



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

26 July 2021

Report of the Executive Director Adult Social Care and Health

Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

(Cllr Barry Lewis, Cabinet portfolio holder for Strategic Leadership, Culture,
Tourism and Climate Change)

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the development of the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan developed by consultants, Arup, to outline the priority actions identified, and to provide information on the governance structure and proposed plan for delivering the actions within the Strategy across the Council.

2. Information and Analysis

Background

- 2.1 In November 2019, the Council approved its Carbon Reduction Plan and the Derbyshire Environment and Climate Change Framework, following publication of its Climate and Carbon Reduction Manifesto in May 2019.
- 2.2 The Carbon Reduction Plan sets out how the Council could reduce emissions from its own estate and operations to net zero by 2032, or sooner, and the Derbyshire Environment and Climate Change Framework sets out an approach for all local authorities in Derbyshire to work together to reduce county-wide emissions to net zero by 2050.

- 2.3 The Council has undertaken significant work over the last few years on reducing greenhouse gases within the Council, which has seen a 55% reduction in emissions from the Council's property (excluding schools), streetlighting, core fleet and grey fleet between 2009 and 2019-20. The Council has also worked closely with partner organisations to further develop the approach and actions set out in the Derbyshire Environment and Climate Change Framework.
- 2.4 However, the Council realises that there is a lot more to do in order to remain on target to meet the ambition of being a net zero Council by 2032, or sooner, and for the Council to fully play its role in ensuring the county is net zero by 2050.
- 2.5 Through a series of ten workshops held with Elected Members and senior leaders in late 2020, the Council identified future steps it needs to undertake to take forward the agenda over forthcoming months and years. The workshops also identified that the development of an overarching strategy and action plan to direct effort and resource on climate change and carbon reduction across the Council should be a key priority.
- 2.6 A report was presented to the Corporate Management Team (CMT) on 1 December 2020, setting out proposals to commission a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for the Council to build on the outcomes from the series of workshops held.
- 2.7 Consultants, Arup, were commissioned to develop the Strategy, and have engaged with internal and external stakeholders and taken into consideration existing studies and work to produce a Strategy and Action Plan. The Strategy will be used to direct the associated programme of work for the Council in the short, medium and longer term.
- 2.8 Understanding the areas of Council activity where change is required to make the most significant impact is an essential element of this approach as is the development of governance arrangements which are fit for purpose moving forward.

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

- 2.9 A final version of the Strategy has been produced with input from specialist Services from across the Council. The document is now undergoing a final detailed review. It is a technical document which, it is proposed, will be available for public viewing on the Council's website.

An 'easy-read' version of the document will also be produced and made available.

2.10 The Strategy is set out with the following structure:

- **Introduction** – Sets out the wider context in which the Strategy sits, its scope and objectives, and why the Strategy is needed.
- **Developing our Strategy** – Summary of the work undertaken to date, and the activities carried out to develop the Strategy.
- **Delivering our Strategy** – Sets out the role of the Council, Derbyshire's residents, businesses and communities to deliver the Strategy, the crucial partnership working that needs to be developed, the funding and resource requirements and extension of skills and training provision.
- **Our Emissions Pathway** – Details of emissions to date across the Council and the County, and the pathways to achieve net zero emissions.
- **National Action** – Outlines the progress in national climate change action considered crucial to deliver our net zero vision.
- **Roadmap** – Sets out the key targets and priority actions against five themes: Council Estate and Operations, Low Carbon Economy, Decarbonising the Domestic Sector, Transport and Travel, and Waste.
- **Monitoring and Reporting** – Sets out the monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements needed to deliver the Strategy successfully and effectively.
- **Adaptation and Natural Capital** – Although not a focus of the Strategy, climate change adaptation and natural capital are crucial complementary pieces of work, and the document begins to set out how they will be addressed.
- **Action Long List** – Provides a long list of direct and enabling actions that the Council can take in the short and long term. Actions beyond 2050 will be developed in successive strategy updates.

2.11 The Strategy contains 28 priority targets across five key themes (four county-wide, and one concerning the Council's estate and operations) which commits the Council to playing its role in delivering net zero buildings, expanding local renewable energy generation, changing transport choices, generating green jobs and preventing waste being sent to landfill. These priority actions within the Strategy are presented as Appendix 2.

2.12 These priority actions are supported by over 120 supplementary actions, initiatives and projects, which it is anticipated the County Council will either lead or support. The Council needs to enable and empower its partners, residents and businesses to take action to tackle climate change.

2.13 The Strategy covers the period 2021-25 and will be reviewed and updated fully in 2025 to provide a Strategy beyond 2025. The targets set for each area may be revised at any time as further studies are carried out, as well as identifying new priority actions and completion of existing actions.

2.14 This Strategy will be complemented by the production of a Natural Capital Strategy and a strategy to build the resilience of Derbyshire to a changing climate.

Programme management and governance

2.15 The approach to reducing emissions from the Council’s estate and operations, and across the County, and the priority actions presented in the Strategy, have implications for all departments. As such, a clear governance and delivery structure has been established. The governance structure is shown in Figure 1.

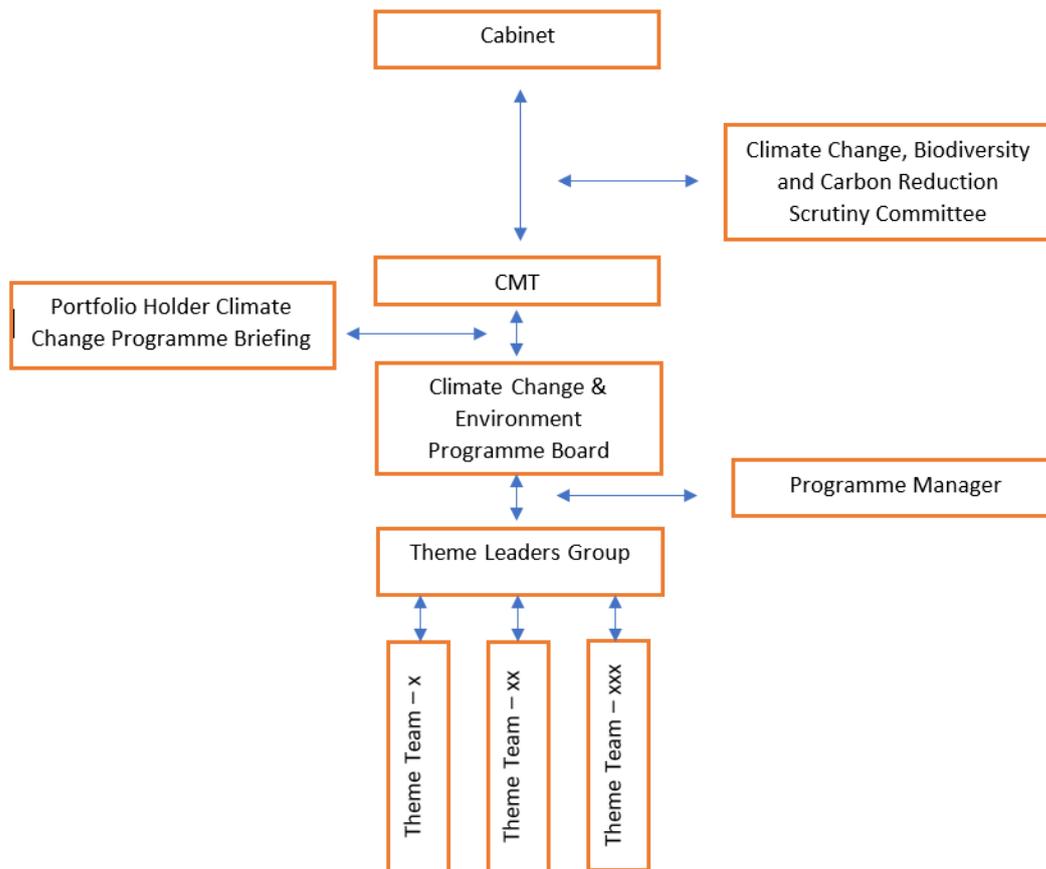


Figure 1: Derbyshire County Council Climate Change Governance Structure

2.16 A Climate Change and Environment Programme Board (CCEPB) has been established to provide strategic oversight and direction for the

delivery of the climate change programme. The Board's primary purpose is to ensure the successful delivery of the programme's outcomes, and to make recommendations around the commissioning and resource implications of priority projects and initiatives. The Board also provides assurance that the programme is aligned with the Strategy and the Council's carbon reduction targets and is delivering the required outcomes and carbon reductions.

2.17 To deliver the actions and priorities, Theme Teams are being established. Each Theme Team will be led by a Theme Lead who will oversee the projects and activities relevant to their strategic theme. Some issues will require action across several of these themes. A Theme Leaders Group, comprising of the Theme Leads, and the Programme Manager, will coordinate activities across the themes, and the Programme Manager will provide the link between the Theme Leaders Group and the CCEPB.

2.18 Themes identified to structure the delivery of the Strategy around, and their respective Leads are as follows:

- Derbyshire County Council property and estate – David Beard, Commissioning, Communities and Policy (CCP)
- Procurement – Stuart Etchells, CCP
- Highways – Neill Bennett, Place
- Fleet – Richard Bright, Place
- Schools – Iain Peel, Childrens Services
- External transport and travel – Richard Lovell, Place
- Low carbon economy – Allison Westray-Chapman, Place
- Planning – Dave Arnold, Place
- Internal engagement and training – Sally Pearson, CCP
- External engagement – Julie Odams, CCP and Sara Bains, Adult and Social Care
- Natural Capital – Adam Lathbury, Place
- Waste – Ruth Robinson, Place

2.19 Theme Leads will be working with the Programme Manager over the next few months to confirm priorities and develop actions plans at the Theme level.

Next Steps

2.20 The Strategy is currently undergoing a final detailed review. Once this review has been completed, the Strategy will be shared and presented to CMT, and will also be shared in full with the Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon Reduction Scrutiny Committee.

2.21 An easy-read version of the Strategy will be produced, summarising the key points and priority actions.

2.22 It is the intention that the Strategy will be presented to Cabinet in October 2021, with a view to launch and publication shortly thereafter, potentially as part of Derbyshire Country Council's activities around the UN Climate Change Conference 2021 (COP26).

3. Alternative Options Considered

3.1 N/A

4. Implications

4.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

5. Consultation

5.1 N/A

6. Background Papers

6.1 N/A

7. Appendices

7.1 Appendix 1 – Implications

7.2 Appendix 2 – Priority actions

8. Recommendation(s)

That the Committee:

- a) Support the priority actions within the Climate Change Strategy (as presented in Appendix 2) and note the intention to present the Strategy to Cabinet in October 2021 and to launch and publish the Strategy shortly thereafter.
- b) Support the governance structure that has been established to deliver the programme of work, and support Theme leads within their portfolios to identify and confirm short- and longer-term priorities.

9. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 9.1 To ensure the Council can publish and embed the Strategy, and deliver the necessary actions needed to ensure net zero targets and ambitions for the Council and wider county are achieved.

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Implications

Financial

- 1.1 The delivery of the actions within the Strategy will have Financial implications for the Council. These will be expressed on a project-by-project basis.

Legal

- 1.2 Some of the actions within the Strategy may have Legal implications. These will be expressed on a project-by-project basis.

Human Resources

- 1.3 Some of the actions within the Strategy may have Human Resource implications. These will be expressed on a project-by-project basis.

Information Technology

- 1.4 Some of the actions within the Strategy may have Information Technology implications. These will be expressed on a project-by-project basis.

Equalities Impact

- 1.5 Some of the actions within the Strategy may have Equalities Impact implications. These will be expressed on a project-by-project basis.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 1.6 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.

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

- 1.7 Some of the actions within the Strategy may have other implications. These will be expressed on a project-by-project basis.

Priority Actions

Priority actions from the Strategy are presented in the tables below, split by the themes within the Strategy: Council Estate and Operations; Low Carbon Economy; Decarbonising the Domestic Sector; Transport and Travel; and Waste. These are supported by a longer list of over 120 actions, initiatives and projects, which are presented within the Strategy.

Council Estate and Operations

Priority Actions	Cost of implementation and impact on reducing carbon emissions
Include as part of the Asset Management and broader Council Property review, the identification of buildings for energy efficiency retrofitting and buildings and land for the installation of renewable energy generation technologies, the development of a net zero design standard for estate development.	Low cost High impact
Develop a Sustainable Procurement Framework and ensure environmental and social sustainability is embedded within all contracting and procurement activities.	Low cost High impact
Review the Council's commissioning principles to ensure that climate change is embedded across our services and partner working.	Low cost High impact
Expand the Council's electric vehicle sharing programme and look to install electric vehicle charging points at all key Council sites, coupled with a behaviour change campaign and evaluation of working practices to facilitate a zero-emission fleet.	High cost High impact
Carry out a feasibility study to identify low carbon energy procurement options.	Low cost Medium impact
Include climate change training as part of the induction process for all Elected Members and staff to strengthen knowledge of carbon emissions, climate resilience and net zero development.	Low cost Medium impact

Low Carbon Economy

Priority Actions	Cost of implementation and impact on reducing carbon emissions
Work with our Local Authority partners to develop a Renewable Energy Strategy for the county and identify opportunities for renewable energy generation, as well as the decarbonisation of heating and energy use in homes.	Medium cost High impact
Through Vision Derbyshire, continue working with the borough and district councils to develop a Strategic Joint Planning Framework for Derbyshire to ensure that planning measures for net zero commercial buildings are integrated into Local Plans.	Medium cost High impact
Work with local academic institutions, trade unions, and regional Chamber of Commerce to identify geographical areas for low carbon industry growth, as well as assessing and develop the capabilities and skills of the region in supplying those industries	High cost High impact
Deliver the Derbyshire Green Entrepreneurs Fund and provide additional support for reducing environmental impacts, driving innovation, and creating sustainable growth opportunities for smaller businesses.	High cost Medium impact
Work with the Midlands Energy Hub, D2N2 LEP and universities and colleges to build technical and economic capabilities across the region to deliver renewable energy and low carbon projects.	High cost Medium impact
Liaise with Western Power Distribution (WPD) and the D2N2 LEP to understand local grid capacity and constraints for future energy generation opportunities.	Low cost Low impact
Through the COVID Recovery Strategy, identify high carbon commercial industries and support the business community in shifting to and benefiting from the low carbon economy.	High cost Low impact

Decarbonising the Domestic Sector

Priority Actions	Cost of implementation and impact on reducing carbon emissions
Conduct a feasibility assessment of the low carbon heat and renewable energy opportunities within the county's domestic property sector.	Medium cost High impact
Work with partner local authorities to adopt a whole-system Local Area Energy Planning approach to increase onsite low-carbon energy generation and reduce the demand for energy.	Medium cost High impact
Through Vision Derbyshire, continue working with the borough and district councils to develop a Strategic Joint Planning Framework for Derbyshire to ensure that planning measures for net zero domestic buildings are integrated into Local Plans.	Medium cost High impact
Work with local authority and wider government partners to develop a Regional Skills Strategy that pinpoints priority areas for upskilling of the domestic construction and retrofit sector and creates investor-ready programmes to receive support from the proposed National Skills Fund.	High cost High impact
Through Vision Derbyshire develop and implement an approach to supporting the de-carbonising of homes, recognising the specific opportunities and challenges faced by renters and homeowners and reflecting the need to particularly support those in fuel poverty.	Medium cost Medium impact
Develop an information sharing campaign to educate homeowners and renters on how to improve the energy efficiency of their property.	High cost Medium impact

Transport and Travel

Priority Actions	Cost of implementation and impact on reducing carbon emissions
<p>Promote integrated, and place-based development in transport planning as part of Derbyshire's COVID recovery and economic revival of market towns, to reduce emissions from first and last mile journeys and provide an economic boost to local retail and businesses.</p>	<p>High cost High impact</p>
<p>Support the new Enhanced Bus Partnership arrangements being introduced in Derbyshire as part of the new National Bus Strategy. This will involve Derbyshire County Council and the bus operators investing in new service provision, improved roadside bus infrastructure, mobility as a service, integrated ticketing systems, and upgraded information provision.</p>	<p>High cost High impact</p>
<p>Continue to support the above average growth of zero emissions vehicle ownership in the country by establishing public-private investment partnerships to develop a network of mixed speed public charging and hydrogen infrastructure, which is affordable, consistent, accessible and user friendly for residents and visitors.</p>	<p>High cost High impact</p>
<p>Support the implementation of the Derbyshire Cycling Plan and the Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan. Support actions for increasing the uptake of active transport to reduce emissions and improve health and wellbeing for all.</p>	<p>High cost Medium impact</p>
<p>Evaluate the use of smart technologies and alternative fuels to reduce the emissions associated with commercial and freight transports e.g. consolidation hubs, hydrogen sub-stations, transport mobility hubs, mobility as a service etc.</p>	<p>Medium cost Low impact</p>

Waste

Priority Actions	Cost of implementation and impact on reducing carbon emissions
Identify solutions to increase the diversion of organic waste including food, soiled materials, carpets, organic textiles, etc. from landfill	High cost Medium impact
Undertake a cross authority behaviour change campaign to promote reduction in waste and resource consumption in the home and businesses.	High cost Medium impact
Work with local producers and businesses to restrict the use of single use products and support the market for remanufactured goods.	High cost Medium impact
Explore the potential for partnering with local charities and organisation to segregate and redistribute good quality products from HWRC.	Medium cost Low impact