



**FOR PUBLICATION**

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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

**MONDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2022**

**Report of the Executive Director - Place**

**Climate Change Strategy Update (Engagement, Action Plan, Monitoring  
and Reporting)**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present an update on the Council's Climate Change Engagement Plan, Action Plan and approach to monitoring and reporting on progress of the delivery of the Council's Climate Change Strategy: Achieving Net Zero (2021-2025) and overarching carbon reduction targets.

**2. Information and Analysis**

**Background**

- 2.1 The Derbyshire County Council Climate Change Strategy: Achieving Net Zero (2021-2025) was approved by Cabinet on 14 October 2021 and published on the Council's website in November 2021 (Minute No. 150/21 refers). The focus is now on delivery of the Strategy and the actions within it.
- 2.2 At a meeting of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee for Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon Reduction held on 20 September 2021, the Committee supported the delivery and publication of the Strategy and resolved to request that the Committee receives monitoring reports against the progress of the delivery of the Strategy and is informed about the outcomes of community engagement. This report provides an update on these points.

## **Climate Change Engagement Plan**

- 2.3 A Climate Change Engagement Plan has been developed, which sets out how the Council will engage with its communities to establish and agree delivery mechanisms and communicate crucial climate messages and information to Derbyshire's residents and businesses.
- 2.4 The Engagement Plan was presented to the Corporate Management Team (CMT) in October 2021, where support for its implementation was expressed. The Cabinet Member for Strategic Leadership, Culture and Tourism and Climate Change, and Leader of the Council, Councillor Barry Lewis, has also approved the Plan.
- 2.5 For each of the relevant actions set out in the Climate Change Strategy, the Council will engage with Derbyshire's communities on the delivery mechanisms for that action. Prior to the commencement of each engagement activity, a simple engagement plan will be prepared setting out the mechanisms for engaging communities. Engagement will be specifically on exploring and identifying roles and responsibilities and how the action will be delivered.
- 2.6 A Thriving Communities approach will be taken whereby, if, in the course of the engagement and delivery processes, the communities involved decide that they would like to carry out an additional project related to the action, then any request of the Council for additional support would be considered. This would need to be considered on a case by case basis as the nature of what communities might wish to undertake independently of the Council is unknown.
- 2.7 Engagement plans for an initial small set of relevant actions from the Climate Change Strategy are being developed for implementation during the first quarter of 2022, with further relevant actions being delivered on a rolling basis as part of delivery of the Climate Change Strategy. Projects will be reviewed with lessons learnt from each engagement activity applied to future work.

## **Climate Change Action Plan**

- 2.8 There are 32 priority actions in the Climate Change Strategy, across five themes. The priority actions are supported by over 120 supplementary actions (the 'Long List'), initiatives and projects, which it is anticipated the Council will either lead or support. The Long List actions are split into those that would need to be delivered by 2025, and those that would need to be delivered by 2035.

- 2.9 In order to robustly monitor and measure progress, a detailed programme-level SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-based) Action Plan is being developed, which sets out the cost and carbon impact of each action, the level of complexity, who is responsible for the delivery, timescales, status and review of progress against the required output or outcome.
- 2.10 The Action Plan focusses on the priority actions, as well as those Long List actions that are likely to have the biggest positive impact on emissions reduction, and those which require the most immediate action and implementation.
- 2.11 Over time, other projects and initiatives may be identified and launched, which are not currently listed in the Strategy. These will be added to the Action Plan and monitored accordingly.
- 2.12 The Action Plan will be reviewed and updated in full on a quarterly basis.

### **Monitoring and Reporting**

- 2.13 Ensuring effective and timely delivery of the Strategy is central to the successful delivery of the Council's net zero ambitions. The following sections set out mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on progress going forward.

### **Annual Progress Report to Cabinet**

- 2.14 As agreed by Cabinet on 14 October 2021, an annual progress report will be presented to Cabinet, summarising progress in delivery of the Strategy and the Council's net zero targets, as well as outcomes of the annual review of the need to refresh and update the Strategy. This report will be presented to Cabinet in the Autumn of each year, starting in 2022.
- 2.15 The report will summarise progress against the Council's target of net zero by 2032, or sooner, split by the four areas currently measured and reported by the Council:
- emissions from Council-owned property and buildings;
  - emissions from street and road lighting;
  - emissions from grey fleet usage; and
  - emissions from Council-owned core fleet vehicles.

- 2.16 It will provide an updated emission reduction trajectory and projections, based on trends at that time and taking into account planned and confirmed actions and activities happening across the Council to reduce emissions. This will identify any issues or areas where particular actions need to be clearer or accelerated.
- 2.17 The report will also summarise county-wide emissions, sourced from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) data, although it should be noted that this data can take up to two years to be published by the UK Government and is provided as calendar years, whereas Council emissions are reported by financial years. This reporting will be against the carbon budget for each area and include a high-level trajectory going forward.
- 2.18 In addition, the annual report will provide an expected trajectory of further progress for each target set out in the Climate Change Strategy.

### **Quarterly Council Plan and Service Plan Reporting**

- 2.19 As part of the reporting requirements associated with the Council Plan and Service Plans, the Climate Change Team reports on a range of Deliverables and Measures on a quarterly basis. This includes, for the Council Plan:
- 2.20 Deliverables:
- Reduced carbon emissions from Council property and vehicles, street lighting and procurement.
  - Developed and commenced implementation of a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan which sets out priorities to reduce the county's carbon emissions.
  - Explored initiatives to tackle climate change including low carbon local energy generation schemes and working with partners to provide further publicly accessible electric vehicle charge points.
  - Developed and delivered a strategic approach to sustainable travel and transport across the County, including the promotion of cycling and walking.

#### Measures:

- Percentage reduction in carbon emissions from Council land and operations from 2010 baseline.
- 2.21 In addition to the Deliverables and Measures reported quarterly by the Climate Change Team, other teams across the Council are responsible

for reporting on other relevant items with the Council Plan. This includes, but is not limited to:

- The Natural Capital Strategy, identifying areas where the natural environment can be further enhanced in order to support healthy, thriving communities, a vibrant economy and a healthy environment.
- The Council's approach to Good Growth to maximise low carbon economic opportunities. Good Growth is *'the right growth, being delivered in the right way for the right reasons'*.

2.22 Progress against a range of Deliverables and Measures within Service Plans are also reported on a quarterly basis.

### **Reporting to the Climate Change and Environment Programme Board**

2.23 Going forward, on a quarterly basis, the Climate Change and Environment Programme Board (CCEPB) will receive a report that sets out the proportion of all 32 priority actions that are on track, in terms of both timescales and outcome, as well as the proportion of priority actions on track, split by the five themes.

2.24 A narrative will be provided on which actions are not on track, why, the potential impact, and the mitigation being carried out to get the action back on track. The same process will be carried out for the Long List actions by 2025 that are likely to have the biggest positive impact on emissions reduction, and those which require the most immediate action and implementation.

2.25 For the other Long List actions to be delivered by 2025 and 2035, a high-level summary of progress and any risks or issues will be provided.

### **3. Consultation**

3.1 The Climate Change Strategy was developed through engagement with Council officers and Elected Members, officers from Derbyshire District and Borough Councils, and young people. There is no statutory duty to engage on this document, nor even to have such a strategy. However, it is the intention to engage more widely, with Derbyshire's businesses and communities, on the delivery mechanisms of the Strategy.

3.2 An outline of the Strategy and the draft priority actions were presented to the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee for Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon Reduction on 26 July 2021. The Committee supported those priority actions, and also the governance structure that has been established to deliver the programme of work.

3.3 The Strategy was presented to the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee for Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon Reduction on 20 September 2021. The Committee supported delivery and publication of the Strategy, and noted the intention to launch and publish the Strategy shortly after presentation to Cabinet on 14 October 2021. It was resolved to request that the Committee receives monitoring reports against progress of the delivery of the strategy and is informed about the outcomes of community engagement.

#### **4. Alternative Options Considered**

4.1 N/A

#### **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 – Climate Change Engagement Plan (2021-2025)

#### **8. Recommendations**

That the Committee resolves to:

- a) Note and support the proposals to engage Derbyshire's residents and communities in the delivery of the Climate Change Strategy, as set out in the Climate Change Engagement Plan (2021-2025).
- b) Support the development and ongoing management of an overarching and detailed climate change programme Action Plan.
- c) Note and support the mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on progress of the delivery of the Strategy and the overarching carbon reduction targets as set out in this report.

#### **9. Reasons for Recommendations**

- 9.1 To ensure that the Committee fully supports the Engagement Plan for engaging communities on climate change.
- 9.2 To ensure that the Committee fully supports effective delivery of the Climate Change Strategy through the development and ongoing management of an overarching and detailed Action Plan.
- 9.3 To ensure that the Committee fully supports monitoring and reporting on progress on the delivery of the Strategy and the overarching carbon reduction targets in an appropriate, meaningful and effective manner, in order for the Strategy and actions to remain on track and be delivered.

**Report Author:** Joanna Jackson,  
Caroline Toplis

**Contact details:** Joanna.Jackson@derbyshire.gov.uk,  
Caroline.Toplis@derbyshire.gov.uk

### **Implications**

#### **Financial**

- 1.1 The delivery of the actions within the Strategy, and engagement activities with communities will have financial implications for the Council. These will be considered on a project-by-project basis. Proposals for programme-level financial commitment to support the overall development and delivery of the strategy and programme are also in development and are the subject of a bid for additional resources as part of the development of the Council's Budget for 2022-23.

#### **Legal**

- 2.1 Some of the projects required to deliver the actions within the Strategy may have legal implications. These will be considered on a project-by-project basis.

#### **Human Resources**

- 3.1 Some of the projects required to deliver the actions within the Strategy may have Human Resource implications. These will be considered on a project-by-project basis.

#### **Information Technology**

- 4.1 Some of the projects required to deliver the actions within the Strategy may have Information Technology implications. These will be considered on a project-by-project basis.

#### **Equalities Impact**

- 5.1 Some of the projects required to deliver the actions within the Strategy may have Equalities Impact implications. These will be considered on a project-by-project basis.
- 5.2 Proposals for delivery emerging from the engagement process will be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment to identify how the proposals would impact on people with protected characteristics.

#### **Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 6.1 The Strategy and the engagement plan support the Council's ambition to be a net zero organisation by 2032, or sooner, and for the County to

be net zero by 2050, and will inform the action that needs to be taken to achieve these ambitions.

## **Environmental Sustainability**

6.2 Delivery of the Strategy and implementation of the engagement plan will improve the environmental sustainability of the Council and the County and in particular, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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

7.1 None to report.