



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

MONDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2022

Report of the Executive Director - Place

Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Action Plan

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To present to the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee for Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon Reduction the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Action Plan that has been developed by the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Officers Group.

2. Information and Analysis

Background

- 2.1 The Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Officers Group has led the development of a joint Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy (2022-2025) (the “Strategy”) to set out what needs to be done to reduce emissions across the County to net zero by 2050, or sooner, and how Derbyshire councils can work to achieve this through a series of ambitions and priorities. The Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Officers Group includes representatives from the county council and all eight Derbyshire district and borough councils.
- 2.2 The Strategy 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). The Strategy is not intended to replace existing individual council climate change strategies and plans, instead it complements these and sets out key common areas of collaboration.

- 2.3 The Strategy was presented to the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee for Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon Reduction on 25 July 2022.

Action Plan

- 2.4 To support delivery of the Strategy, an Action Plan has been developed by the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Officers Group. The Action Plan contains details of the specific projects and workstreams where Derbyshire councils are seeking to work collaboratively over the next three years (to 2025) to help meet the ambition for Derbyshire to be net zero by 2050. The Action Plan is intended to be a live document used to manage and monitor delivery, and to record priority areas of work as they emerge and evolve.
- 2.5 Aligning with the overarching Strategy, the Action Plan sets out actions for each of the five key themes:
1. Local Authority Estate, Operations and Services
 2. Strengthening the Low Carbon Economy
 3. Decarbonising Derbyshire's Housing
 4. Sustainable Transport, Travel and Infrastructure
 5. Waste and Resources
- 2.6 In addition to the five key themes, the Action Plan includes a series of actions to be taken to help offset the remaining residual emissions to enable Derbyshire to be a net zero county by 2050, and also actions to collaboratively engage with the County's residents, businesses, academic, public, community and voluntary sectors to achieve the net zero ambitions.
- 2.7 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, a series of priority actions have been identified for initial focus, these being:
- **Renewable and low carbon energy** – Collaborative research, plans and ongoing action around the decarbonisation of the public estate, including opportunities and locations for the installation of renewable energy generation technologies 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, and the development and delivery of a pipeline of retrofitting activities across the County, making effective use of funding streams and opportunities.
- **Electric Vehicles** – Working together to accelerate the shift to electric vehicles through improving charging point infrastructure and promoting the uptake in these vehicles, with a particular focus on facilitating a growth in charging infrastructure in areas where there is little or no commercial viability (such as on-street charging).
- **Waste behaviour change** – Collaborative messaging and campaigns focussed on minimising waste and recycling and disposing of waste appropriately and correctly.
- **Tree planting** – Working together to develop and implement a tree planting programme across the county. Including considerations around carbon sequestration and Natural Capital.

2.8 In addition to these priority actions, a series of supplemental actions have been established against each theme within the Action Plan. 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 actions.

Action Plan Delivery

- 2.9 To ensure successful and effective delivery of the Action Plan, and the overarching Strategy, a mapping exercise is now underway to establish what activity is already happening under each theme, and identify any groups and forums that already exist and are leading on, or contributing to, themes or actions in the Action Plan. This activity will be completed by the end of December 2022, allowing for delivery plans, leads, milestones and specific deliverables and success measures to then be established for the actions.
- 2.10 It is anticipated that the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Officers Group will, for most actions, have a coordinating, influencing and oversight role, using this to foster collaboration with and across existing working groups, partners, citizens, businesses and communities.
- 2.11 The Action Plan will be reviewed fully on an annual 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. A short annual report will be produced to summarise progress against delivery of the Action Plan. This report will be presented to the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change

Lead Members and Portfolio Holders Group and the Council's Climate Change and Environment Programme Board, ensuring oversight and accountability of activities and projects being delivered.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 The Action Plan has been developed through consultation between officers from the County Council and all Derbyshire district and borough councils via 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 businesses and communities on the delivery mechanisms of the Action Plan where relevant and appropriate.
- 3.2 The Action Plan was endorsed by the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Lead Members and Portfolio Holders Group on 17 October 2022.

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 and Action Plan, 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: Action Plan.

8. Recommendation

That the Committee:

- a) Notes the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Action Plan that has been developed by the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Officers Group.

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 Action Plan and overarching 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 actions within the Action Plan will have financial implications for the Council. These will be considered on a project-by-project basis.
- 1.2 Following approval at Full Council on 2 February 2022, the Council's climate change programme now has confirmation of its budget for 2022-23 to 2026-27. A summary of which follows:
 - Base Budget: The climate change programme holds a base budget of £0.670m per year for staff costs and project development and delivery.
 - One-Off Budget: A budget of £0.350m per year for 2022-23 and 2023-24, a total of £0.700m is allocated for accelerated project development and delivery. This is to be drawn down from the Earmarked Reserve Fund (see below).
 - Earmarked Reserve Fund: The Revenue Budget Report 2020-21 secured approval for a sum of £4m from the Business Rates Pilot to support capital borrowing to meet the requirements of changes to the vehicle fleet and approaches to help reduce emissions from buildings. This is held by Place in an Earmarked Reserve.
- 1.3 Approval for the allocation of funds from the Reserve is managed by Finance Business Partners and the Climate Change and Environment Programme Board (CCEPB), through the delegated authority of the Executive Director for Place.

Legal

- 2.1 There is no statutory obligation on Derbyshire 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 actions within the Action Plan may have legal implications. These will be considered on a project-by-project basis.

Human Resources

- 3.1 The delivery of some of the actions within the Action Plan 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 actions within the Action Plan 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 actions within the Action Plan may have equalities impact implications. These will be considered on a project-by-project basis.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 6.1 The Action Plan 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. The Action Plan supports the delivery of the Council's Climate Change Strategy and the actions and targets within it. The Action Plan 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 Action Plan 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 actions within the Action Plan may have other implications. These will be considered on a project-by-project.

Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy: Action Plan

Vision Derbyshire
Climate Change Strategy: Action Plan

Introduction

This document forms the Action Plan to support the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy (2022-25). It is a live document, which contains details of the specific projects and workstreams where Derbyshire’s councils are seeking to work collaboratively over the next three years (to 2025) to help meet the ambition for Derbyshire to be net zero by 2050. The Action Plan will be used to manage and monitor delivery and to record priority areas of work as they emerge and evolve.

Action Plan

The Action Plan is split by the five strategic themes within the Strategy:

- Local Authority Estate, Operations and Services
- Strengthening the Low Carbon Economy
- Decarbonising Derbyshire’s Housing
- Sustainable Transport, Travel and Infrastructure
- Waste and Resources.

For each of these five themes, the relevant Vision within the Strategy has been presented alongside a series of priority actions.

In addition to these five themes, areas of collaboration have been identified for carbon offsetting and sequestration, and communication and engagement.

Delivery of the Action Plan will be managed and monitored through the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Officers Group.

Local Authority Estate, Operations and Services

Vision

Derbyshire’s county, district and borough councils will become net-zero carbon organisations that lead by example in implementing and promoting sustainable and low carbon practices in their ways of working and service delivery. This will include ensuring carbon reduction is embedded as a core part of decision-making and commissioning, and improving the energy and carbon efficiency of council buildings, land and fleet, as well as in all of the services that the councils deliver on behalf of Derbyshire’s residents. All council employees and suppliers will understand the importance of reducing emissions, and their role in achieving these reductions.

Action Plan

Action Name	Brief Description
PRIORITY FOR	Collaborative research, plans and ongoing action around the

2022/23 – Renewable and low carbon energy	decarbonisation of the public estate, including opportunities and locations for the installation of renewable energy generation technologies on council-owned buildings and land.
Training	The development and delivery of consistent climate change training materials and messaging relevant to all councils in Derbyshire.
Procurement	Development and sharing of approaches to sustainable procurement to ensure environmental and social sustainability is embedded within all contracting and procurement activities.
Fleet	Facilitating low-carbon vehicle fleets across all Councils, including cars, vans and larger vehicles, and the infrastructure to support this.
Funding	Working together to identify and secure funding (such as from central government) for climate change and low carbon projects and initiatives.

Strengthening the Low Carbon Economy

Vision

There will be an acceleration in the transition to a zero carbon economy through low carbon recovery and good growth, the creation of more and better jobs in the low carbon and clean technology sectors, increased skill levels and the fostering of innovation within the county, and a reduction in energy consumption from all industrial and commercial sectors. The natural resources of the county will be rapidly used to expand renewable energy generation across the county.

Action Plan

Action Name	Brief Description
<u>PRIORITY FOR 2022/23 – Planning</u>	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.
Renewable energy	Working together to support the adoption of large-scale and small-scale renewable energy generation in suitable locations.
Low carbon industry and business	Working together to support businesses in the development and implementation of sustainable products, practices and processes, and deliver low carbon innovation.
Skills, employment and training	Working together to support the development and implementation of relevant training courses, and create skilled green jobs in Derbyshire.

Decarbonising Derbyshire’s Housing

Vision

Through working with partners and external stakeholder groups, low and zero carbon homes will be created that reduce emissions but also provide economic and wellbeing benefits for our residents. This will be achieved through insulating homes, installing more efficient heating systems, reducing energy consumption, and facilitating behaviour change through the provision of support and information. There will also be support for the growth in green jobs to install these measures, and the councils will play their role in the expansion of small-scale renewable energy generation in the domestic sector.

Action Plan

Action Name	Brief Description
<u>PRIORITY FOR 2022/23</u> – Retrofitting	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.
Low carbon technologies and micro-generation	Support the adoption of low carbon technologies (such as low carbon heating) and the adoption of micro-energy generation on homes.
Behaviour change	Collaborative campaigns and messaging to help support households in changing behaviours that lead to a reduction in energy and water use.
Skills, employment and training	Working together to support the development and implementation of relevant training courses, and create skilled green jobs in Derbyshire.

Sustainable Transport, Travel and Infrastructure

Vision

Working with partners and external stakeholder groups, the councils will deliver an ambitious low-carbon integrated transport system across the county that meets the needs of residents in accessing the places they work, live and socialise as well as improving air quality and delivering health and wellbeing benefits for Derbyshire’s residents. Derbyshire’s flexible, accessible, affordable and integrated transport system will enable everyone to make their journeys through active travel (walking and cycling), public transport or zero or low carbon private vehicles.

Action Plan

Action Name	Brief Description
<u>PRIORITY FOR</u>	Working together to accelerate the shift to electric vehicles

2022/23 – Electric Vehicles	through improving charging point infrastructure and promoting the uptake in these vehicles, with a particular focus on facilitating a growth in charging infrastructure in areas where there is little or no commercial viability (such as on-street charging).
Active travel	Working together to improve Derbyshire’s walking and cycling infrastructure and promote behaviour change and a shift to active travel.
Public transport	Working together and with partners to improve public transport services and promote an increase in usage.

Waste and Resources

Vision

Derbyshire will have a more sustainable and circular economy-based system of resource management, where the councils place high value on our natural resources, whilst seeking to reduce our consumption and generation of resource and waste. The councils will encourage and work with others to establish innovative approaches to waste diversion, reuse and recycling.

Action Plan

Action Name	Brief Description
<u>PRIORITY FOR 2022/23 – Behaviour change</u>	Collaborative messaging and campaign focussed on minimising waste and recycling and disposing of waste appropriately and correctly
Diversion from landfill	Working together to increase levels of reuse and recycling across the county, and improving consistency in approaches to recycling household waste.

Other areas

In addition to projects and workstreams aligned to the five main theme within the Strategy, councils will work together to play their part in the delivery of additional areas of work, including:

Projects and initiatives focussed on carbon offsetting and sequestration:

- **PRIORITY FOR 2022/23 – Working together to develop and implement a tree planting programme across the county. Including considerations around carbon sequestration and Natural Capital.**
- Working together to establish a common approach to collating, categorising and reporting carbon sequestration and offsetting data.
- Work with partners and wider stakeholder groups to restore the county's peatlands and grasslands.
- Promote the adoption of sustainable farming practices which increase carbon sequestration by plants and soil and lead to fewer negative environmental impacts.
- Promote and facilitate an increase in green spaces and tree coverage in urban areas.
- Continue to work together to develop and deliver the Derbyshire Natural Capital and Biodiversity Strategy.
- Work with partners and wider stakeholders to monitor and further explore improvements and expansion of Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) technologies to understand how these options could be deployed at scale.

Communication and engagement:

- Work with partners and wider stakeholder groups to establish a shared understanding of what could, and should, be done in Derbyshire to tackle climate change.
- Give all individuals and groups the opportunity to shape how this challenge is addressed and play their part in reducing emissions.
- Develop meaningful and inclusive messaging and engagement that leads to outcomes and results.

