

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**30 JULY 2020**

**Report of the Executive Director Economy, Environment and Transport**

**DELIVERING THE CLIMATE AND CARBON REDUCTION MANIFESTO**

**1. Purpose of the report**

To provide an update on progress on the delivery of the Climate and Carbon Reduction Manifesto.

**2. Information and analysis**

**2.1 Background**

On 13 May 2019, the Council published its Climate and Carbon Reduction Manifesto, recognising the global challenge of climate change. The Manifesto sets out the Council's commitment to reduce emissions from its own estate and operations and to take a strategic leadership role in bringing together partners and stakeholders across Derbyshire to work together to tackle climate change. On 21 November 2019, two further reports were approved at Cabinet:

- The Council Carbon Reduction Plan which sets out the steps the Council will take to reduce emissions from its own estate and operations in order to become net zero carbon by 2032.
- The Derbyshire Environment and Climate Change Framework which sets out a co-ordinated approach to reducing carbon emissions, in line with carbon budgets, across all local authorities in Derbyshire and will provide a focal point for wider partnership working.

Since that time, work has taken place to take forward and implement identified actions both across the Council and with partner agencies. An update on key achievements and progress made on delivery of the Carbon Reduction Plan and the Derbyshire Environment and Climate Change Framework is now set out below for consideration.

## 2.2 Progress on delivering the Derbyshire Climate and Carbon Reduction Manifesto

Good progress has been made on the work to reduce the Council’s greenhouse gas emissions in -line with the Carbon Reduction Plan. Over the last few months the Council’s efforts have been re-focused towards tackling the Covid-19 crisis. The pandemic has dramatically changed how the Council works, with employees working from home where possible and attending meetings virtually. This has resulted in a reduction in mileage both to and from work and for business purposes. This modal shift provides the Council with an opportunity to re-assess property requirements and working methods and consequently, greenhouse gas emissions, moving forwards.

### Key Achievements

<b>Area of work</b>	<b>Progress to reduce emissions</b>
<b>Property</b>	<p>Work on a county wide capacity and scoping study, to identify suitable sites in the county for renewable energy generation along with battery storage, is commencing. The scoping study will include the reassessment of two council owned sites that previously had outline planning permission but which weren’t progressed due to the early closure of subsidies which negated the financial business case.</p> <p>The reassessment will ascertain whether the addition of battery storage could make the schemes financially viable if alternative markets can be accessed to sell the power generated through the National Grid’s ancillary services.</p>
<b>Streetlighting</b>	<p>The Council has made excellent progress in reducing emissions from streetlighting by 74% between 2009-10 and 2019-20. The reductions have been achieved through a programme which replaces sodium bulbs with LED lighting, part-night lighting and night-time dimming combined with an increased percentage of renewable energy in grid-supplied electricity.</p> <p>Work on the LED replacement programme will continue with plans to achieve 78% reduction in emissions due to be completed by 2022.</p>
<b>Core and grey fleet</b>	<p>The Council now has eight electric cars and three electric bikes, in addition to three existing folding bikes, which will be used as pool vehicles for business travel. Five dual fast chargepoints have been installed at County Hall for staff and visitor use.</p>

	<p>Analyses are now taking place to examine grey fleet travel in order to understand how an electric pool fleet could be used in the future and to maximise the opportunities presented by the change in working practices due to Covid-19.</p>
<p><b>Single Use Plastic commitment</b></p>	<p>A Single Use Plastics (SUPs) commitment has been produced providing guidance to staff on buying, using and disposing of single use plastics.</p> <p>Promotion of the SUPs commitment is currently being considered in relation to work taking place on wider culture and behaviour change.</p>
<p><b>Training and development programme</b></p>	<p>A pilot training and development package, which consists of three programmes, has been developed and is now available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An introductory e-learning unit on Sustainability</li> <li>• A half-day training package on climate change awareness and action (delivered through the Local Authority Energy Partnership, LAEP)</li> <li>• ‘Carbon Literacy Training’ which is an 8-hour certificated course (delivered through the LAEP)</li> </ul> <p>These will form part of a wider behaviour change programme on climate change which is currently in development.</p>
<p><b>Climate change action planning</b></p>	<p>Detailed climate projections which will provide information on the likely climate scenarios the county will experience over the next 60 years for Derbyshire are currently being compiled. The projections will enable climate risk assessment and adaptation plans to be produced by different services and departments. The adaptation plans, alongside detailed action plans developed to reduce emissions, will provide a comprehensive approach to tackling climate change across the Council.</p> <p>Virtual climate change action planning workshops will support senior leaders and elected members in the development of detailed plans and will provide the opportunity to explore how the Council can de-carbonise its estate and operations and further influence de-carbonisation across the county.</p>

## 2.3 Progress on delivering the Derbyshire Environment and Climate Change Framework

The Environment and Climate Change Framework has now been agreed and approved in principle by local authority partners. A county-wide approach to tackling climate change is fully supported by the Leaders and Chief Executives of Derbyshire local authorities who have agreed to pursue the approach through Vision Derbyshire.

An Officer Working Group has been established to move this work forward and to support development of the agreed activity as set out below.

### Key Achievements

Area of work	Progress to reduce emissions
<p><b>Economy</b></p>	<p>The Council recognises the role of climate change action in the economic recovery of the county from the Covid crisis.</p> <p>The DE-Carbonise business scheme offers energy efficiency audits and grants to enable businesses in Derbyshire to reduce emissions, save costs and become more sustainable.</p> <p>A further grant scheme is currently being developed by the Council to support entrepreneurs to recognise and take advantage of opportunities provided by the low carbon economy. A ‘green’ recovery is proposed by business and industry leaders which would have co-benefits for health and well-being.</p>
<p><b>Event: ‘Tackling Climate Change Together’</b></p>	<p>The ‘<i>Tackling Climate Change Together</i>’ event took place on 3 March 2020. The aim of the event was to present proposed plans to deliver the Derbyshire Environment and Climate Change Framework and which achieved its objectives which were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set out the vision and ambition for Derbyshire</li> <li>• Showcase low carbon initiatives and approaches from around the county</li> <li>• Highlight opportunities to contribute to and get involved in the climate change agenda in Derbyshire</li> <li>• Gain support for the work to become a net-zero carbon county</li> </ul> <p>The event was attended by 232 delegates from 89 organisations with 24 market place exhibitors and received positive feedback and media coverage. The event</p>

	<p>highlighted the support from industry and commerce for a low carbon future and the need to work together and identify areas of commonality. The need for a supportive policy framework was also identified.</p> <p>The Council is working with partners to deliver a series of three virtual events planned for October focusing on achieving low carbon housing through retrofit. Energy efficiency and the de-carbonisation of heat will be considered in the development of a Good Growth Strategy for Derbyshire.</p>
<b>Energy</b>	<p>The D2N2 Energy Strategy continues to be delivered with the Midlands Energy Hub taking a lead role with a number of projects proposed for development in the county. The Council is working closely with Midlands Energy hub and other local authorities in Derbyshire to develop an action plan identifying short-term actions for energy projects on local authority estates and in areas where local authorities can offer support, such as community projects.</p>
<b>Travel</b>	<p>The Low Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy and Action Plan were approved at Cabinet on 21 November 2019. The agreed Action Plan is now being implemented. Under a range of schemes, a total of 105 electric vehicle chargepoints have been installed at 28 locations around the county. These include single and dual units of which some are rapid and some are fast but which are accessible to the public. Applications for further funding are to be made by boroughs and districts with support from the Council to maximise funding available to the county.</p> <p>Considerable work has been undertaken as a result of the Covid crisis to re-prioritise active travel. This has included changing the timings on pedestrian crossings to benefit pedestrians and setting up pop-up and dedicated cycle lanes. Further funding, which is available to support measures in market towns across the county, is currently being explored.</p>
<b>Communication and engagement</b>	<p>Involving and engaging with communities about climate change and climate action across Derbyshire is a key priority for the Council and partner agencies. A comprehensive communications and engagement plan is currently in development and will consider the requirements of a range of stakeholders that need to be involved moving forward. This plan will include a range of approaches such as</p>

	<p>Roadshows, conferences, workshops and Citizens’ Assemblies which will be targeted at a range of identified stakeholders. Plans have been put on hold as a result of the pandemic and the limitations of engaging with stakeholders. Activity is now likely to take place from August 2020 onwards and will be coordinated with partner organisations to ensure a consistent approach and to limit duplication of effort.</p> <p>A climate change communications service continues to be delivered across Derbyshire as part of the Council’s membership of the Local Authority Energy Partnership. The service provides a website, a monthly newsletter, a ‘Fantastic Homes’ van for attending events and Carbon Literacy Training. The service has also secured extra funding to deliver the <i>Warmer Derby and Derbyshire</i> helpline providing impartial advice on how to stay warm at home, afford energy bills and be more energy efficient.</p>
<p><b>Modelling emissions</b></p>	<p>Modelling future emissions is essential in ensuring that action is directed to the priorities that will have the most impact moving forwards. Following discussions with boroughs and districts, a suggested carbon emissions trajectory was included in the Derbyshire Environment and Climate Change Framework which outlined proposals to limit emissions from Derbyshire in accordance with the UN Paris Agreement (2015).</p> <p>The Council is using the published SCATTER modelling tool which involves the use of Derbyshire-specific data to explore how different levels of ambition based on a range of actions may impact future greenhouse gas emissions. This will provide an indication of the nature and scale of the challenge ahead and help identify key areas for action, supporting the development of targeted council and partnership plans, moving forward.</p>

**2.4 Impact of Covid-19 on climate change action**

The Coronavirus pandemic has changed how people, including council employees, work and travel across the county. Preliminary data comparing greenhouse gas emissions from the grey fleet (where staff use their own cars for business mileage) and from certain properties in March and April 2019 and March and April 2020 indicates significant reductions in emissions.

Source of emissions	Greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e)			
	March 2019	April 2019	March 2020	April 2020
<b>Grey fleet</b>	257.4	209.9	153.3*	52.1*
<b>County Hall gas</b>	92.4	78.3	92.1	56.5
<b>County Hall electricity</b>	50.0	45.2	41.1	29.6
<b>Chatsworth Hall electricity</b>	7.0	7.0	6.2	3.8
<b>John Hadfield House gas</b>	9.2	7.2	8.8	3.2
<b>John Hadfield House electricity</b>	4.0	3.8	3.8	2.2

*\*correct on 11 June 2020 but subject to change as staff can submit claims up to three months after the mileage is incurred.*

The modal change from office to homeworking and from travel to meetings to virtual meetings has the potential to cut emissions by around a third, though care should be taken into interpreting too much from this early data. However, this does give an indication of what can be achieved through embedding climate action in all areas of Council operations and would suggest that using Council buildings differently and a review of fleet could permanently reduce Council emissions.

## 2.5 Moving forward

A detailed work programme is currently being developed for internal and county-wide initiatives. This will take in to account opportunities presented by the modal shift in work patterns created by the Covid-19 crisis. The Council will be working collaboratively with District and Borough Councils and other agencies over forthcoming months to further develop the partnership response.

The work outlined above is largely focused on reducing emissions, though it is still necessary to explore how the Council and partners adapt to a changing climate in the future. As highlighted above, work is being undertaken to develop a set of climate projections for Derbyshire setting out the likely climate of the county until 2080. These will be available for departments and services to enable them to produce climate change risk assessments and develop adaptation plans moving forwards.

Climate action will play a key role in the Covid-19 recovery process providing short and long-term economic, environmental and health and well-being benefits. The Council is likely to see an uptick in the level of work as swift responses are needed to take advantage of current and anticipated central government announcements regarding a shift in policy and funding support for climate-related projects.

Given the work that is taking place on detailed action and business plan development, it is recommended that a further report on progress be brought to a future Cabinet Member meeting once plans are in place.

### **3. Financial Considerations**

The Revenue Budget Report 2020-21 made a commitment to set aside £4 million from the Business Rates Pilot gain and plan for increases in capital borrowing to meet the requirements of changes to the vehicle fleet; electric vehicle charging infrastructure; the proposed Green Entrepreneurship grant scheme; renewable energy generation and approaches to help reduce emissions from buildings including schools. Long-term funding for climate change projects is uncertain and detailed business cases for individual projects will be produced as these come on stream. Lobbying to Government to support local authorities to deliver climate change work is on-going.

### **4. Environmental Considerations**

Work to reduce emissions will have long-term benefits for the environment and if reductions are swift enough and deep enough, should avoid the worst effects of climate change to a level at which societies are able to adapt to the changes. These would include reducing the loss of ecosystems and biodiversity and the negative impact on human health. Many areas of climate change work will have considerable co-benefits, particularly to health.

### **5. Health Considerations**

Reducing emissions across the county would support global efforts to tackle climate change reducing the negative impact on human health and the economy. Actions emerging from the strategies are likely to have positive benefits for health and wellbeing through improved air quality and increased physical activity from people walking and cycling more.

### **6. Transport Considerations**

Embedding smarter ways of working in Council operations can significantly cut business mileage and emissions and increase the level of walking and cycling for which provision should be made.

### **7. Property Considerations**

The increase in homeworking associated with emissions reduction could reduce the amount of office space required as this can be used more flexibly. Opportunities will

arise for use of Council property for renewable energy generation, habitat management (particularly associated with carbon sequestration) and other climate related activities each of which will be assessed on a case by case basis.

## **8. Human Resources implications**

A sum of £200,000 has been identified in the budget for 2020-21 for staffing resources to help co-ordinate and plan climate change activity. Appointments to these posts will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Recruitment and Selection procedures.

## **9. Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder and equality and diversity considerations.

## **10. Background papers**

[Derbyshire Climate and Carbon Reduction Manifesto - May 2019](#)

[Climate Change Motion 15 May 2019](#)

[Delivering the Climate and Carbon Reduction Manifesto](#)

[Corporate Environment Policy and Carbon Reduction Plan](#)

## **11. Key Decision – No**

## **12. Call – in**

Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No

## **13. Officer's Recommendations**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Notes recent achievements and progress on the delivery of the Climate and Carbon Reduction Manifesto.
2. Receives a further report on progress following the production of the Council detailed work programme.

**Mike Ashworth**  
**Executive Director Economy, Transport and Environment**