

For publication

Climate Change Delivery Plan 2024-2025 DL190

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	19.03.2024
Cabinet portfolio:	Climate Change, Planning, and the Environment
Directorate:	Corporate
For publication	

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To seek Council approval for the adoption and implementation of the Climate Change Delivery Plan (2024-2025) to enable the Council to achieve its 2030 carbon neutral commitment and continue supporting activities towards the wider 2050 Borough-wide decarbonisation target in line with the corporate Climate Change Strategy.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves the adoption and implementation of the Climate Change Delivery Plan, which details the Council's climate related activities for (2024- 2025).
- 2.2 To endorse the commitment within the Asset Management Strategy regarding the use of capital receipts - to reinvest capital receipts, secured through the disposals programme, into the land and property estate to fund maintenance, decarbonisation and investment activity to support the delivery of the asset management vision.
- 2.3 That Cabinet gives delegated authority to the Service Director – Corporate, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, and the Environment, to make amendments to the Climate Change Delivery Plan working document between the formal review periods to enable operational effectiveness.

3.0 Reason for recommendations

- 3.1 In July 2019, Chesterfield Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency. As part of the declaration, CBC made a commitment to become a carbon neutral

organisation by 2030 and to support the wider borough to become carbon neutral by 2050.

- 3.2 The Council's initial Climate Change Action Plan (2019-23) is now complete, and the proposed subsequent Climate Change Strategy 2023-2030 and accompanying delivery plans provide a framework for the Council to reach its corporate commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and take steps to support the wider Borough to reach carbon neutrality by 2050 as required by government.

4.0 Report details

Background information and activities to date

- 4.1 Following the Council's Climate Emergency declaration, CBC adopted a Climate Change Action Plan in 2020 (CCAP) detailing thirty-nine actions to be carried out by the council before 2023.
- 4.2 The Council's first Climate Change Action Plan (2019 – 2023) enabled the Council to begin its journey towards its carbon neutral target. Building on this, during 2023, the Council adopted a new Climate Change Strategy (2023 – 2030) to guide us to 2030.
- 4.3 The Strategy also enables the Council to undertake groundwork towards the wider Borough's 2050 decarbonisation target, and much activity will require long-term consideration and planning. This Strategy is supported by an annual Delivery Plan.
- 4.4 Progress in the implementation of the current Delivery Plan has been monitored quarterly and reported via the Council Plan performance monitoring arrangements, and through regular Scrutiny sessions. In addition, internal strategic workshops have been taking place quarterly to support key strands of work including asset and fleet decarbonisation, housing, and land management. The strategic workshops have focussed on the monitoring of the existing Delivery Plan and development of the 24/25 Plan. The Chesterfield Climate Change Forum has also been established to provide further engagement and challenge around the Council and wider Borough climate change activity.
- 4.5 During 23/24 progress is being made in areas such as: fleet decarbonisation, distribution of grant funding for private sector homes, decarbonising our Council Homes shared heating systems, data monitoring and engagement. However, decarbonising the Council's operational assets remains a key challenge within the existing Delivery Plan 2023-2024 in terms of capacity and funding. A summary of performance against the current Delivery Plan be

brought to Cabinet within the Climate Change Annual Report during summer 2024.

Climate Change Delivery Plan 2024 - 2025

- 4.6 The Climate Change Delivery Plan accompanies the Climate Change Strategy and is an annually reviewed working document. The proposed Delivery Plan for 2024 – 2025 contains 12 priority areas of work to be completed during this second year of the Strategy. These actions are grouped under the themes outlined in the Strategy document:
- i. Buildings and Energy
 - ii. Travel
 - iii. Green Space, Land Use and Offsetting
 - iv. Communications, Engagement and Training
 - v. Data Monitoring and Corporate Activity
 - vi. Influence and Partnership
- 4.7 It is proposed that the Delivery Plan may be updated in consultation with the Climate Change, Planning, and the Environment in between formal reviews to enable the Council to be flexible in its response to emerging technologies and approaches, funding streams, and changes in legislation to enable operational effectiveness

5.0 Alternative options

- 5.1 An alternative would be not to approve the delivery plan, however, this would greatly diminish the Council's ability to achieve its corporate commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030, and its wider role in supporting the Borough to reach net zero by 2050.

6.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money

- 6.1 The Policy and Partnerships Team in Directorate Corporate holds a small annual budget for feasibility studies, learning and development and communication and engagement activity to deliver the Climate Change Strategy. However, the majority of funding utilised is within service budgets.
- 6.2 The lack of a national framework and funding programme for local authority climate change activity, and the extreme pressure on the Council's budget mean that identifying external funding opportunities for decarbonisation activity, particularly in relation to the Council's operational buildings, is essential.
- 6.3 There are a number of ways to fund decarbonisation work including external sources such as the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. Six buildings have been identified within the Climate Change Strategy Delivery Plan 2024/25 and in the Asset Management Plan as priorities for decarbonisation. Officers have

analysed similar decarbonisation schemes from Derbyshire local authorities utilising the public sector decarbonisation fund (12% match required) and estimate that the minimum match required for our six priority buildings would be in the region of £960,000.

- 6.4 Options for securing the match funding required or self-funding schemes if external funding isn't available include:
- Directly applying capital receipts
 - using flexible capital receipts where there is a strong case for a return on investment
 - prudential borrowing
- 6.5 Business cases will be developed for each of the buildings, this will include a full financial options appraisal.

7.0 Implications for consideration – Legal

- 7.1 The UK is a signatory of the Paris Agreement which set the international target to limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C with the aim of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels². To reach this goal, the UK has adopted a legally binding target to reach net zero GHG emissions by 2050 (as set out in the Climate Change Act 2008 amended in 2019³).
- 7.2 A range of specific regulations have a bearing on council and wider borough activities. These include Government commitments to:
- Phase out the sale of fossil fuelled vehicles⁴
 - Phase out sale of natural gas boilers⁴
 - Modify the building regulations to include the Future Homes and Buildings Standard in 2025
- 7.3 It is important to note that (as yet) second tier local authorities have very little explicit statutory obligation to conduct activities to address climate change or report on emissions. This is significant because without statutory obligations, additional funding and guidance for activity is not available from central government. Therefore, there is a wide range of different approaches, levels of activity, available funds, and reporting measures across different local authorities in the UK.
- 7.4 It is anticipated that there will soon be a requirement for Local Authorities to publish their emissions and progress towards net zero. By developing an annual report approach, the Council will be well-placed to meet this anticipated requirement, and also able to demonstrate progress towards delivering the strategy and reaching organisational targets.

8.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources

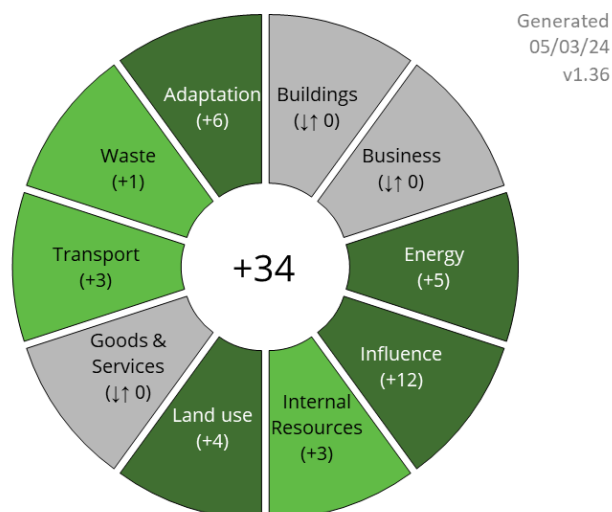
8.1 Significant progress has been made in embedding climate change activity across the Council. It remains critical that everyone within Chesterfield Borough Council takes ownership of the Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan. This has been supported by Tier 4 manager engagement in the development of the Delivery Plan, and through the establishment of strategic workshops on priority areas. The Council's corporate induction programme for new employees and members will be adapted to include climate change and an organisation-wide training programme is underway to ensure all staff and members have a base understanding of climate change and the Council's commitments.

9.0 Implications for consideration – Council plan

9.1 The Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan primarily support the Council Plan aim of 'improving the quality of life for local people', however, the widespread nature of the organisational activities within the strategy and delivery plan, and the use of the climate change impact assessment tool, result in climate change considerations and activities being embedded throughout the Council's activities. The priorities set out in the delivery plan will inform key priorities such as asset management, fleet, and delivery of energy efficient, low carbon homes.

10.0 Implications for consideration – Climate change

10.1 A Climate Change Impact Assessment has been completed. The resulting impact has been assessed as follows:



Chesterfield Borough Council has committed to being a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 (5 years and 9 months away).

- 10.2 The climate change strategy is expected to have a significant positive impact on the council's activities with relation to the climate. In particular work on the council's portfolio of buildings and fleet decarbonisation will be central to meeting our 2030 carbon neutral commitment. Wider benefits are likely to include more general environmental improvements to the local area and better engagement with the borough's residents on this issue.
- 10.3 Additional positive impacts of the Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan are anticipated through subsequent iterations of the Delivery Plan and as further project details are established through feasibility studies.

11.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity

- 11.1 The effects of climate change are likely to disproportionately affect the most vulnerable in our society, particularly residents in areas of high deprivation, younger children, and older people. The Delivery Plan is not anticipated to disproportionately impact on any protected group, although targeted engagement and support may take place with particular groups as we move through the strategy. The EIA will therefore be periodically reviewed.

12.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
The strategy and delivery plan are not delivered.	H	M	The plan has been developed in consultation with managers and directors, and the communities in the borough and comprises actions that are reasonable and achievable. In addition, the Council intends to appoint additional dedicated officer resource to champion delivery of the action plan.	H	L
The Council is not able to meet its organisational target to become carbon neutral by 2030.	H	H	Given the difficulty of addressing some emissions, it is likely that they will not be fully eliminated by 2030. As such, we expect that we will need to compensate for some remaining emissions via a programme of offsetting. The degree of offsetting required will depend on the extent to which the Council is	H	M

			successful in decarbonising its activities in the strategy and delivery plan.		
Failure to attract external funding may limit the Council's ability to undertake activities which are deemed necessary to achieve carbon neutrality.	H	H	The delivery plan makes provision for additional capacity in making business cases and bids for external funding, particularly in relation to assets.	H	M
Resource is not allocated to support the delivery of the strategy	H	H	Cost estimates are being applied to those actions that require additional resource and a mainstream budget allocated to support delivery of the Climate Change Strategy. Expenditure will be managed through existing internal budgetary control measures to ensure spend is in line with the original cost estimates and that value for money is achieved, for example, through proper recruitment and procurement processes.	M	L

Decision information

Key decision number	1126
Wards affected	All wards

Document information

Report author
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Background documents
These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.
<i>This must be made available to the public for up to 4 years.</i>

Appendices to the report	
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Appendix 1	Chesterfield Borough Council Climate Change Delivery Plan 2024 - 25
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