
The Council's role in the growth of low carbon skills, employment and training

Scrutiny Committee

13 February 2023



Strategic Context

Skills landscape is complex and multi-layered

- Key players include: local authorities, the LEP, colleges, universities, training providers, employers and the labour market

Funding regimes are also complex

- European funding, ESFA, Government(e.g. adult education budget), grant scheme (e.g. Multiply), local authority (e.g. Green Entrepreneurs)

Multiple plans and strategies – some with a focus on green skills

- D2N2 LEP People & Skills Plan
- New Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP)
- COVID Recovery Strategy – Employment and Skills + LA growth strategies
- Climate Change Strategy
- Potential East Midlands Skills Strategy linked to proposed combined authority
- Emerging Strategic Framework for Council to delivery net zero

Multiple ‘moving parts’ examples:

- D2N2 Careers Hub - Careers & Enterprise Company - enterprise advisers etc
- DCC Adult Careers Team
- National Careers Service
- Work coaches

Key Elements for a Low Carbon Economy

Supporting skills and training

Delivering sustainable infrastructure



Supporting businesses

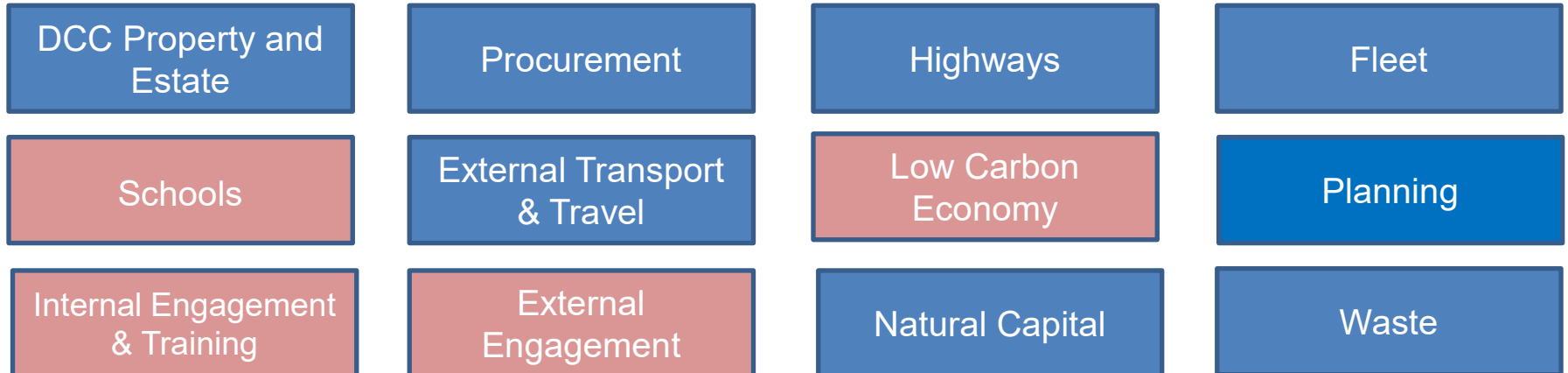
Adopting and manufacturing new technologies

The Council's Role

- **Facilitator** – bringing key partners together (Job Centre Plus, local authorities, colleges, employers, LEP)
- **Voice** – the identifies the issues, joins up the partners and brokers solutions
- **Delivery** – Adult Careers team, Adult Community Education (DACES), Multiply programme
- **Funder** – Green Entrepreneurs, Youth Hub, I Step up

Derbyshire County Council Climate Change Strategy: Achieving Net Zero (2021-2025)

- Strategy approved by Cabinet on 14 October 2021
- Sets out what the Council will do to tackle emissions and achieve net zero targets.
- 32 priority actions, supported by over 120 supplementary actions, initiatives and projects, which the Council will either lead or support.
- Twelve themes established to develop, implement, manage and monitor delivery plans.




COVID Recovery Strategy

Employment and Skills priorities

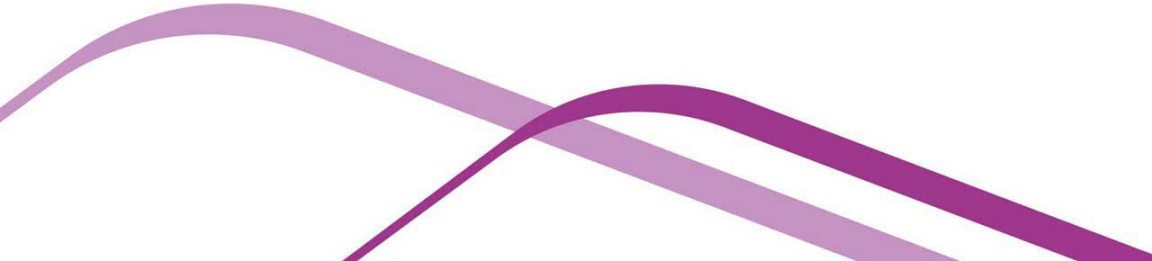
- ✓ Young People - developing clear progression pathways
- ✓ Adults – realigning labour market, retraining and routes to employment
- ✓ Responding to Future Skills Needs – responsive skills system
- ✓ Entrepreneurship and Self Employment - stimulate enterprise and business growth

Low Carbon Economy

Sustainable Growth Service:

- Economic development team + Skills and Employment team + Transport team
 - Bespoke meetings e.g. manufacturers of low carbon products
 - Provide: advice, support for external funding , connections to related services (National Careers Service, Skills Hub) and access to business networks
 - Link to key networks and partners
- 
- Decorative wavy lines in shades of purple and blue at the bottom of the slide.

Low Carbon Economy (2)

- Gathering intelligence - number of sources to develop the skills offer
 - Identifying core opportunities and challenges
 - Developing 'place based' interventions for low carbon – e.g. Freeport (skills academy)
 - Businesses concerned about the cost of energy – affecting financial viability (source: Chamber of Commerce)
 - Previous Government COVID support scaled back - driving greater interest in cost base and addressing the bottom line
 - Focus on reducing energy costs - helps reduce carbon impact
 - This intelligence has been used to redesign existing schemes such as the Green Entrepreneur fund.
- 

Showcase: Direct Support to Business:

Examples:

- ✓ Worcester Bosch (Cay Cross)
- ✓ Vaillant Boilers (Belper)
- ✓ Vehicle manufacturing sector
- ✓ Regional contractor for external wall insulation (EWI) and solar PV
- ✓ Insulated Render and Cladding Association

Showcase: Facilitating Low Carbon Employment

- ✓ Supporting funding bids for low carbon transport and travel e.g. hydrogen buses from Local Carbon Growth Fund
- ✓ Supporting low carbon regeneration ambitions e.g. @Peak (leisure, wellbeing and retail) circa 2,000 jobs, journey to zero transport hub

Showcase: Adopting and Manufacturing New Technologies

Green Entrepreneurs:

- £2m fund from the County Council across three strands:
 - Demonstrator grant
 - Small grants
 - Scholarships - 46 scholarship grants totalling £35,457 to support training and green skills. Tend to be focused on heat and energy (plumbing and construction)

Showcase: Skills & Training

Green Skills: Initiating Green Skills Academy

- Working across FE sector
- Mapping existing 'green skills' training offer
- Revisit curriculum to embed as much 'green skills' within existing courses (e.g. modern methods of construction)

Example: Staveley Town Deal – Construction Hub

The Construction Skills Hub will provide a practical platform for construction training, careers activity and work experience on a live construction site.

The innovative Construction Skills Hub (Chesterfield College and University of Derby) will provide a practical platform for construction training (with embedded green construction skills including retro fit) , careers activity and work experience on a live construction site in Mastin Moor. Over ten years, the hub aims to provide training, careers insights, and work experience for over 5,000 learners.

Showcase: Community Renewal Fund

- ✓ Derby Business College – focus on £500,000 to develop/deliver/test and evaluate integrated employment/skills system
- ✓ Derbyshire Accelerator - £1.5m to strengthen the place-based business support ecosystem through 5 interventions including: Race to Zero Carbon Accelerator and Digital Transformation Accelerator
- ✓ Evaluation of the project just completed and signed off by Government:
 - ✓ 831 people involved of which 77 gained employment – across 641 businesses
 - ✓ 49 Decarbonisation plans completed

Showcase: Wheels to Work

Wheels to work is a programme to help overcome transport barriers to employment and skills.

- ✓ Candidates are assessed to understand the transport barriers for getting to work or training. This could include cost of transport or a lack of suitable public transport available.
- ✓ The scheme can help with a range of interventions including subsidised bus tickets, leasing of a bicycle or motor scooter.
- ✓ Administration of the Wheels to Work scheme is undertaken by Rural Action Derbyshire and funded from County Council revenue support.
- ✓ Through the Staveley Town Deal looking to expand this to offer a physical base in Staveley at which candidates can gain access to a cycle or motor scooter (both electrically powered) at a location which also provides real-time bus passenger information and provision for a car pool with charging facilities for electric vehicles

Progress: Employment & Skills Strategy

| Priority | Action | Progress |
|---|--|----------|
| <p>Young People: <i>developing clear progression pathways</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £700k secured to roll out two new Youth Hubs in the next 2 years • Over 300 YP supported in tear 1 of the Youth Hub <p>Going Forward: Graduate retention programme, Green Skills Academy,</p> | |
| <p>Adults: <i>realigning labour market, retraining and routes to employment</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 138 SME businesses (Total businesses all sizes 143) supported to secure 204 apprentices through Levy transfer committing £1.3 m) • CRF programme successfully delivered • Delivery of £3 m Multiply Programme to support numeracy • Adult Careers promoting green skills and GEP to clients <p>Going Forward: enhanced social value through Vision Derbyshire, digital inclusion programme and Digital Skills Strategy (LEP level)</p> | |
| <p>Responding to Future Skill Needs: <i>responsive skills system</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitality Charter being rolled out with employers • Green Skills development work • Festival of Business year 2 launched • Development at the National Stone Centre of market leading facility promoting sustainability in Quarrying <p>Going Forward: Freeport Skills Academy, Charters for other Sectors, secure more Apprenticeship Levy from Large Employers to spend to support Derbyshire SMEs</p> | |
| <p>Entrepreneurship and Self Employment: <i>stimulate enterprise and business growth</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £2m Green Entrepreneurs Fund • Apprenticeship levy transfer supporting SMEs • Developing approach to ‘enterprising places’ – £1m business start up, £1.5m CRF Accelerator delivered • Festival of Business year 2 <p>Going Forward: Social enterprise strategy</p> | |

Going Forward

We've done a lot and we are continuing to do more:

Key areas:

- Continue to develop our county-wide narrative for good growth, our offer to businesses and communities and what this means for skills development
- Retain focus on 'place' but work hard to draw out the 'people' aspect
- Develop a clear and shared programme of work: adult education budget (core to devo), Multiply, micro credentials
- Maximise available funding – devo (AEB), Shared Prosperity Fund, Multiply, future announcements
- Marry skills development with economic development
- Share knowledge – build up local intelligence
- Celebrate achievement

