the end of the time allocated for questions by the public will be answered in writing. Any question that cannot be dealt with during public question time because of the non-attendance of the person to whom it was to be put, will be dealt with by a written answer.



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - CLIMATE CHANGE,
BIODIVERSITY AND CARBON REDUCTION**

MONDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2023

Report of the Executive Director - Place

Reducing the Environmental Impact of Business Travel

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) Provide an update on activities within the Council that seek to reduce the environmental impact of travel, including work being undertaken to reduce the Council's 'grey fleet' mileage, electrify its fleet vehicles and promote/raise awareness of public transport and active travel initiatives for staff.
- b) Invite discussion and consideration of the progress that has been made and any related issues

2. Information and Analysis

2.1 Both the Sustainable Travel and Climate Change Teams work across a number of workstreams that contribute towards the goals of net zero travel and carbon reduction.

2.2 Work includes:

- Strategic-level charge point network development required to facilitate the transition to electric vehicles for the Authority, for residents and for visitors.
- Developing car share and cycle to work schemes.
- Discounted bus and rail ticket offerings.
- Advocacy and awareness campaigns through support of national campaigns, such as Cycle To Work day and Travel Wise week.

- 2.2 All initiatives detailed in this report are live, ongoing and delivered across the Sustainable Travel and Climate Teams existing budgets.

Estates Electric Vehicle Charging network

- 2.3 The Council is committed to becoming net carbon zero in its own estate by 2032, or sooner. To achieve this, the electrification of its own vehicle fleet will be a priority, as will encouraging employees to switch to electric vehicles. Five charge points are currently available for use at County Hall, but it is acknowledged that further electrification of the Council's fleet can only be achieved through provision of, and more widely available, charging options.
- 2.4 In order to achieve this, a proposal was taken to the Climate Change and Environment Programme Board for endorsement (June 2023) to provide appropriate infrastructure i.e. electric vehicle charge points (EVCPs) on Council premises for use by employee's private vehicles and the Council fleet, including the fleet of electric pool cars for employees to use whilst on Council business.
- 2.5 The proposal advocated takes a two-stage approach of 1) delivering pilot sites followed by 2) development of a wider strategic roll out plan. The proposal also set out Terms of Reference, including roles and responsibilities and high-level project plans to take forward both the pilot and wider strategic projects.
- 2.6 Progress has been made on both fronts, with the information below providing a brief update on where the Council is to date.

Pilot Sites

- 2.7 The pilot phase will deliver up to 12 EVCPs across six sites, focusing initially on the urgent need to provide this service to the Adult Social Care and Health and Childrens Services. Taking this phased approach will allow the Council to evaluate the model, test reporting mechanisms (including energy offsetting and cost recouping), as well as provide an opportunity for testing operating systems away from County Hall, such as vehicle booking, vehicle management, fault and issue reporting, and vehicle performance.
- 2.8 Capacity and feasibility assessments are complete, confirming that installations are feasible. Quotes to carry out the enabling works have been requested, following receipt of which the Council will be clear in what it is seeking to deliver and will go out to market to procure the required infrastructure.

Strategic Roll Out

- 2.9 For further development of a comprehensive charging network (strategic roll out), where multiple sites, users and vehicles are involved, more detailed investigation will be required. This will include, but is not limited to, detailing both existing and forecast demand, site feasibility, electric capacity assessments, and engaging with suppliers to further understand the options available and the cost and energy implications of a large-scale installation.
- 2.10 Recognising the strain on existing resources, and in order to maintain momentum, the Sustainable Travel Team is seeking support from framework consultants, Amey, to assist with developing the strategy, particularly the early-stage evidence gathering and options development.
- 2.11 The proposal will be broken down by project stage, so that the Council can assess which elements support is needed for and which may be able to be carried out in house (e.g. capacity and feasibility assessments or property and energy implications, which may be best conducted by officers).

Fleet Transition

- 2.12 There are currently eight full electric vehicles (cars) in the core fleet with a further five vans awaiting delivery.
- 2.13 The remaining core fleet is predominantly diesel with the type of vehicles being car, van, 4x4, minibus and HGV. Discussion is ongoing with the Library Service which is keen to look at options for Electric Vehicle (EV) pool cars and to replace their current HGVs with electric vans.
- 2.14 Additionally, in total there are around 150 vehicles due for replacement in 2024-25 (cars and LCV's). Switching these vehicles to fully electric is largely dependent on the success of the estates charging network rollout as described above.

Smarter Travel

- 2.15 Smarter Travel describes the initiatives undertaken to encourage sustainable and active journeys for work purposes. This centres upon a travel hierarchy, ranging from (i) The necessity of the journey, i.e. can the task be undertaken remotely or by another means, through a range of travel options, including (ii) walking, (iii) cycling, (iv) public transport, (v) use of ev pool car, (vi) use of personal transport, to (vii) use of a hire car.
- 2.16 Full details can be found on the [Travel for work – travelling smarter](#) pages.

Miles Better - Travel To Work

- 2.17 Miles Better is the Council's employee travel campaign, showing how travelling to work differently can bring financial and health benefits, as well as helping to reduce congestion and carbon emissions.
- 2.18 Full details of the scheme can be found at [Miles better – travel to work](#). All these projects are live, ongoing and delivered by the Sustainable Travel team using existing budgets. Benefits include:

Cycle to Work Scheme

- 2.19 Eligible employees can take advantage of the cycle to work scheme provided by Cyclescheme. This is a tax efficient means of purchasing a bicycle (and accessories) for the journey to work, with deductions taken direct from gross salary. At the time of writing, employees are able to purchase a bicycle – including an electric bicycle - up to the value of £3,000.

Bus and Rail Travel

- 2.20 Interest free loans are available to Council staff for the purchase of annual season tickets on selected bus and rail journeys. An agreed payment is deducted direct from the monthly wage packet. For train travel, this includes season tickets on Northern and East Midlands Trains, and Annual Trent Barton Super Commuter tickets. For bus travel, Stagecoach and Arriva offer discounted weekly travel passes to Council staff.

Car Share Scheme

- 2.21 The county-wide car share scheme, offered by [Kinto Join](#), provides a journey matching service, enabling shared journeys - and cost savings too. There are 39 priority car share places at County Hall (with two current car share permits needing to be displayed when using these spaces).
- 2.22 The Sustainable Travel Team is exploring the possibility of expanding the Car Share scheme to other sites within the Council estate.
- 2.23 As part of the partnership, Kinto holds regular demonstration sessions at County Hall to encourage uptake, with the most recent taking place in July 2023.

Awareness Campaigns and Advocacy

- 2.24 The Sustainable Transport Team actively supports Bike Week, World Car Free Day and Cycle to Work Day, including organising activities, such as group commute rides to Matlock, cyclist breakfast and Doctor Bike sessions, offering free cycle repairs to staff and members of the public.

- 2.25 The “Journey to Net Zero Employee Engagement Day” (on Clean Air Day 2023), hosted by members of the Climate and Sustainable Travel Teams, highlighted the range of opportunities available to employees, including pool cars. Around 150 employees and members attended, and more were reached through the accompanying communications campaign.

Healthy Workplaces

- 2.26 The Sustainable Travel Team is also working with [Derbyshire’s Healthy Workplace](#) Team to support employee wellbeing through the promotion and facilitation of active travel.
- 2.27 Active travel (for work and other journeys) can be linked to both physical and mental wellbeing, as well as supporting the positive impacts of non-active sustainable travel modes – such as public transport, car share etc, on mental wellbeing in terms of other positive action to alleviate possible climate anxiety.
- 2.28 Recent initiatives include promoting active travel with colleagues in Children’s Services for [Children’s Mental Health Week](#).

Grey Fleet Emissions Targets

- 2.29 Targets for grey fleet emissions have been developed for each Department, starting from a baseline of 2021-22. It was assumed that the proportion of emissions for each Department remains the same with a linear trajectory to zero by 2031-32. Each Departmental Management Team is encouraged to incorporate these targets into Departmental and Divisional Service Plans with each Department taking responsibility for achieving the target.
- 2.30 Targets will be achieved through reduction in grey fleet mileage (e.g. through use of corporate vehicles) and through gradual improvement of vehicle emissions.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 There is no consultation associated with this paper. As each workstream and project is developed and implemented, engagement with Council staff, senior officers and members is undertaken where necessary and appropriate.

4. Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 **No action:** Taking no action to reduce the environmental impact of business travel would not support the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to reach the Council’s target to achieve net zero emissions across the County by 2050.

4.2 Furthermore, officers will continue to consider, review, and explore all existing, new and alternative schemes and initiatives that can further reduce the environmental impact of travel for businesses purposes by Council staff.

5. Implications

5.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

6. Background Papers

6.1 None identified.

7. Appendices

7.1 Appendix 1 – Implications.

8. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- a) Notes the update on activity to reduce the environmental impact of travel, including work being undertaken to reduce the Council's 'grey fleet' milage, electrify its fleet vehicles and promote/raise awareness of public transport and active travel initiatives for staff.
- b) Discusses and considers the progress being made, sharing issues and raising questions as appropriate.

9. Reason for Recommendations

9.1 To ensure appropriate information and understanding of the various work programmes to reduce carbon emissions and encourage more sustainable travel.

Report Author: Daniel McCrory **Contact details:** daniel.mccrory@derbyshire.gov.uk

Implications

Financial

- 1.1 The Estates charging project has secured a Capital budget of £300,000 across 3 years (2022-2025) for the installation of electric vehicle charge points on Council premises to serve fleet and pool vehicles. This capital investment is being funded from borrowing and is currently projected to spend in full.
- 1.2 All projects detailed in this paper are live and ongoing and are being delivered by the Sustainable Travel team within existing approved budgets. There is no requirement for any further financial commitments from the Council at this time.
- 1.3 Where additional spend is required this will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and subject to relevant governance approvals.

Legal

- 2.1 The Director of Legal and Democratic Services will provide advice as necessary on a project by project basis.

Human Resources

- 3.1 It is expected that the current staffing arrangement within the Sustainable Travel, Climate and Fleet Management teams will be adequate to deliver on ambitions stated in this report.

Information Technology

- 4.1 Bookable services, such as car share schemes, EV charging points, rail ticketing, etc, require reliable digital connectivity. Such implications are considered at project development stage to ensure deliverability.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 The delivery of specific actions within this paper may have Equalities Impact implications for the Council. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 6.1 The actions set out in this paper support the Council's commitments to tackling climate change and reduce vehicle borne emissions, as set out

in the Derbyshire County Council Climate Change Strategy (2021-2025) and Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy (2019-2029).

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental, Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

- 7.1 Environmental sustainability considerations are embedded in the overall programme of work described above and in the individual projects.



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**IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – CLIMATE CHANGE,
BIODIVERSITY AND CARBON REDUCTION**

18 SEPTEMBER 2023

Report of the Executive Director - Place

The Council's Role in Decarbonising Derbyshire's Housing

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee for Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon Reduction with an update on the work being undertaken by the Council in supporting the decarbonisation of Derbyshire's housing.

2. Information and Analysis

Background

- 2.1 Carbon emissions from the UK's 29 million homes that result from space and water heating (gas, LPG, oil, coal, etc) and electricity use totalled 96.9MtCO₂e in 2021 and accounted for 24% of all carbon emissions in the UK. Between 2005 and 2021, these emissions fell by 38%, largely due to a reduction in the carbon intensity of the UK's electricity and gas grid, and the gradual installation of energy efficient gas boilers in homes. Although this reduction in emissions is welcomed, the UK's Climate Change Committee states that the UK's legally binding target of achieving net zero emissions by 2050 will not be met without the near-complete elimination of carbon emissions from UK buildings.
- 2.2 The recently published English Housing Survey (2021 to 2022) shows that over the past decade, the energy efficiency of England's housing (measured through Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs)) has continued to improve with the proportion of A-C rated houses increasing

to 47% of the total and the least efficient E-G rated decreasing to 10%. However, it also indicates that houses across the East Midlands Region generally have lower EPC ratings than other regions in England, with 61% needing energy efficiency measures to get to EPC C rated and above.

- 2.3 There is an intrinsic local dimension to the installation of energy efficiency measures and decarbonisation of homes by retrofitting. Property type, age and condition of the housing stock, housing density, conservation or listed status, as well as demographic and socioeconomic factors all influence the type of retrofit that is necessary or achievable for a given house.
- 2.4 The retrofitting of homes cannot succeed without the support and involvement of the homeowner or occupier, a skilled retrofit local workforce, and a specialist supply chain. Retrofitting homes with energy efficiency measures and low carbon heating systems can also be a costly and disruptive undertaking and local authorities are key to the understanding and engagement of all stakeholders, as well as the coordination of funding schemes and are therefore critical to the successful implementation of any retrofit programmes.

Local Authority Delivery of Home Retrofit Measures

- 2.5 Since 2019, there have been four main Government funding programmes for home heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency improvement in England that have involved Derbyshire’s district and borough councils and have focussed on social housing and low-income households. These are detailed in the table below.

Scheme	Eligibility/Tenure
UK Government Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF)	Installation of measures to Social Housing - low-income households
UK Government Homes Upgrade Grant (HUG)	Installations and interventions to Off-grid private homes with low-income households
UK Government Local Authority Delivery (LAD)	Installations to private homes - low-income households
ECO 4 Local Authority Flex	Installation and interventions funded by Utility Companies - low-income households

- 2.6 Derbyshire’s district and borough councils have been successful in gaining funding for retrofitting energy efficiency and decarbonisation measures to their own social housing stock through the Social Housing

Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF). There have also been significant amounts of funding awarded through the Local Authority Delivery (LAD) scheme to undertake energy efficiency retrofit measures and low carbon heating interventions in the privately owned and rented housing sector for those in the lower income bracket or for those in fuel poverty.

- 2.7 Funding has also been available through the Healthy Homes Project and the ECO 4 Local Authority Flex funding. This is coordinated by Derbyshire County Council and the funding is utilised by the district and borough councils to improve the thermal performance of low income and vulnerable or fuel poor homes.
- 2.8 As part of early investment to the area during devolution negotiations for the proposed East Midlands Combined County Authority, £9.9m has been approved to help councils across Derbyshire, Derby, Nottinghamshire and Nottingham carry out retrofit work on homes to make them more energy efficient. For Derbyshire, a share of this funding will be granted to the district and borough councils to specifically target low-income homes with poor energy efficiency ratings.
- 2.9 Derbyshire County Council also coordinates the Warmer Derby and Derbyshire Helpline that provides free advice to all residents across Derbyshire on reducing energy bills and improving energy efficiency. Many of the district and borough councils also provide advice through their websites and contact channels.

Households who are 'able to pay' for Energy Efficiency Improvements

- 2.10 On average, 63% of households in the UK own their own homes and in Derbyshire, apart from the energy efficiency tips and advice content on the Council's website, social media channels and the limited public events held by organisations, such as Marches Energy Authority (MEA), little work has been done with homeowners who can potentially afford to pay for their own energy efficiency or decarbonisation improvements.
- 2.11 This 'able to pay' demographic, that currently is not part of any Council initiative for improving the energy efficiency or decarbonising of their homes, could, if engaged and take action, have the biggest impact on the overall reduction of the housing sector carbon emissions across Derbyshire.
- 2.12 Approximately 61% of Derbyshire's homes are EPC rated D or below indicating that they are energy inefficient, which demonstrates the scale of the housing energy improvement and decarbonisation requirement in

Derbyshire. Data shows that in all Derbyshire districts, except South Derbyshire, annual emissions from domestic gas consumption are higher than the England average. Almost a fifth of homes in Derbyshire are not on the gas grid and are often heated using less efficient oil, LPG, or coal. Evidence also suggests that households in areas with less deprivation emit more emissions as they tend to use more heat energy.

2.13 In 2021, the Council published its 'Climate Change Strategy: Achieving Net Zero 2021-2025' that set out the strategic priorities and actions that would support the journey to net zero. One of the five priority areas of the strategy is Decarbonising the Domestic Sector, with two of the priorities actions for the Council being:

- With the district and borough councils, develop and implement an approach to supporting the decarbonising of homes, recognising the specific opportunities and challenges faced by renters and homeowners.
- Develop an information sharing campaign to educate homeowners and renters on how to improve the energy efficiency of their property.

2.14 To better understand the 'able to pay' sector and deliver on these actions, officers from the County, district and borough councils, under the Vision Derbyshire umbrella, along with officers from two Nottinghamshire councils and Midlands Net Zero Hub, collaborated on a three-month project engaging with residents and community groups to understand what support they would need to enable them to make their homes energy efficient. Officers received training through the UK:100 Local Climate Engagement Programme that provided expert advice and support to enable the delivery of effective engagement activities.

2.15 The local engagement activities included online meetings and consultations, face-to-face events and interviews with structured questions, as well as an online survey that was completed by 1,216 residents.

2.16 This engagement around the 'able to pay' sector was completed in January 2023 and analysis of the findings showed some key points for consideration:

- 47% of homeowners engaged with have **not** undertaken energy efficiency improvements to their home in the last five years
- **98%** of homeowners engaged with are interested in adding energy efficiency measures into their homes

- there is considerable **confusion** amongst homeowners surrounding the cost, effectiveness and disruption caused by energy efficiency improvements.

2.17 The engagement also showed the barriers preventing homeowners from improving the energy efficiency of their home. The top five are:

1. 67% believe energy efficiency work is too expensive.
2. 38% are worried about getting it wrong and making expensive mistakes.
3. 35% do not know where to start and need advice on how to make their homes more energy efficient.
4. 18% believe there is a lack of qualified and experienced tradespeople to do the works required.
5. 16% believe they might not live in the house long enough to get the benefit of the investment.

2.18 Across all engagement activities, homeowners were asked to suggest how councils and communities can work together to improve Derbyshire's existing homes so that they are more energy efficient and fit for the future. The key themes and issues that emerged are:

- **Support with funding is needed** either in the form of grants, low-cost loans, free bespoke advice or through discount on materials
- **Derbyshire-specific advice and information** is needed, as general UK-wide advice available does not seem relevant particularly in rural areas, where buildings are older or household that are off the gas grid.
- **Sharing of local experiences** through community events, local case studies or Eco-Homes events will support reassurance and confidence.
- **Bespoke house-specific advice** is required, as many people have visited national websites or received advice through an EPC which they consider to be too generic and not worthwhile acting on.
- **Home energy assessments and guidance from a trusted and impartial provider** - either through a local authority or one recommended by a local authority. Many responses suggested this could be free with others saying they would be happy to pay for a trusted, reliable service
- **Advice for homes in protected areas** as the general perception is that most energy efficiency measures for listed buildings or houses in conservation areas are not allowed.
- **Finding reputable traders with availability to do the work** was an issue as there is a lack of confidence in the suitability and quality of

work. There was also a lack of knowledge of **quality assurance schemes** which needs to be addressed.

- 2.19 In addition to the public engagement activities, subject matter experts, businesses and organisations with the skills and experience to retrofit homes, were consulted with. The feedback indicated that the retrofit sector is already under high demand from the work generated by the social housing retrofitting programmes, and that there is a significant need to develop the supply chain and give businesses the confidence to invest in training and skills development. This investment should also include developing technologies, increasing the number of installers, and ensuring there are sufficient qualified energy assessors and coordinators to support a growing retrofit sector. The skills shortage is a national issue and significant action is needed at the national and regional level to address this market challenge, to promote skills and training development and to give the sector confidence to invest in this area.
- 2.20 At present, supply chain development is being supported through mechanisms, such as the Green Entrepreneurs Scholarship Fund, which supports individuals to retrain with skills to enable them to enter the field of low carbon and green energy, and through national and regional training schemes coordinated by the Midlands Net Zero Hub, such as Home Decarbonisation Skills Training, and Heat Pump Training Grants. The Council has also commenced engagement with the county's main academic institutions and training providers to better understand how the skills shortage can be addressed.

Moving 'the able to pay' Housing Sector Forward

- 2.21 Using findings from the engagement carried out with residents and community groups, and from discussions held with wider stakeholders, a Homes Fit for the Future Action Plan (2023-2025) was developed that sets out actions which can be co-delivered by residents, local authorities and other stakeholders. The draft Action Plan was shared with interested groups and individuals in April-May 2023 for review and comment.
- 2.22 Seven responses were received from individuals and four from groups (Wirksworth Community Land Trust, Sustainable Hayfield Energy Group, High Peak New Deal and Transition Belper) on the draft Action Plan. All were broadly supportive of the content and approach of the Action Plan, with comments and suggestions integrated into the final version of the Action Plan where possible. The Action Plan is included in Appendix 2, which will now be delivered collaboratively with the delivery

partners indicated against each action. Progress will be reported through the Council's Climate Change and Environment Programme Board and annual climate change performance reporting to Cabinet.

- 2.23 In addition to the Action Plan development, in April 2023, the Council supported a bid led by the Nottingham Energy Partnership (NEP) to the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero's **Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD) Fund**, which is designed to support the development and implementation of local approaches to home energy efficiency retrofitting advice and support. NEP's bid was on behalf of all Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (D2N2) local authorities, with NEP being the accountable body.
- 2.24 In August 2023, the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero's announced that the collaborative bid had been successful and £0.563m of funding will be provided over the next two years to deliver support to an estimated 3,000 homeowners across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, focussing on:
- Off-gas grid homes
 - Homes in conservation areas
 - Wider poorly performing homes (rated D-G).
- 2.25 This support will be largely delivered by NEP and Marches Energy Agency. In addition, the project aims to deliver the following outcomes:
- A growing network of Trusted Traders by producing case studies of retrofit projects alongside installers that have a track record of satisfied customers.
 - A full review and update to the [Everybody's Talking About Climate Change](#) website to enable it to be used as an online One Stop Shop for retrofitting information for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire residents.
 - A library of detailed retrofit plans for different property architypes.
 - A webinar series on a range of retrofit topics, including DIY sessions that can be accessed by residents across the D2N2 region.
- 2.26 Delivery of the LEAD project will greatly support the delivery of the Homes Fit for the Future Action Plan, particularly the first action to "Explore options for delivering an impartial energy advice and support service ranging from a simple advice service to a service managing and co-ordinating homeowners retrofit". The LEAD project will allow for approaches to the delivery of such advice and support to be developed and tested with the 'able to pay' housing market sector and will underpin

the longer-term (post 2025) approach to supporting residents on this agenda.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 An update was provided to the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee for Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon Reduction on 28 November 2022 (Minute No. 44/22) on the work being undertaken by the Council to understand the motivations and barriers experienced by homeowners when considering actions to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, and to co-design and co-deliver a programme of activities to support homeowners to undertake energy efficiency work.
- 3.2 The Homes Fit to the Future Action Plan was developed using findings from engagement activities carried out with Derbyshire's residents and community groups between October 2022 and January 2023. The draft Action Plan was also shared with interested groups and individuals in April-May 2023 for review and comment.

4. Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 **No action:** Taking no action to support homeowners who are able to pay to undertake energy efficiency measures would not support the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to reach the Council's target to achieve net zero emissions across the County by 2050 or address the current market failure in the retrofitting industry of engaging with this sector of the housing market.

5. Implications

- 5.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 N/A

7. Appendices

- 7.1 Appendix 1 – Implications.
- 7.2 Appendix 2 – Homes Fit for Future Action Plan.

8. Recommendation

That the Committee:

- a) Notes the work being undertaken by the Council in supporting the decarbonisation of Derbyshire's housing.

9. Reason for Recommendation

- 9.1 To ensure the Committee understands and supports the work being undertaken on the above.

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Implications

Financial

- 1.1 The delivery of specific actions in the Homes Fit for the Future Action Plan may have financial implications for the Council. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- 1.2 There are no financial implications associated with the Council's involvement in the Local Energy Advice Demonstrator project, other than officer resource and time which is funded from the established Climate Change revenue budget.

Legal

- 2.1 There is no statutory obligation on the County Council to undertake work to support homeowners to undertake energy efficiency measures on their homes.
- 2.2 The delivery of specific actions in the Homes Fit for the Future Action Plan may have legal implications for the Council. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Human Resources

- 3.1 The delivery of specific actions in the Homes Fit for the Future Action Plan may have human resource implications for the Council. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Information Technology

- 4.1 The delivery of specific actions in the Homes Fit for the Future Action Plan may have information technology implications for the Council. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 The delivery of specific actions in the Homes Fit for the Future Action Plan may have Equalities Impact implications for the Council. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 6.1 Through supporting homeowners to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, the Council's current and future planned approach to housing decarbonisation supports three of the key priorities in the Council Plan ('resilient, healthy, and safe communities,' 'high performing, value for money and resident focused services' and 'a prosperous and green Derbyshire).
- 6.2 It also supports the Council's commitments to tackling climate change, as set out in the Derbyshire County Council Climate Change Strategy (2021-2025).

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

- 7.1 **Environmental Sustainability** - Deliver of the Homes Fit for the Future Action plan will improve environmental sustainability through reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the domestic sector.
- 7.2 The delivery of specific actions in the Homes Fit for the Future Action Plan may have other implications for the Council. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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Homes Fit for the Future

Action Plan 2023-2025

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1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this document is twofold:

- to present a summary of the findings from engagement activities undertaken across the county which set out to understand how homeowners could be supported by community and council activities to make their homes more energy efficient and fit for the future.
- to set out an action plan which can be co-delivered by residents, local authorities and other stakeholders.

2.0 Background

According to the UK's Climate Change Committee, the UK's legally-binding climate change targets will not be met without the near-complete elimination of greenhouse gas emissions from UK buildings. Emissions from UK homes accounts for around a fifth of total UK emissions. Direct emissions from UK's 29 million homes reduced by 39% from 2005 to 2021, although this has not been a steady reduction. Emissions reductions have recently started to stall with energy use in homes actually increasing by 3% between 2020 and 2021.

As well as reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, improving the energy efficiency of poorly heated homes can support good physical and mental health and have benefits for children's educational attainment.

There is increasing support from the UK government for this agenda both through policy and regulation and through funding, such as the recent announcement of the extension of grants for energy efficiency measures in homes until March 2026. However, long-term governmental support is less certain.

The recent independent review of Net Zero: Mission Zero¹ highlights the opportunities and challenges to achieve net zero with a number of recommendations relating directly to housing. The report recommends that Government should expand its energy efficiency advice service in 2023, ensuring that it helps consumers to access qualified traders and providers in local areas and that Government should support establishing retrofit hubs by 2025 to bridge the gap between households and suppliers. These could enable installers to seek training and impartial advice and could connect households to suitable installers. The report goes further in suggesting that a local approach should be taken to achieving this with local authorities taking a leading role in the drive to net zero.

Since 2020, local authorities in Derbyshire have been successful in gaining funding through the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme and the Sustainable Warmth Competition to retrofit homes in the social and private rented sector and homeowners on low incomes and in fuel poverty who cannot afford to heat their homes. In addition, support is

1

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1128689/mission-zero-independent-review.pdf

available through the Derbyshire Healthy Home Project to improve the heating systems and thermal performance of privately owned homes where the homeowner is on low income and has an existing health condition made worse by the cold. The Warmer Derby and Derbyshire service, delivered by charity Marches Energy Agency, provides advice to residents on energy bills, energy efficiency and grant applications for insulation and energy efficient heating systems.

Private homeowners make up 63% of households in England. Across Derbyshire little work is being done with homeowners who are not in fuel poverty, many of whom would like to improve the energy efficiency of their home but are unsure of the steps to take for their property and personal situation.

Around 60% of Derbyshire's 350,000 homes are EPC rated D or below indicating that they are poorly performing and also demonstrating the scale of the housing decarbonisation issue in Derbyshire. Data² shows annual emissions from gas consumption in homes in the county are above the England average, except South Derbyshire which is comparable with the England average. Almost a fifth of homes in Derbyshire are not on the gas grid and are often heated using less efficient oil or LPG.

Overall, households in areas with less deprivation emit more greenhouse gas emissions and arguably should be a focus for a housing decarbonisation initiative in order to have the biggest impact on emissions reduction.

Research³ shows there is a shortage of labour and skills in the retrofit sector, suggesting a current market failure. This follows cycles of 'boom and bust' in national policy interest and support leading to low confidence across the sector. This is further compounded by examples of low-quality work, high prices and poor reputation; disparate uncoordinated measures; a culture of sub-contracting and low householder demand. Consequently, the supply chain is fragmented and unprepared for delivery of the high levels of retrofit needed.

Experience from borough and district councils implementing retrofit schemes for social housing and private homes in fuel poverty has highlighted existing contractors are struggling to meet current demand, and that there is a need to develop the supply chain. Many of the jobs in the retrofit supply chain are highly skilled and the technologies implemented are evolving all the time suggesting that there is capacity in the green economy for further development, providing an opportunity for the East Midlands region.

Simple, low-cost energy efficiency measures such as draught proofing, LED lights or radiator valves, should continue to be promoted across all households. However, deep retrofit measures comprising internal or external wall insulation, underfloor insulation and switching to low carbon heating systems such as heat pumps can have a much large impact on energy use and emission reduction, but can be expensive and their installation can cause temporary disruption. Therefore, fewer households are currently willing and motivated to undertake these measures compared to more simple and low-cost measures.

² [LA Reports | PBCC \(carbon.place\)](#)

³ West Yorkshire Combined Authority Scaling Up: Better Homes Yorkshire? LGA programme resource

Research from the latest Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ) Public Attitudes Tracker found that 22% of homeowners were either fairly likely or very likely to consider installing solar thermal panels and 17% to consider air source heat pumps, the next time they needed to change their heating system. This is a significant proportion of the population and given the current capacity of the supply chain, it is recommended that any initiatives should be carefully targeted at a receptive audience.

Across Derbyshire local authority officers report an increasing number of requests for support and advice on retrofit measures and recommendations for installers which is being provided informally at the moment. Some community groups, for instance Hope Valley Climate Action Group, Sustainable Hayfield and Wirksworth Transition Community Land Trust, are providing advice and information informally.

3.0 Response of Derbyshire local authorities

There is a shared commitment across Derbyshire's county, district and borough councils, to strategically collaborate to improve outcomes for people and places, speak with one voice as a county, and coordinate our resources better and more sustainably. Under the workstream 'Live and Work Sustainably of Vision Derbyshire, the partnership developed the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy in 2022, which included a priority focused on retrofitting existing homes:

Supporting the acceleration of the retrofitting of homes across the county, including working with partners, communities and residents to understand priorities and co-deliver solutions, and the development and delivery of a pipeline of retrofitting activities across the county, making effective use of funding streams and opportunities.

Furthermore, the Derbyshire County Council's Climate Change Strategy: Achieving Net Zero (2021-2025) has a series of targets and actions relating to decarbonising Derbyshire's homes, as follows:

Targets:

- All existing owner occupier domestic properties EPC rating C by 2035
- All owner occupiers and renters to have access to education and training programmes to decarbonise their homes by 2025
- At least 20% of domestic buildings to have rooftop solar photovoltaics (PV) installed by 2030

Actions:

- Coordinated Action: Through the Vision Derbyshire process, agree the approach to supporting the decarbonising of homes recognising the specific

opportunities and challenges faced by renters and homeowners and reflecting the need to particularly support those in fuel poverty.

- Skills and Training: Work with local authority and wider government partners to develop a Regional Skills Strategy that identify areas of upskilling within the house building and retrofit sectors, and creates investor-ready training programmes to receive support from the proposed National Skills Fund.
- Education and Empowerment: Develop an information sharing campaign to educate homeowners and renters on how to improve the energy efficiency of their property.

Recognising these commitments and the role of councils in increasing the rate of domestic retrofitting activities across the county, an engagement plan was agreed by Derbyshire's councils with the aims to understand:

- the extent of energy efficiency measures undertaken to date
- the level of interest in undertaking further energy efficiency measures
- what barriers exist to undertaking the desired energy efficiency measures
- what ideas and suggestions householders have to support the promotion of undertaking energy efficiency work

The engagement activities undertaken included:

- Three on-line surveys (Derbyshire-wide; targeting residents in South Derbyshire; and targeting residents in Derbyshire Dales)
- Face-to-face and on-line meetings with 'environmental' community groups
- Face-to-face and on-line meetings with 'non-environmental' community groups
- One-to-one discussions (on-line or face-to-face) with volunteers
- One-to-one 'street' interviews at events such as local markets

4.0 Engagement Outcomes

A summary of the outcomes from all engagement activities undertaken by the partnership during late 2022 and early 2023 is provided below with further detail of the Derbyshire County Council on-line survey provided at Appendix A. These echo the findings of similar research⁴ carried out elsewhere in the country and should be considered alongside the need for supportive national policies and frameworks.

Quantitative data from the survey carried out by Derbyshire County Council is considered representative of all engagement activities carried out across the county and is outlined below. The emerging themes set out at the end of this section reflect feedback from all engagement activities.

Figures from Derbyshire County Council's on-line consultation show that:

⁴ [Findings of a Citizens' Panel on home energy decarbonisation \(University of Lancaster\) - Climate Change Committee \(theccc.org.uk\)](#)

- 47% of homeowners have **not** undertaken energy efficiency improvements to their home in the last five years
- **98%** of homeowners are interested in adding energy efficiency measures into their homes
- there is considerable confusion surrounding the cost, effectiveness and disruption caused by energy efficiency improvements.

There are a number of barriers preventing residents from improving the energy efficiency of their home. The top five barriers reported are:

1. 67% believe energy efficiency work is too expensive
2. 38% are worried about getting it wrong and making expensive mistakes
3. 35% do not know where to start and need advice on how to make their homes more energy efficient
4. 18% believe there is a lack of qualified and experienced tradespeople to do the works required
5. 16% believe they might not live in the house long enough to get the benefit of the investment

Across all engagement activities, residents were asked to suggest how councils and communities can work together to improve Derbyshire's existing homes so that they are more energy efficient and fit for the future, with a number of key themes and issues identified:

- **Support with funding is needed** either in the form of grants, low-cost loans, free bespoke advice or through discount on materials
- **Derbyshire-specific advice and information** as general UK-wide advice available does not seem relevant particularly in rural areas or where buildings are older or off the gas grid
- **Sharing of local experiences** through community events, local case studies or Eco-Homes events
- **Bespoke house-specific advice** as many people have visited national websites or received advice through an EPC which they consider to be too generic
- **Home energy assessments and guidance from a trusted and impartial provider** either through a local authority or one recommended by a local authority. Many responses suggested this could be free with others saying they would be happy to pay for a trusted, reliable service
- **Advice for homes in protected areas** as the general perception is that most energy efficiency measures are not allowed. More information and a change in the rules were requested to enable energy efficiency work to be undertaken in listed buildings; conservation and other protected areas including the national park and World Heritage Site
- **Finding reputable traders with availability to do the work** was an issue as there is a lack of confidence in the suitability and quality of work. There was a lack of knowledge of **quality assurance schemes** which needs to be addressed.

By distilling the key themes, the following key goals have been established with actions identified to achieve each goal in the action plan below:

1. Provide advice and support services for householders seeking to improve the energy efficiency of their homes to make them fit for the future
2. Provide an on-line information service using the Everybody's Talking About Climate Change website to sign-post householders to national and location-specific information
3. Support adoption of low carbon technologies (such as low carbon heating) and the adoption of micro-energy generation on homes
4. Provide opportunities for householders to visit homes which have been retrofitted
5. Work together to support the development and implementation of relevant training courses, and create skilled green jobs in Derbyshire to enable growth of the local retrofit supply chain
6. Increase awareness of relevant accreditation and quality assurance schemes
7. Support the development of community energy generation and efficiency schemes

5.0 Action Plan

Goal				
Provide advice and support services for householders seeking to improve the energy efficiency of their homes to make them fit for the future				
Action steps	Delivery partner(s)	Start	End	Success Measures
Explore options for delivering an impartial energy advice and support service ranging from a simple advice service to a service managing and co-ordinating homeowners retrofit	Lead: Derbyshire County Council Support: Local Authority Energy Partnership, district and borough councils	Jan 2023	March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preferred option for delivering energy advice and support service identified Bespoke advice and support for householders Householders confident to undertake energy efficiency measures
Provide thermal imaging equipment and training for community groups to use locally	Lead: Derbyshire County Council Support: Community groups	Aug 2023	March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community groups provide home thermal imaging service Householders aware of levels of thermal insulation of their home
Deliver workshops for householders who want to DIY energy efficiency measures	Lead: Derbyshire County Council Support: Local Authority Energy Partnership, community groups	Aug 2023	March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops delivered
Deliver drop-in sessions for householders who want to undertake energy efficiency measures themselves	Lead: Derbyshire County Council Support: District and borough councils	Aug 2023	March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drop-in sessions delivered with expert advice and signposting provided

<p>Deliver collaborative campaigns and messaging to help support households in changing behaviours that lead to a reduction in energy and water use</p>	<p>Lead: Derbyshire County Council</p> <p>Support: Local Authority Energy Partnership, district and borough councils, Local Authority Energy Partnership, community groups</p>	<p>Aug 2023</p>	<p>March 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaigns delivered • Energy and water use across Derbyshire reduced
<p>Promote the benefits of solar shading e.g. external window shutters and awnings</p>	<p>Lead: Derbyshire County Council</p> <p>Support: District and borough councils, community groups</p>	<p>Aug 2023</p>	<p>March 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents aware of the need to improve solar shading due to changing climate

Goal				
Provide a web-based information service using the Everybody's Talking About Climate Change website to sign-post householders to national and location-specific information				
Action steps	Delivery partner(s)	Start	End	Success measures
Sign-post householders to trusted national information sources setting out typical retrofit measures, costs and pay-back periods	Lead: Local Authority Energy Partnership Support: County, district and borough councils	May 2023	March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Derbyshire / Nottinghamshire location-specific information and signposting provided and updated on website
Provide detailed case studies of local homes which have been retrofitted	Lead: Local Authority Energy Partnership Support: householders	May 2023	March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case studies of Derbyshire housing archetypes which have been retrofitted provided in both video and document format
Provide Derbyshire-specific information for householders wanting to retrofit a listed building or home in a conservation or other protected area	Lead: Derbyshire County Council Support: Local Authority Energy Partnership, district and borough councils	Aug 2023	March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Householders are provided with relevant information enabling them to improve the energy efficiency of their home
Provide up to date information about finance and grants available for energy efficiency measures	Lead: Local Authority Energy Partnership Support: County, district and borough councils	Aug 2023	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information is provided enabling householders to find information about grants and finance

Goal				
Support adoption of low carbon technologies (such as low carbon heating) and the adoption of micro-energy generation on homes				
Action steps	Delivery partner(s)	Start	End	Success measures
Explore options for bulk buying of solar panels	Lead: County, district and borough councils Support: external partner	Aug 2023	March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homeowners able to take advantage of reduced cost of solar panels
Explore options for bulk buy of insulation materials	Lead: County, district and borough councils Support: external partner	Aug 2023	March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homeowners able to take advantage of reduced cost of insulation materials

Goal				
Provide opportunities for householders to visit homes which have been retrofitted				
Action steps	Delivery partner(s)	Start	End	Success measures
Plan and deliver a programme of Eco Homes Open Days representing a range of Derbyshire home archetypes	Lead: County, district and borough councils Support: Local Authority Energy Partnership, householders	Aug 2023	March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents able to visit retrofitted home of relevant architype

Goal				
Work together to support the development and implementation of relevant training courses, and create skilled green jobs to enable growth of the local retrofit supply chain				
Action steps	Delivery partner(s)	Start	End	Success measures
Hold an expo event for local retrofit companies to showcase their work and technologies	Lead: Local Authority Energy Partnership Support: County, district and borough councils, community groups	Aug 2023	Sept 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event delivered with support from at least twenty companies
Work with Midlands Net Zero Hub to promote training and skills delivery on retrofit	Lead: Derbyshire County Council Support: Midlands Net Zero Hub	Aug 2023	March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased number of training opportunities Increased number of people qualified across the retrofit sector
Continue to support training and innovation through delivery of the Green Entrepreneur Scheme	Lead: Derbyshire County Council Support: University of Derby	-	March 2025	<p>Demonstrator Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 projects contracted and supported to delivery 6 new FTE jobs <p>Small Grants Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 businesses contracted (6 of which to be new start businesses) <p>Scholarship Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 67 individuals supported to access accredited training opportunities

Goal				
Increase awareness of relevant accreditation and quality assurance schemes				
Action steps	Delivery partner(s)	Start	End	Success measures
Ensure retrofit measures can be identified on Derbyshire Trusted Trader	Lead: Derbyshire County Council Support: Vision Derbyshire partners	Aug 2023	March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents can find suitably qualified traders with testimonials
Provide detailed information on relevant accreditation schemes	Lead: Derbyshire County Council Support: Local Authority Energy Partnership	Aug 2023	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents are able to quickly find what experience and accreditation a trader should have

Goal				
Support the development of community energy generation and area-based retrofit schemes				
Action steps	Delivery partner(s)	Start	End	Success measures
Explore options for targeting homeowners on an area-by-area basis to benefit from efficiencies of scale when retrofitting	Lead: Derbyshire County Council Support: District and borough councils, community groups	Aug 2024	March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility of targeting homeowners on an area-by-area basis explored
Increase community renewable energy generation schemes	Lead: Derbyshire County Council Support: District and borough councils,	Aug 2023	March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community groups generating renewable energy

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	community groups			
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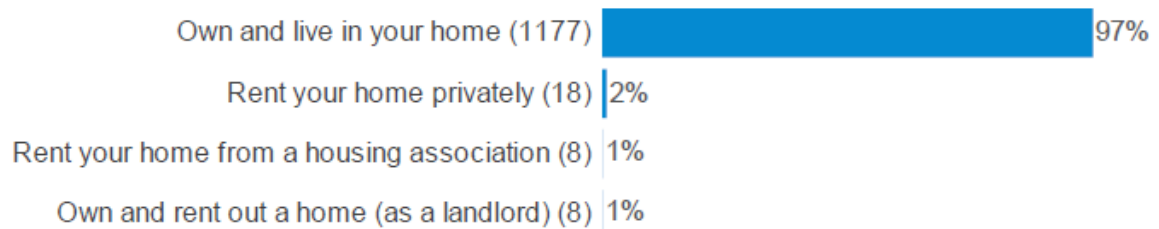
Appendix A

Homes fit for the future - Derbyshire's home energy efficiency

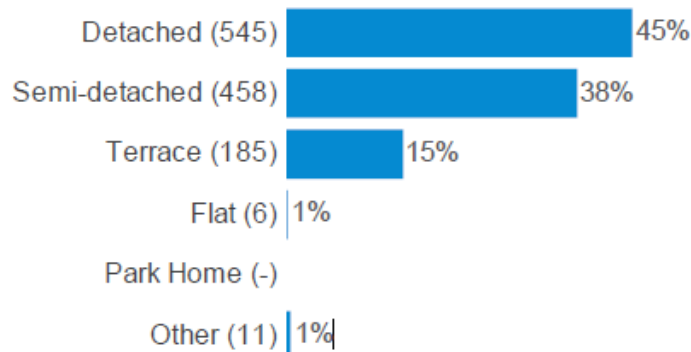
This report was generated on 23/02/23. Overall, 1216 respondents completed this questionnaire.

The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'. The following charts are restricted to the top 12 codes. Lists are restricted to the most recent 100 rows.

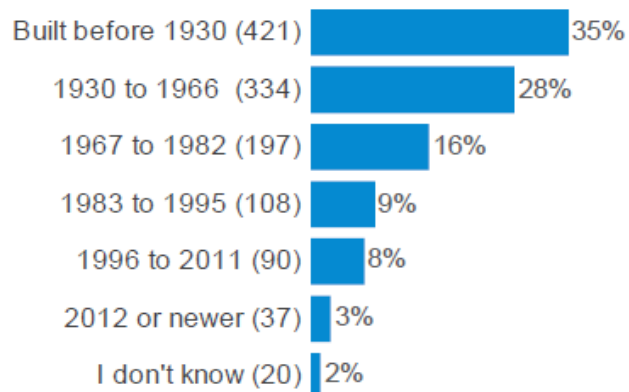
Do you ...?



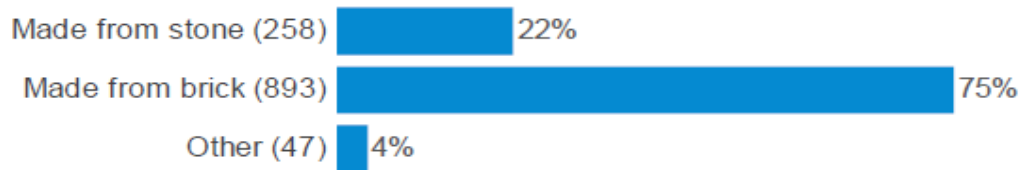
How would you describe your home?



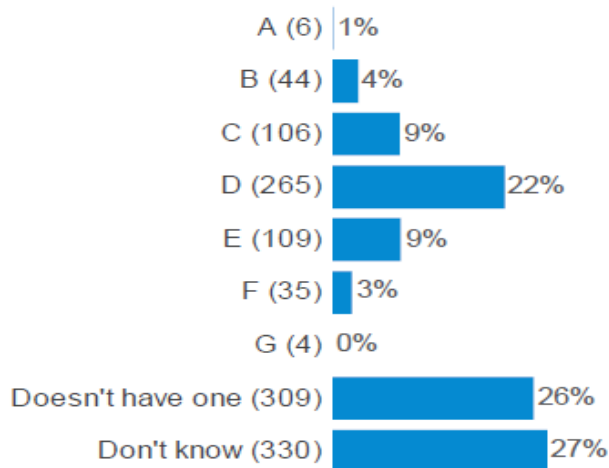
When was your house built?



What is your house built from?



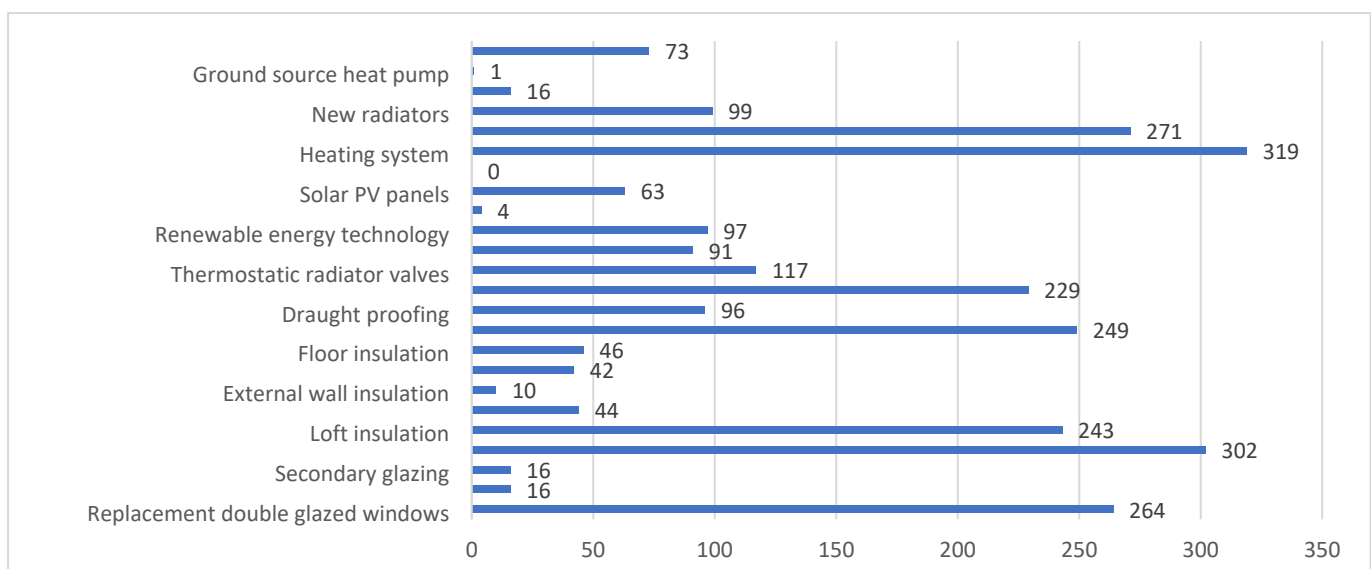
What is the Energy Performance rating of your home? (To find out if your home has an 'Energy Performance Certificate visit www.gov.uk/find-energy-certificate)



Have you made any energy efficiency improvements to your home in the last five years?



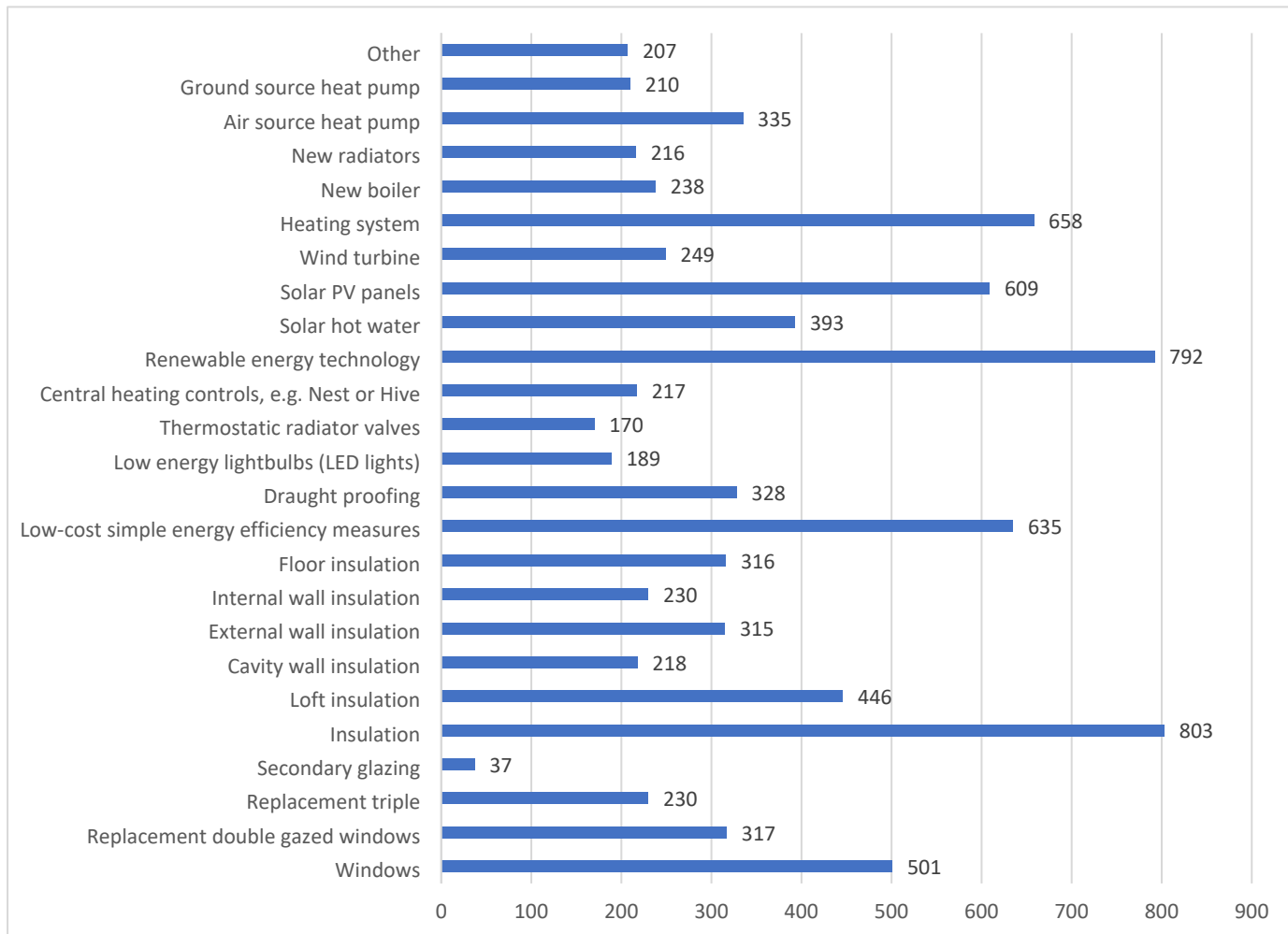
If 'Yes', what energy efficiency improvements have you made?



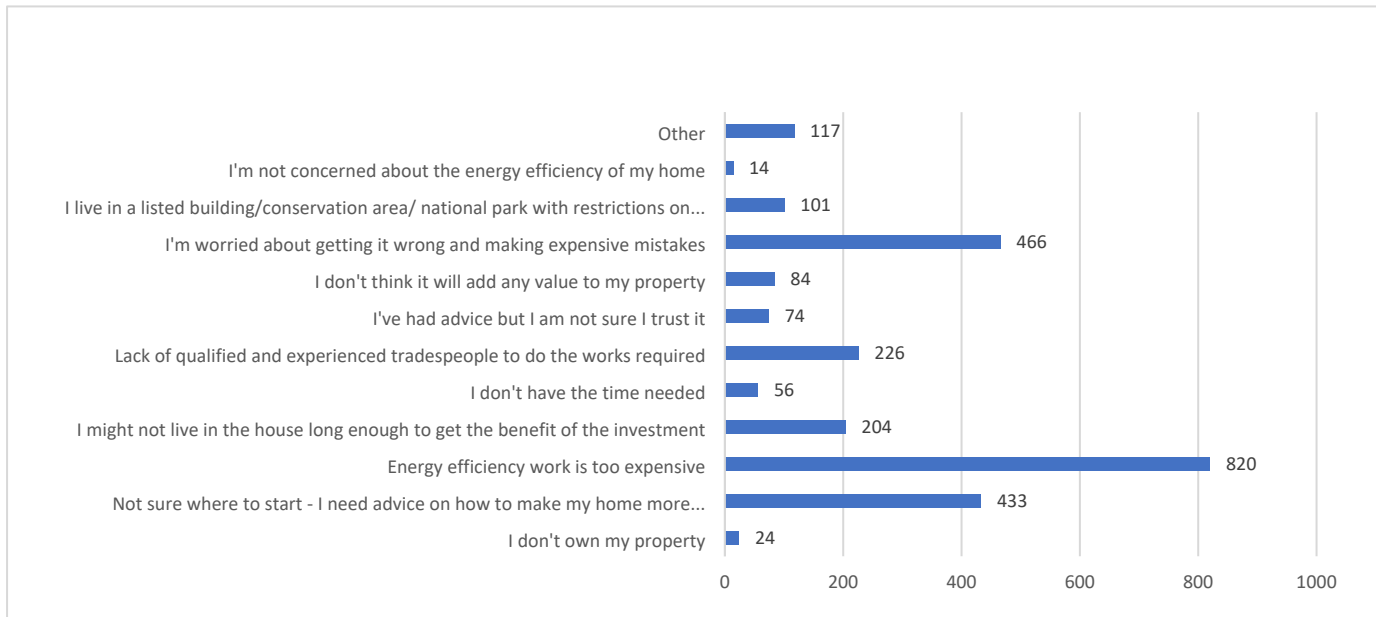
Would you be interested in adding efficiency measures into your home?



If 'Yes', what energy efficiency measures would you be interested in to make your home fit for the future?



From the list below, what is stopping you from making any (or further) improvements to the energy efficiency of your home? (Please select your top three reasons) (... option 1)



I & S - Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon Reduction Committee

Proposed 2023/24 Work Programme

Monday 4 December 2023			
Topic	Lead Officers	Purpose	Portfolio Holder
Climate Change Strategy: Annual Review of Progress	Caroline Toplis	To consider and review the annual report on progress against delivery of the Council's Climate Change Strategy.	Cllr Barry Lewis
Highways Service Decarbonisation	Neill Bennett	To consider and review the work being undertaken to develop and deliver a highway decarbonisation strategy.	Cllr Charlotte Cupit
Nature Recovery - Biodiversity of Highway Verges	Glyn Dutton	To consider and review the work being undertaken with the district and borough councils on improving the biodiversity of roadside verges across the county.	Cllr Charlotte Cupit
Monday 5 February 2024			
Topic	Lead Officers	Purpose	Portfolio Holder
Green Entrepreneurs Fund	Joe Battye /Karl Apps	To consider and review progress on the delivery of the Green Entrepreneurs Fund, including an update on the grants awarded and assessment of outcomes.	Cllr Tony King
The Council's role in decarbonising Derbyshire's schools	Caroline Toplis	To consider and review the work that the Council is undertaking to help decarbonise Derbyshire's schools.	Cllr Alex Dale
Decarbonising the Corporate Estate	Janet Scholes/ David Beard	To consider and review the progress being made on decarbonising the Council's Corporate Estate and the forward plan of activities.	Cllr Simon Spencer

Monday 29 April 2024

Topic	Lead Officers	Purpose	Portfolio Holder
Collaboration with the county's Mineral Products Industry on net zero	Rupert Casey/David Arnold/Karl Apps	To consider and review the work being undertaken by the Council in collaboration with the county's Mineral Products Industry to deliver a net zero industry.	Cllr Carolyn Renwick
Million Trees programme update	Rupert Casey	To consider and review progress on delivery of the Council's Million Trees commitment and the forward programme of activities.	Cllr Carolyn Renwick
Supporting the progress of sustainable transport solutions for Derbyshire's communities and businesses, including electric and hydrogen solutions.	Alan Marsden/Daniel McCrory	To consider and review the progress made by the Council in delivering the Low Emission Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Strategy, and in supporting the growth of other low carbon transport solutions in the county.	Cllr Carolyn Renwick
Collaboration with the county's agricultural sector on net zero	Rupert Casey	To consider and review the work being undertaken by the Council in collaboration with the county's agricultural sector to support their transition to net zero and contribution to nature recovery.	Cllr Carolyn Renwick