



**FOR PUBLICATION**

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

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

**20 September 2021**

**Report of the Executive Director Adult Social Care and Health**

**Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan**

(Strategic Leadership, Culture, Tourism and Climate Change)

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Council's draft Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, developed by consultants, Arup.

## **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 Subsequently, the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Climate Change determined that the Council should commission a written strategy.
- 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.

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

- 2.8 A final version of the Strategy has been produced with input from specialist Services from across the Council. It is a technical document which, it is proposed, will be available for public viewing on the Council's website. An 'easy-read' summary version of the document will also be produced and made available.
- 2.9 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.

2.10 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.

2.11 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.

2.12 The Strategy covers the period 2021-25 and will be reviewed and updated fully in 2025 to provide a Strategy beyond 2025. A review of the targets and the priority actions will be conducted on an annual basis, along with a review of any changes in central government legislation, policy and direction, and any significant technological advances. Updates will be made to the Strategy as a result of this annual review.

2.13 The Strategy will be complemented by the production of a Natural Capital and Biodiversity Strategy, which is due to be published in 2022, and work being carried out to understand climate change risk facing the

Council and the wider county, and build the resilience of Derbyshire to a changing climate

## **Next Steps**

- 2.14 The document has undergone a final detailed review, with a final single set of comments being collated to share with the consultants by the end of September.
- 2.15 The Strategy will be presented to Cabinet on 14 October 2021, with a view to launch and publish the Strategy shortly thereafter, potentially as part of Derbyshire Country Council's activities around the UN Climate Change Conference 2021 (COP26).
- 2.16 To deliver the actions and priorities, Theme Teams have been established. Each Theme Team is 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. Theme Leads are working with the Climate Change Programme Manager to confirm priorities and develop actions plans at the Theme level.
- 2.17 An easy-read version of the Strategy will be produced, summarising the key points and priority actions.
- 2.18 A climate change engagement plan is also in development, which will set out how the Council will engage with its communities to establish and agree delivery mechanisms, and communicate crucial climate messages and information to Derbyshire's residents and businesses.
- 2.19 An annual formal progress report will be presented to Cabinet, summarising progress against delivery of the Strategy and the Council's net zero targets, as well as outcomes of the annual review of the need to refresh and update the Strategy.
- 2.20 Performance measures are to be established to assess delivery of the Strategy, and these will be included in the annual report to Cabinet, and can be reported to the Scrutiny Committee for Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon Reduction if requested by the Chair.

## **3. Alternative Options Considered**

- 3.1 Not to agree a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan - The Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended) commits the UK to a legally binding target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. The Council must, therefore, play its part in reducing emissions and take

action to achieve this in line with the targets set out by the UK government. If the Council did not have a Strategy and Action Plan in place setting out a vision for each area and prioritised actions required to achieve the target, emissions across the county would not reduce sufficiently to achieve the targets.

- 3.2 In developing the Strategy, alternative actions to reduce emissions were considered, and the final action plan is considered achievable within the Council's statutory duties and role as a community leader, subject to the necessary finances and resources being available. The role of other organisations, communities and individuals in reducing emissions was also considered and the Strategy sets out how the Council can use its influence supporting others to reduce emissions.

#### **4. Implications**

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

#### **5. Consultation**

- 5.1 The Strategy was developed through engagement with Derbyshire County Council officers and Elected Members, officers from Derbyshire District and Borough Councils, and young people. There is no statutory duty to engage on this document. However, it is the intention to engage more widely with Derbyshire's businesses and communities on the delivery mechanisms of the Strategy.
- 5.2 An outline of the Strategy and the draft priority actions were presented to the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee for Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon Reduction on 26 July 2021. The Committee supported the priority actions within the Strategy, and also the governance structure that has been established to deliver the programme of work.

#### **6. Background Papers**

- 6.1 N/A

#### **7. Appendices**

- 7.1 Appendix 1 – Implications
- 7.2 Appendix 2 – Derbyshire County Council's Climate Change Strategy: Achieving Net Zero (2021-2025)

## **8. Recommendation(s)**

That the Committee:

- a) Supports delivery and publication of The Derbyshire County Council Climate Change Strategy: Achieving Net Zero (2021-2025), and notes the intention to present the Strategy to Cabinet on 14 October 2021 and to launch and publish the Strategy shortly thereafter.

## **9. Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

- 9.1 To ensure that the Council has a clear Climate Change Strategy in place setting out a vision for each area and the prioritised actions required to achieve a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the Council's own estate and across the county.

**Report Author:** Caroline Toplis  
**Contact Details:** caroline.toplis@derbyshire.gov.uk