

Sponsor: Chief Executive
Authors: Andy Hills on behalf of the Climate Change Officer Group

Climate Action Plan 2022 - 2024

Purpose

- 1.1 To seek approval for the draft Council's Climate Change Action Plan. This sets out the actions the Council will take over the next two years on its journey to reduce its carbon emissions in response to the climate emergency. While this action plan does not cover every aspect of work taking place across the Council, it identifies some of the main drivers to get the Council on its journey to net carbon zero by 2035.

Recommendations

- 2.1 To approve the draft Climate Change Action Plan.
- 2.2 To delegate to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Decarbonisation, Strategic Planning and Transport, any minor changes or improvements to the document including performance management arrangements.

Reasons

- 3.1 The Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and agreed several actions including the development of a Council specific action plan.
- 3.2 Approval and publication of the action plan will demonstrate the work that we are doing and galvanise the authority and our partners to work collectively to meet our net zero ambition.

Supporting information

4.1 Background

The Council declared a Climate Emergency in May 2019 recognising its responsibility in reducing its carbon emissions to net zero on, or before, 2050 (in line with the UK target) and using its influence to ensure wider engagement across the city with this challenge. £3m of capital funding was allocated over three years to be used in support of this work. Outputs agreed included:

1. Establishing an external Commission as the decarbonisation arm of the Recovery Plan and an internal Climate Change Officers Group.
2. Developing a Climate Change Strategy with a series of themed action plans
3. Developing a Council action plan
4. Creating an agreed approach to spend the capital funding

Work on these and complementary actions has continued since the declaration, although the response to the covid pandemic has inevitably caused delays.

4.2 **Derby Climate Commission and the Derby Climate Strategy**

The Commission has been established and is chaired by the University of Derby. It includes stakeholders from a variety of organisations who represent different aspects of city life, as well as cross party representation through the four Councillor Climate Change Champions. The Commission is leading the refresh of the Derby Climate Change Strategy which is expected by Summer this year. The Commission has four themed action hubs which cover Transport, Housing, Business and Community.

4.3 **Developing our Council Action Plan**

The Council contributes approximately 2% of the total carbon emissions of the city. As detailed in the diagram on (page X) of the action plan, there are layers where Local Authorities can influence change. These include where we can take direct action and where the Council has influence as place-shaper and civic leader. The outer layers fall within the scope of the wider City's Climate Change Commission.

4.4 **Council actions**

As we have been developing our action plan we have continued to bring forward projects that will contribute to the reduction of carbon and the overall climate emergency. Some highlights include:

- DE-Carbonise project – which supports small businesses to green their energy consumption.
- Transforming Cities Fund (£60m) - which supports improving public transport and cycling and walking infrastructure.
- Hydrogen study – this was commissioned to help kickstart a regional response to alternative energies and is being led by the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership.
- Roll out of Smart Meters – led by BEIS, this project is increasing the number of smart meters and helping people take more control of their energy consumption.
- External wall insulation programme (Mackworth/Allenton/Chaddesden) - improving energy efficiency of our Council homes.
- Youth Council's annual topic – engaging with young people and capturing their passion to drive change in the Council and the city.
- Accredited climate change training for members and officers – as part of increasing our collective understanding.
- Re-wilding of Allestree Park – improving biodiversity, increasing green spaces and natural carbon sink.
- Incorporating Solar Pv's within our public sector housing re-roofing programme.
- Retrofitting air source heat pumps when replacing gas central heating in council houses that are well insulated.
- Committing to net zero standards for all new council house developments

4.5 **Derby City Council Action Plan**

To ensure that the Council makes its contribution to reducing Derby's overall carbon footprint and to set a good example for others to follow, we have developed our first Climate Change Action Plan. The aim is to reduce our carbon emissions from our services, processes and estate to net carbon zero by 2035. The plan also reflects the publication of the UK Governments Net Zero Strategy (October 2021) and outcomes of COP26 (November 2021).

4.6 The Action Plan focuses on four key themes addressing 15 areas of Council activity:

Theme	Areas
Our Assets	Buildings – Corporate Estate
	Buildings – Derby Homes
	Fleet

	Street Lighting
	Renewable Energy
Our Processes	Planning
	Procurement
	Carbon Offsetting
	Democracy and monitoring
Our Place	Waste
	Natural Environment
	Air Quality
Our Culture	Community and collaboration
	Our Colleagues
	Travel

4.7 The action plan itself is a living document that will need to be updated, revised and further developed. This attached document is a first attempt at bringing together some of the good work we are already doing, along with identifying gaps where improvements can be made to reduce our carbon footprint.

We will become more informed and sophisticated as we evolve to accommodate the changes needed to embed the climate challenge in the way we make decisions, operate and deliver our services. Tools like carbon foot printing, carbon accounting and offsetting, which are challenging processes to both understand and implement, are a good example of where we need to develop our skills and knowledge.

4.8 **Current emissions**

The Council commissioned APSE Energy to undertake a carbon footprint exercise in 2021. This concluded that the Council’s scope 1 and 2 emissions (mainly from gas, electricity, and vehicle usage) amounted to approximately 11,476 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent gases. This exercise does not include scope 3 emissions which arise from sources not ‘owned’ by the Council including all the services and products we procure. This is an obvious gap we are addressing (considering the difficulties of this exercise) but at the present time we will work with the APSE report as our baseline and will re-work this exercise at the end of the Action Plan period in two years’ time to evaluate the progress we are making.

4.9 **Content of the Plan**

The action plan is wide reaching and ambitious containing over 100 projects or action points designed to reduce the Council’s carbon footprint, prepare for a changing climate, and support the related ecological emergency. Monitoring our progress towards 2035 will initially be relatively crude until our skills and experience develops, however, this will not hold back our ambitions in delivering our first plan, which will be a journey of learning and reflection. To help us do this it has been agreed that we will have two versions one high level and publicly available, which will be more visual and the other a more detailed version that will be used for internal monitoring.

The plan has a resource RAG rating column which indicates if the action is fully resourced (green), partially resourced (amber) or has no resources associated at present (red). It also has a priorities column so that services can indicated the relative importance of each action or project. In terms of performance management, this will be addressed once the plan has been adopted by the Council with the support of the Strategy and Performance section.

- 4.10 Some of the action points are very specific, whereas others require a level of research and investigation to decide the Council's future position. The 100 or so actions contained in our first plan will not deliver all the carbon savings needed to get us to our 2035 target but will be a stepping-stone on the way and will enhance our learning.
- 4.11 To further improve the Plan, we need to work on a few areas including articulating the outcomes and impacts of each project along with measuring the progress we make more effectively, possibly by incorporating a performance dashboard. It is recommended that these improvements/amendments are delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Decarbonisation, Strategic Planning and Transport.
- 4.12 **Governance of the Plan**
Six themed groups have been established to oversee the action plan. Each one is made up of officers from across the Council to ensure that the approach is embedded across all our activities and to be less reliant on specialist officers. The groups cover the following cross cutting themes:
1. Integration of climate change into Council processes and procedure.
 2. Raising awareness and changing hearts and minds.
 3. Improving the energy efficiency of our estate and delivering exemplar priority projects.
 4. Greening the fleet and encouraging sustainable travel across the city.
 5. Reconnecting with nature to deliver a greener city.
 6. Preparing our city and services for a changing climate.
- 4.13 To help to keep this critically important workstream politically neutral, a Climate Champions group of nominated elected members has been established and meets every 2-3 weeks to discuss a range of items associated with this agenda. Members include Cllrs Potter, Care, Peatfield and Kus.
- 4.14 **Funding for the plan**
Many of the action points contained in the Plan already have dedicated funding associated with them, whereas others will need to seek financial support from elsewhere. One possible pot is the Council's dedicated £3 million climate change fund (capital only) which is potentially available to support several of the capital projects contained in the plan. Revenue projects will need the appropriate funding identified prior to approval and commencement.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 The action plan sets out the actions of the Council on its internal services and processes as part of its day-to-day activity, it will be continually reviewed and updated. It will contribute to the Derby Climate Strategy, which will undergo a public consultation exercise in the summer.
- 5.2 Our four cross-party Councillor Climate Champions have been consulted and they have helped to refine and steer our plan.

Other options

6.1 No other options were considered.

Financial and value for money issues

7.1 As mentioned in section 4.15, many of the actions contained in the plan already have dedicated funding. Others require feasibility studies or more research to better understand what's required and the associated costs. Each project will have to pursue its own business case and justification for funding which could potentially include the £3 million Capital Climate Change Fund. Revenue projects will need the appropriate funding identified prior to approval and commencement.

Legal implications

8.1 None directly arising

Climate implications

9.1 The Action Plan forms an integral part of the Council's response to the Climate Emergency.

Other significant implications

10.1 Reducing our carbon emissions and preparing for a changing climate also has several co-benefits for the Council and our residents in the form of:

- Improved public health
- A cleaner, greener environment to live and work in
- Reduced inequalities
- Economics opportunities within the emerging green economy.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Olu Idowu, Head of Legal Services	
Finance	Toni Nash, Head of Finance Organisation & Governance	
Service Director(s)	Verna Bayliss, Director of Planning, Transport & Engineering	
Report sponsor	Rachel North, Strategic Director of Communities & Place	
Other(s)		

Background papers:	
List of appendices:	Draft Derby City Council Climate Action Plan