



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

MONDAY, 25 JULY 2022

Report of the Executive Director - Place

Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an update to the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee for Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon Reduction on the climate change work being undertaken with the district and borough councils through Vision Derbyshire.

2. Information and Analysis

Background

- 2.1 Vision Derbyshire 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".
- 2.2 Within Vision Derbyshire there are four key workstreams, one of which is 'Live and Work Sustainably' with an objective of embedding sustainable and green strategic spatial planning Derbyshire-wide, including for housing and transport.
- 2.3 Two Vision Derbyshire Officers Groups have been established to drive forward work under the Live and Work Sustainably workstream:

- Climate Change Officers Group: With an aim to develop and deliver collaborative climate change projects and activities.
 - Climate Change and Planning Officers Sub-Group: With an aim to develop a shared approach to planning policies to support climate change.
- 2.4 This report focusses on the work being undertaken through the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Officers Group and does not cover the work undertaken by the Climate Change and Planning Officers Sub-Group, as an update on that group's work was presented to the Committee on 14 February 2022.
- 2.5 Councils across Derbyshire are all taking action to tackle climate change, through reducing emissions from their own estates and operations, and playing their role in reducing county-wide emissions. However, with the increasing need to accelerate action on tackling climate change, the development and adoption of a joint climate change strategy was identified by the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Officers Group as an opportunity to establish common ambitions and priorities, foster collaboration and resource sharing, provide consistency in delivery, and work more closely together to coordinate and maximise collective success in securing external funding and other external support for delivering action on decarbonisation.
- 2.6 As such, the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Officers Group has led the development of a joint Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy (2022-2025) to set out what needs to be done to reduce emissions across the County to net zero by 2050, or sooner, and how Derbyshire's councils can work to achieve this through a series of ambitions and priorities, supported by an Action Plan. The Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Officers Group includes representatives from the County Council and all eight Derbyshire district and borough councils.

Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy (2022-2025)

- 2.7 The Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy (2022-2025) can be found in Appendix 2. It was endorsed by the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee on 4 April 2022 and approved by Cabinet on 7 April 2022 (Minute No. 92/22 refers). Four of Derbyshire's eight district and borough councils have approved the Strategy for formal adoption, with the other four councils supporting or endorsing its implementation.
- 2.8 The Strategy is not intended to replace individual Council existing climate change strategies and plans, instead it complements these and sets out key common areas of collaboration.

- 2.9 The Strategy focuses principally on what Derbyshire’s councils can do about the county-wide emissions that they have direct control or influence over, but also considers wider opportunities where councils can encourage, promote, and facilitate action by others – including central Government, as well as businesses, communities, and individuals across the County.
- 2.10 The Strategy sets out the strategic vision for net zero and a set of common priorities under five key themes:
- Local Authority Estate, Operations and Services.
 - Strengthening the Low Carbon Economy.
 - Decarbonising Derbyshire's Housing.
 - Sustainable Transport, Travel and Infrastructure.
 - Waste and Resources.
- 2.11 In addition to the five key themes, the Strategy provides an overview of action that may be taken to help offset the remaining residual emissions to enable Derbyshire to be a net zero county by 2050, and also sets out the importance of Derbyshire’s councils working jointly with the County’s residents, businesses, academic, public, community and voluntary sectors to achieve the net zero ambitions.
- 2.12 As well as reducing emissions across Derbyshire, delivery of the Strategy will help to address the wider key issues facing society, including improving and future-proofing homes, businesses, infrastructure and transport, reversing the decline in biodiversity, promoting community health and wellbeing, and the facilitation of a sustainable and robust low carbon economy.

Action Plan

- 2.13 The Strategy covers the period 2022 to 2025 and is to be supported by an Action Plan, which is currently in development by the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Officers Group and will set out the priority collaborative projects and initiatives.
- 2.14 To commence the development of the Action Plan, a Vision Derbyshire climate change workshop was held on 11 May 2022 to explore and prioritise areas of work where the councils should work collectively on over the next 2-3 years.
- 2.15 Focusing on those areas where the greatest impact is likely, in terms of carbon reduction and wider co-benefits, as well as those areas where the potential positive impact is maximised through councils working

collaboratively, four priority areas have been identified for initial focus, these being:

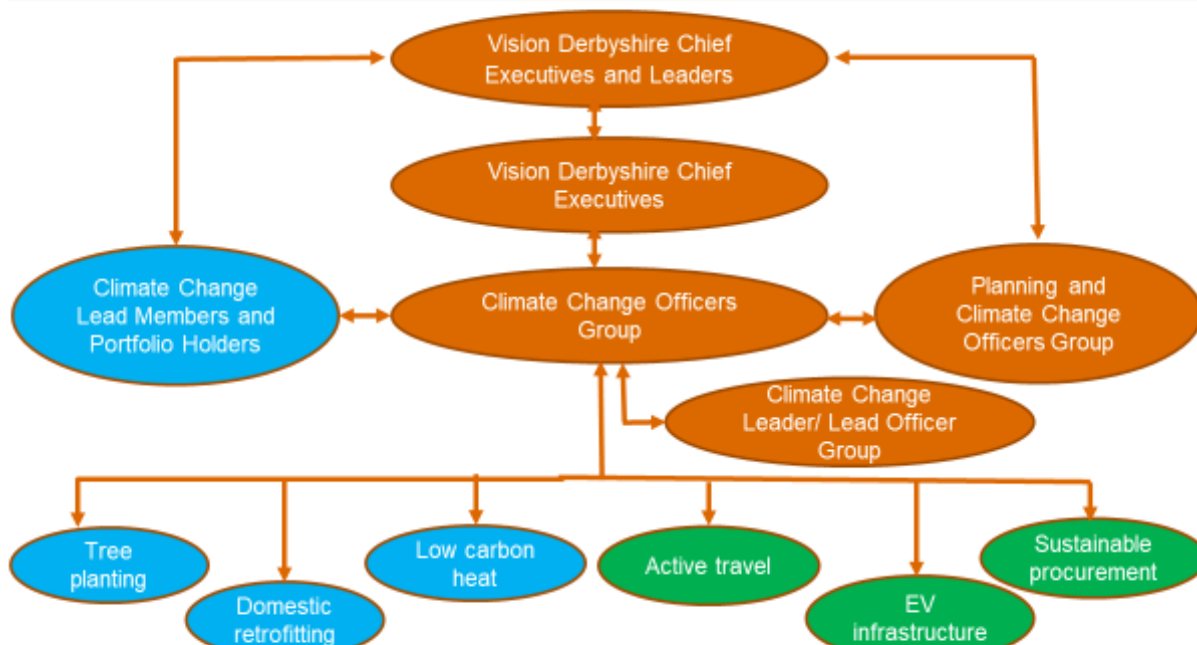
- Renewable and low carbon energy – Collaborative research into opportunities and locations for the installation of renewable energy generation technologies (e.g., solar) on council-owned buildings and land.
- Planning – Working together to develop appropriate guidance, policy and frameworks to ensure that planning measures for net zero buildings are integrated into Local Plans and wider planning activities. To include aspects around Natural Capital and Biodiversity Net Gain.
- Housing retrofit – 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.
- Tree planting – Working together to develop and implement a tree planting programme across the county. Including considerations around carbon sequestration and Natural Capital.

2.16 The Work Plan for each of these project areas is now being developed and will form the basis for the Action Plan going forward. Officer leads for each project area have been confirmed, drawn from across the Derbyshire Councils.

2.17 Once developed and agreed, the Action Plan will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis by the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Officers Group to ensure that the councils are continuing to focus on and develop the appropriate climate actions necessary to achieve the net zero targets in collaboration with other partners, stakeholders, and community members, and to respond to future technological and policy developments.

Strategy Delivery and Governance

2.18 The delivery of the Strategy and the overarching collaborative approach to reducing emissions across the County has implications for all Derbyshire councils and will require clear decision-making processes. As such, a Vision Derbyshire climate change governance and delivery structure has been established. This structure is shown in Figure 1.



Specific projects will be delivered through focussed working groups, with the Officers Group providing a coordinating and oversight role. These may be existing cross-authority working groups (indicative examples shown in green), or new potential groups to be established (indicative examples shown in blue).

Figure 1: Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Governance Structure

- 2.19 The Strategy will be co-ordinated and monitored by the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Officers Group, which comprises of officers from the County, district and borough councils. This Officer Group reports into the wider Vision Derbyshire governance structure, ensuring oversight and accountability of activities and projects being delivered.
- 2.20 Derbyshire councils cannot deliver all of the necessary actions required to reduce emissions alone. Delivering the Strategy will therefore require collaboration with and across partners, citizens, businesses and communities.
- 2.20 The councils will collectively use their leadership, partnership building and influencing role to facilitate and promote actions across all sectors and groups. Councils will also work together to identify and prepare for external funding opportunities and maximise collective success in securing funding and other support for delivering action on decarbonisation.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 The Strategy was developed through consultation between officers from the County Council and all Derbyshire district and borough councils through the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Officers Group, and with Elected Members through the Vision Derbyshire Lead Members and Portfolio Holders Group. There is no statutory duty to consult on this document. However, it is the intention to consult more widely with Derbyshire's businesses and communities on the delivery mechanisms of the Strategy where relevant.
- 3.2 The Strategy was endorsed by the Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee on 4 April 2022 and approved by Cabinet on 7 April 2022. Four of Derbyshire's eight district and borough councils have approved the Strategy for formal adoption, with the other four councils supporting or endorsing its implementation.

4. Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 **No Action:** The Climate Change Act 2008 (amendment 2019) commits the UK to a legally binding target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. Derbyshire's councils must, therefore, play their part in reducing emissions and take action to achieve this in line with the targets set out by the UK Government. If the councils were not to take action or work together on the delivery of a joint Strategy, emissions across the County would not reduce sufficiently to achieve the targets.

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.
- 7.2 Appendix 2 – Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy (2022-2025).

8. Recommendation

That the Committee resolves to:

- a) Note the climate change work being undertaken with the district and borough councils through Vision Derbyshire, as set out in this report.

9. Reason for Recommendation

- 9.1 To ensure the Committee understands and supports the climate change work being undertaken with the district and borough councils through Vision Derbyshire, and, through this understanding, help enable the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy to be delivered to ultimately help reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the County.

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Implications

Financial

- 1.1 The delivery of some of the priority areas of work within the Strategy will have financial implications for the Council. These will be considered on a project-by-project basis.

Legal

- 2.1 There is no statutory obligation on Derbyshire's councils to produce a Climate Change Strategy, however, councils have the power contained in the Local Government Act 2000, Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, Sustainable Communities Act 2007 and Localism Act 2011 to engage directly and work with other agencies in helping to tackle climate change.
- 2.2 The delivery of some of the priority areas of work within the Strategy may have legal implications. These will be considered on a project-by-project basis

Human Resources

- 3.1 The delivery of some of the priority areas of work within the Strategy may have human resource implications. These will be considered on a project-by-project basis.

Information Technology

- 4.1 The delivery of some of the priority areas of work within the Strategy may have information technology implications. These will be considered on a project-by-project basis.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 The delivery of some of the priority areas of work within the Strategy may have equalities impact implications. These will be considered on a project-by-project basis.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 6.1 The Strategy supports 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 informs the action that needs to be taken to achieve these

ambitions. This proposal will also help deliver the following Council Plan priorities: Resilient, Healthy and Safe Communities; High Performing, Value for Money and Resident-Focused Services; A Prosperous and Green Derbyshire

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

7.1 Environmental Sustainability

Delivery of the Strategy will improve the environmental sustainability of the Council and the county and will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

7.2 The delivery of some of the priority areas of work within the Strategy may have other implications. These will be considered on a project-by-project basis.