

Derbyshire County Council

Climate Change Engagement Plan (2021-2025)

Introduction

Derbyshire's Climate Change Strategy: Achieving Net Zero (2021-25) has been published. It sets out the next steps for the Council to reduce emissions from its own estate and operations and from across the county.

Derbyshire County Council has control over the actions it takes to reduce emissions from its own estate and operations and, along with the UK government and other local authorities, has a key role to play in tackling climate change across the county through legislation, policy and funding approaches. However, it is estimated that local authorities have powers or influence over roughly a third of emissions in their local areas and consequently a 'whole society' and community-wide approach is needed to reduce emissions across the county. More than half of the emissions cuts needed rely on people and businesses taking up low-carbon solutions – decisions that are made at a local and individual level. Many of these decisions depend on having supporting infrastructure and systems in place some which local authorities can influence and others which require action from the UK government.

To reduce emissions from across the county and to adapt to a changing climate, collaboration with the communities of the Derbyshire is therefore necessary and welcome. The Council cannot deliver this work alone, it will require action from businesses and communities across the county.

The actions needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are, by and large, reasonably well understood. However, the mechanisms to deliver these actions are less clear. The Council has identified targets with priority actions in its Climate Change Strategy and now wants to work with communities to understand the best way to deliver the actions. By working together, agreement will be reached on how both parties can support each other to deliver action.

Dialogue between communities and the Council will need to be sustained over the long term and so partnership engagement approaches will be designed to be flexible to changing needs and messages with some underlying principles. In the Climate Change Strategy, the Council made a commitment to:

1. Ensure elected members and officers engage with community groups, residents, schools, and businesses to map existing or ongoing work on

- climate change and to identify and understand the role that Derbyshire County Council can play in supporting these activities
2. Explore the success and viability of different engagement methods to coproduce solutions (e.g. large group discussions, digital platforms and mobile applications, gamification and the arts and education)
 3. Work with partners such as businesses, the private sector and the Local Authority Energy Partnership to develop demonstrator projects to be used to build understanding on retrofitting buildings and decentralised energy systems.

In developing this Plan, consideration has also been given to the findings and recommendations of the Climate Assembly UK set out in the report '*The path to net zero*'. A number of themes emerged to underpin the UK's approach to achieving net zero which this plan aims to emulate. In summary, key themes are:

- **Education and information:** There is a need for information and education about climate change for everyone
- **Fairness:** The solutions to climate change are neither easy nor free but they need to be fair
- **Freedom and choice:** It is important to maintain, where possible, freedom and choice for both individuals and local areas so they can choose the solutions that work best for them
- **Co-benefits:** Tackling climate change could bring many advantages and co-benefits and the UK should take advantage of these potential rewards
- **Nature:** We need to protect and restore our natural environment and our access to it.

Guiding Principles

In engaging communities about climate change and climate action, Derbyshire County Council will ensure:

- Its approach is inclusive and accessible to all
- That its actions do not end up broadening inequalities or lead to undesired outcomes but creates a better future for present and future generations
- There is a widespread societal dialogue on climate change
- It is open and transparent to make sure people can see and understand its actions
- It is aspirational using expert knowledge to guide it and to promote the many co-benefits of climate action
- It spends money wisely making the best use of its resources

Engagement Process

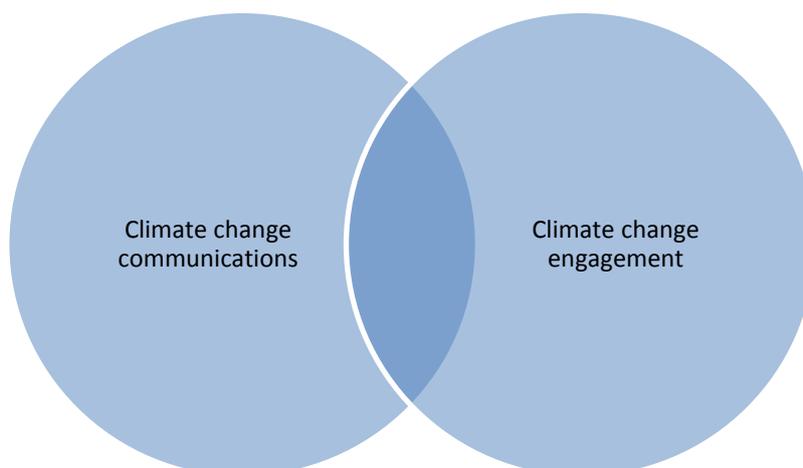
This plan sets out how the Council will engage with its communities to agree the delivery mechanisms.

It is proposed that a two-stage engagement process is undertaken:

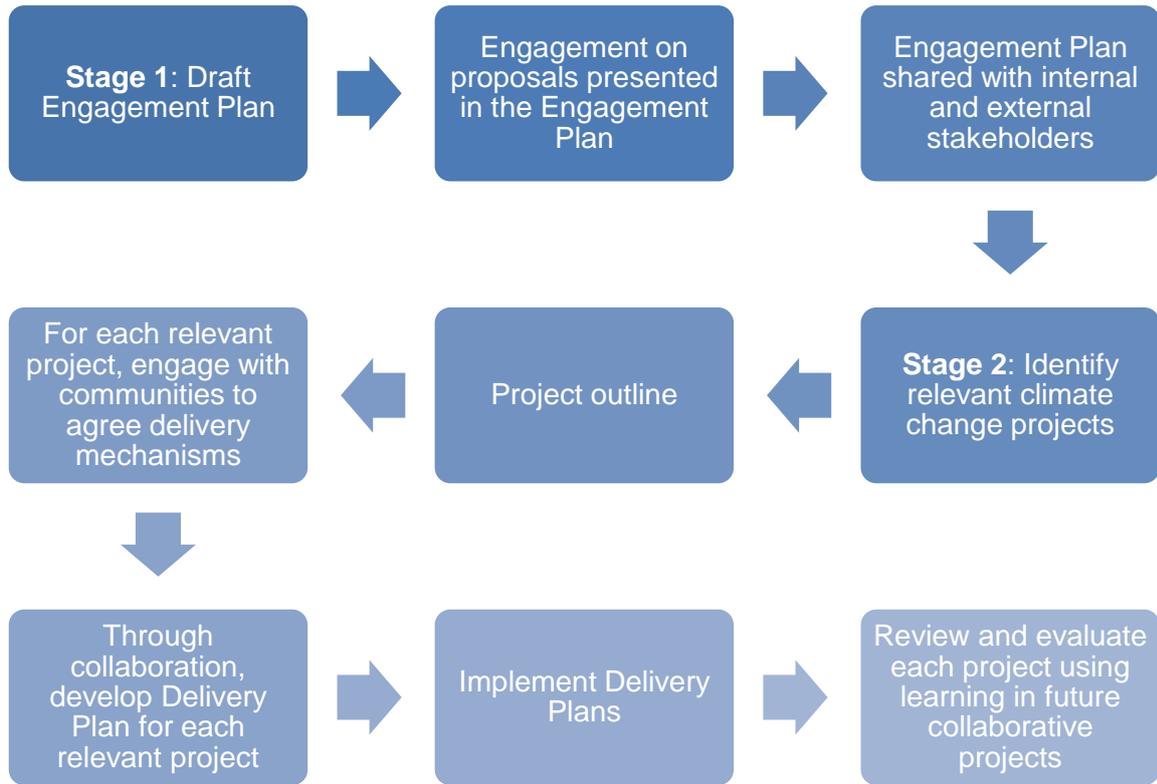
Stage 1: Seek support for the Council's proposals for community engagement about the delivery mechanisms of climate action (i.e. the engagement process proposed)

Stage 2: Engage with communities to agree the project delivery mechanisms for relevant actions set out in the Climate Change Strategy: Achieving Net Zero (2021-2025)

The Council will continue to communicate crucial climate messages and information to Derbyshire residents and businesses recognising that not everybody will want, or have the capacity, to be involved more deeply in climate action. Many people will be more focused on improving the thermal comfort of their home or living a healthier lifestyle rather than tackling climate change, so it is important to understand the drivers and interests of the groups we are engaging. The messaging for individual projects should recognise this with the aim that all residents and businesses will have some level of engagement, either directly or indirectly, in the climate change agenda. The Plan is complemented by the County Council's internal Climate Change Communications Package and the two should be considered together.



The Engagement Process



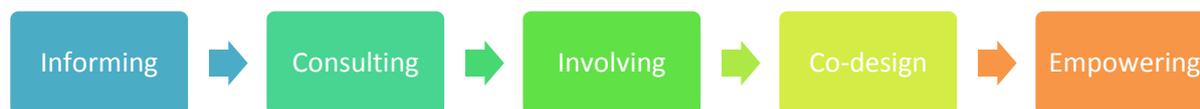
Key stakeholders

Local authorities currently have no statutory responsibility to tackle climate change other than through the planning system. However, the Council recognises it has a key role, as a community leader, to lead and support the work to tackle climate change. Key stakeholders to be included in the delivery of the Climate change Strategy are identified below.



Engagement Approach

The *Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget* report identifies five key types of engagement with different levels of ownership which it is expected hoped will be covered through a combination of the Communication Plan and the Engagement Plan.



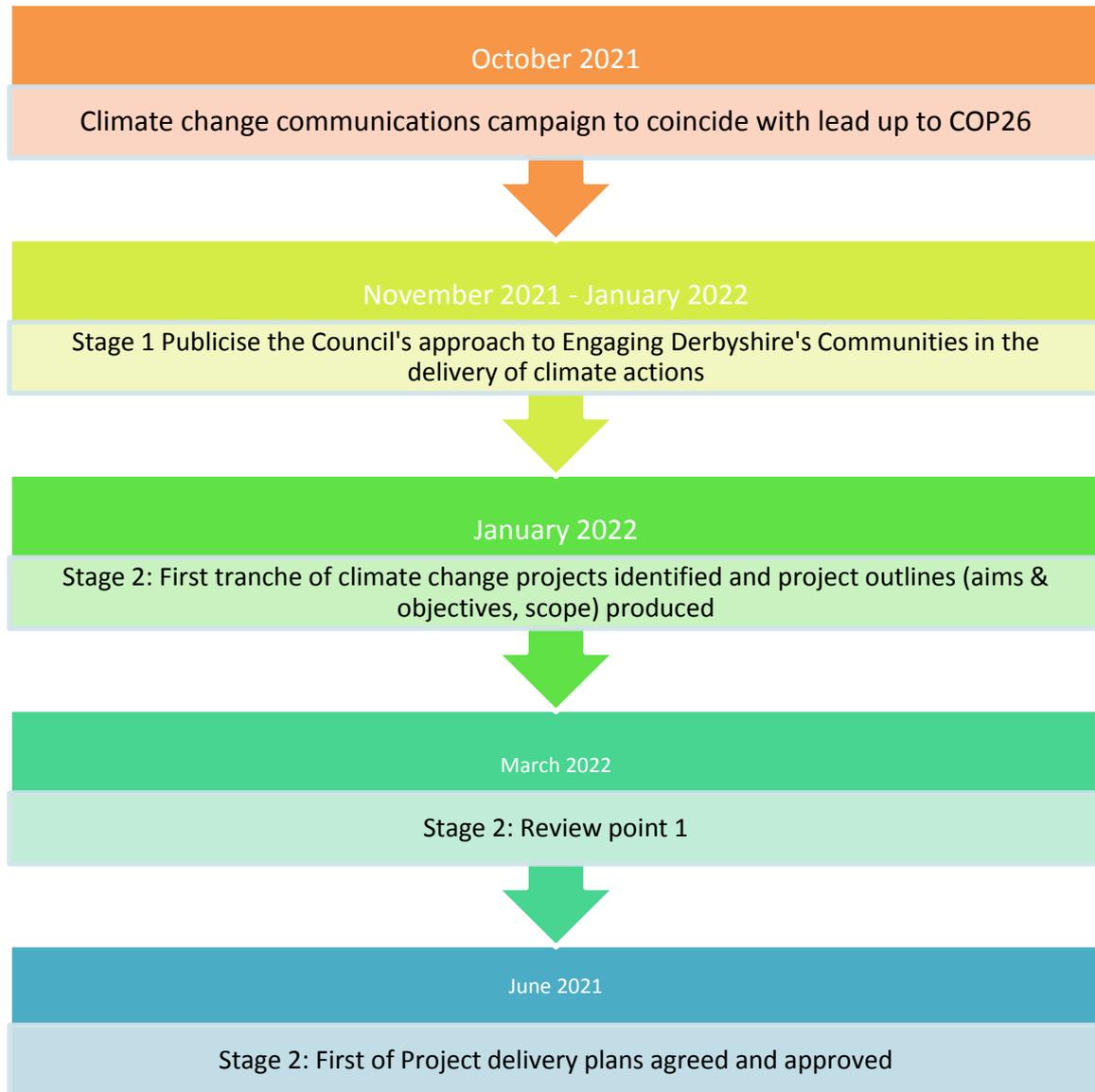
1. Informing – One way, information provision
2. Consulting – Statutory consultations on already developed plans and proposals
3. Involving – Directly working with people to understand their views and needs e.g. Climate Commissions
4. Co-design – working together with people at a local level or interest groups to design solutions and projects
5. Empowering – Handing over the power and co-creating schemes to tackle a problem or deliver a solution.

Engagement Methods

Informing	Press releases Social media Local Authority Energy Partnership communication service
Consulting	Citizen's Panels Public consultations (on-line) Derbyshire Youth Network Focus groups
Involving	Community groups and forums Focus groups
Co-design	Community groups and forums Focus groups
Empowering	Community groups and forums

A Thriving Communities approach will be taken whereby, if, in the course of the engagement and delivery process, 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.

Timelines and Milestones



Post-engagement Delivery Plans

An output from the engagement will be that Delivery Plans will be produced for each of the relevant action points setting out who has agreed to undertake what action and by when. Regular meetings with stakeholders will be held to monitor progress, highlight issues and share information.

Review Points

The engagement approach will be reviewed after each project is implemented in order to inform engagement processes for future projects which will commence on a frequent basis.