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## **NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE DECISION TO BE MADE**

The following Executive Decisions are due to be made by the DEPUTY LEADER on WEDNESDAY, 14 JULY 2021.

1. Updates to Climate Change Action Plan 2020 - 2023 approval (DL000) (Pages 3 - 46)

Reports relating to the decision(s) to be taken are attached to this notice, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. A meeting will not necessarily take place when the decision is made. Please contact Democratic Services for more information.

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For Publication  
Updates to climate change action plan 2020 – 2023  
approval (DL000)

<b>Meeting:</b>	Deputy Leader
<b>Date:</b>	14 July, 2021
<b>Cabinet portfolio:</b>	Deputy Leader
<b>Directorate:</b>	Corporate

## **1.0 Purpose of the report**

1.1 To approve the updated climate change action plan.

## **2.0 Recommendation**

2.1 That the Deputy Leader approves the updated climate change action plan 2020 - 2023.

## **3.0 Reasons for recommendations**

3.1 To ensure the climate change action plan remains current and relevant.

## **4.0 Report details**

### **4.1 Background**

The climate change action plan 2020 – 2023 was approved by Council in February 2021. At Council, delegated authority was approved for the Deputy Leader, in consultation with the portfolio holder for Health and Wellbeing to approve action plan updates to ensure the plan remains current and relevant.

4.2 Following the first year of delivery against the plan and the emergence of new data and information a review of the action plan has been undertaken by the Council's Climate Change Officer and an updated action plan is being recommended for implementation during 2021/22 – 2023.

4.3 The review of updated climate change action plan is attached in Appendix 1, with additional supporting information in appendices 2-5

4.4 **Summary of recommended changes**

Minor rewording to two existing actions under the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) (5 and 15)

4.5 Addition of six new actions:

- Action 40. Review CCAP and prioritise actions.
- Action 41. Training and development
- Action 42. CBC Capacity building
- Action 43. Carbon accounting framework
- Action 44. Climate neutral council report
- Action 45. Climate neutral borough report

**5.0 Alternative options**

5.1 A detailed rationale for the recommended changes is given in Appendix 1. An alternative course of action would be to reject the recommended changes and proceed using the existing plan. It is possible that some of the activities specified in section 4.5 could be effectively carried out within the boundaries of the existing plan, and others could be simply discarded. There is a strong case to carry out the new recommendations, and failure to do so would harm the council's ability to achieve our climate change ambitions.

Another alternative would be to reject the update and to continue the plan as written and to carry out the recommended objectives outside the CCAP. This could be successful; however, this would require explanation to external partners as

1. CBC has previously announced that updates and changes would be made to the CCAP
2. The budget for the amendments has been identified via savings in the CCAP implementation. While it is not believed to be formally ringfenced as such, care would be required to justify its apparent transfer out of the CCAP budget.

**6.0 Implications for consideration – Council Plan**

6.1 The climate change action plan is a key commitment within the Council Plan and associated delivery plans under the 'improving quality of life for local people' priority.

## **7.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money**

7.1 No additional financial requirements have been identified for the updated plan.

## **8.0 Implications for consideration – Legal**

8.1 The Queen's Speech 2021 highlighted climate change, net zero and COP 26 future legislative measures and policy positions which are relevant to the climate change action plan including:

- Legislation to set Carbon Budget six at the level recommended by the Climate Change Committee
- A Ten Point Plan for a green industrial revolution which will mobilise £12 billion of investment and create thousands of highly skilled green jobs.
- The Energy White Paper which sets out the transformation of the UK's energy system
- The Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy which sets out an ambitious blueprint to deliver the world's first low-carbon industrial sector
- Forthcoming sector strategies, including Heat and Buildings, and Transport
- Decarbonisation Plan, and the comprehensive Net Zero Strategy
- The UK hosting the COP26 negotiations in November

The updated plan covers some of these areas where more information is available however it is likely that a further update to the plan will be required in early 2022.

## **9.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources**

9.1 No additional human resource implications have been identified for the updated plan. However there is an increased learning and development commitment required across the Council.

## 10.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management

<u>Description of the Risk</u>	<u>Impact</u>	<u>Likelihood</u>	<u>Mitigating Action</u>	<u>Impact</u>	<u>Likelihood</u>
The existing action plan does not deliver climate change results committed to by the council	High	High	This decision builds on earlier work and commits to ensuring that future activity will be both targeted and monitored in relation to meeting the 2030 goal.	High	Medium
Specific areas of the existing plan are not delivered upon	Medium	Medium	<p>The Council's performance management framework will be applied to ensure that the agreed actions are implemented to time and within budget.</p> <p>The proposal in appendix 1 specifically identifies areas where high-level support for the programme will be necessary – specifically with elected members, senior officers, and the finance directorate.</p>	Medium	Low

Developments in the policy sphere render activity moot.	Medium	Medium	A number of existing actions in the plan risk being overrun by new policy developments. These may be re-developed as part of future iterations of the CCAP and this process will be informed by the new actions 40-45	Low	Low
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## 11.0 Implications for consideration – Community wellbeing

11.1 As well as decarbonising our activities, the new actions proposed in this document are intended to facilitate a just transition to a low carbon society. Actions 41 and 42 (training and capacity building) are specifically targeted at a cross section of CBC activities which will include services dealing with a wide range of different groups within the borough. It should be noted that climate change has a disproportionate impact on the poorest in society, and mitigation efforts by CBC, particularly those relating to home energy use and decarbonised transport, are likely to be more beneficial to those most in need.

## 12.0 Implications for consideration – Economy and skills

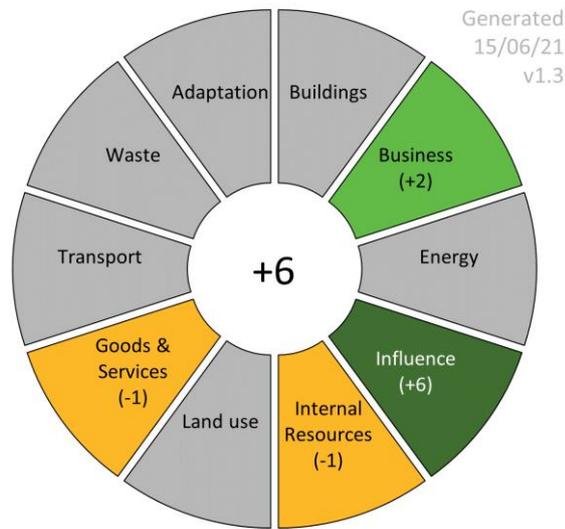
12.1 The new actions under the climate change action plan have a direct impact on the skills of both elected members and CBC officers through a commitment to extended training on climate change.

The recommendations made under the new actions are likely to have a significant indirect impact on the companies we do business with, due to enhanced targeting of our finances and requirements for carbon reporting. This will have a positive effect on the capability of local businesses who interact with the public sector.

A core goal of action 42 (capacity building) is to enhance and improve CBC's ability to attract funding, and this will tend to be spent within the borough – thereby enhancing the local economy.

### 13.0 Implications for consideration – Climate Change

13.1



CBC has committed to being a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 (8 years and 6 months away).

The decision will have a profound impact on our ability to meet our climate change targets - it is arguable that these targets will not be met without the actions described above.

While representing minor temporary climate costs in terms of buying in services and the resource use by CBC teams, the development of internal capacity, skills, and data collection will result in a solid framework for the development of future activity. This is likely to improve our success at attracting external funding for climate change related projects.

In developing decarbonisation pathways for the borough, we are beginning a discussion on the future of Chesterfield and this ties in closely with our existing engagement and communications strategy.

### 14.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity

14.1

Virtually all activities proposed under this decision are based on research, policy development and training, and as such will have very limited capacity to directly impact on any groups with protected characteristics in the wider borough.

Internally, two further elements are already programmed into the actions to ensure full compliance:

- 1) Training (action 41) will be carried out with advice from the equalities team to ensure that no protected groups are adversely affected by venue, mode of learning, etc.
- 2) The climate neutral pathway reports (action 45, and to some extent action 44) will include sections on the disproportionate impact of climate change on different demographics within the borough.

### Decision information

<b>Key decision number</b>	<b>Non-key decision</b>
<b>Wards affected</b>	<b>All</b>

### Document information

<b>Report author</b>
Will Rolls – Climate Change Officer
<b>Background documents</b>
These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.
None
<b>Appendices to the report</b>
Appendix 1. Full proposal Appendix 2 Analysis of proposal with respect to CCC recommendations Appendix 3 Outline Carbon Literacy Training Programme Appendix 4 Proposal Equalities Impact Assessment Appendix 5 Current plan delivery RAG rated summary

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# Climate Change Action Plan Review Appendix 1

## Progress and recommended revisions

### Summary

This document describes the progress of CBC in meeting carbon reduction targets after the first year of Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) delivery. It discusses progress and limitations, and then proposes changes to the CCAP for discussion. These are:

- Minor modifications to two existing actions under the CCAP (5 and 15)
- Addition of six new actions:
  - Action 40. Review CCAP and prioritise actions.
  - Action 41. Training and development
  - Action 42. CBC Capacity building
  - Action 43. Carbon accounting framework
  - Action 44. Climate neutral council report
  - Action 45. Climate neutral borough report

### Introduction

This document represents an attempt to assess the progress of CBC in meeting our targets after the first year of CCAP delivery. It includes: a critical appraisal of current progress, a discussion of limitations, and a proposal for future development given changes in the wider environmental and political landscape.

This document includes:

1. A brief review of the current situation in delivery of the CCAP and CBC's climate change ambitions
2. An assessment of the weaknesses or omissions in current activity and delivery
3. A series of recommendations for modification of the plan, additional work, and principles to inform future activity.

The programme of development outlined here is primarily inward looking. This is deliberate. As part of the long-term development of the council's actions on climate change the programme seeks to define clear institutional goals and milestones for

assessing the performance of council activity and directing limited resources to the greatest effect. It would be very easy to overlook the need for organisational evolution in facing climate change. It would also be very easy to utilise the climate change officer's time and council resources in a diffuse, disorganised way and prioritise activity over impact. In investing time and resources into foundational requirements, such as carbon accounting and staff training, at this stage the recommended actions seek to multiply our ability to address climate change in the future while monitoring the real-world impact.

## Current situation

### Targets

The need for a full programme of activities to mitigate climate change in Chesterfield Borough has been recognised. This is reflected in the council's commitment to become a climate neutral organisation by 2030, and as a borough by 2050. In the absence of clear guidance from central government, Chesterfield Borough Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019 and went on to develop an action plan to steer council activities - which was adopted in February 2020.

The climate change action plan (CCAP) incorporates a range of thirty-nine actions developed in consultation with partners and stakeholders which were intended as a first step on the journey to climate neutrality. Each of the actions within the CCAP has a deadline attached; although these are primarily to show the rate of activity against expected progress milestones rather than being linked to targets relating to emissions reduction.

### Progress

Progress has not been uniform across the actions from the CCAP – among other factors, the Covid pandemic has had a significant impact on council activities. Of the thirty-nine actions, thirteen have been successfully established, eight have been adversely impacted by the pandemic or other events, and a further eighteen are expected to be delivered as specified as shown in Figure 1 below.

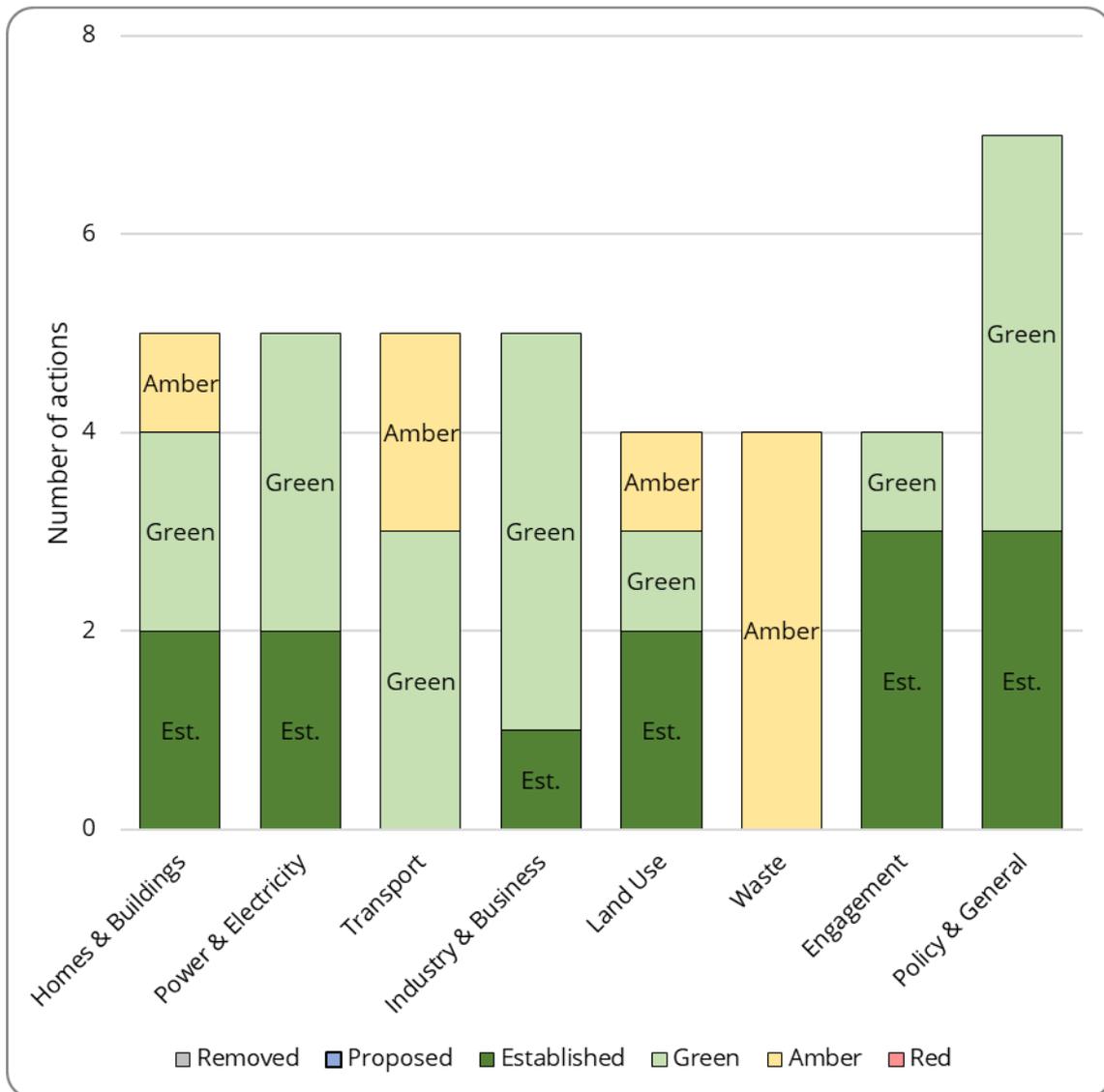


Figure 1. Chesterfield Borough Council CCAP delivery as of May 2021.

It is important to recognise that the activities specified in the CCAP do not necessarily represent progress towards climate neutrality, they include several actions targeted at more general environmental objectives, and actions are predicated on influence of other organisations (primarily the county council and central government) or on measures which are not within the remit of CBC.

The target for internal climate neutrality is 2030, which means that CBC has around eight and a half years to transform firmly entrenched business practices and address any shortfalls or barriers that may occur during that time.

### Lessons learned to date

One year into implementation of the CCAP, several issues surrounding the actions are apparent:

1. The actions do not all carry equal weight in terms of climate impact. They represent a wide range of priorities and activities which are working on similar agendas; however, they are not prioritised as such.
2. The actions do not all carry equal weight in terms of work required. For example, action 8: switching energy supply to renewables (projected cost £10k) is a relatively short task when compared with action 1: invest in improving the thermal / energy efficiency of social housing stock (projected cost £13.7M). Both actions carry equal weight in the CCAP.
3. There seems to be confusion about which activities will have a demonstrable climate impact, and which are wider sustainability / environmental / social goals.
4. The actions are not monitored in terms of impact. While teams and officers can measure activity – number of trees planted, meetings attended, properties insulated, etc. there is no framework for recording the impact of these activities on the climate. Many of the actions are positive and address other council goals, but their effectiveness at hitting climate goals is less well understood and not always measured.
5. Some teams have reported lack of capacity, or uncertainty of whether the actions are achievable due in part to the challenges emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic. Others have proposed alternative activities to achieve outcomes.

## Wider developments

### Political environment

It is likely that central government will follow the example of the Welsh Assembly and Scottish Parliament and set a reporting requirement for council emissions. This has recently been recommended to them by the Climate Change Committee.

The environment generally, and climate change specifically is virtually certain to become more prominent in the coming months. The next COP summit is being held in Glasgow in November and many public sector bodies, ENGOs and lobbying groups will be using the event to highlight their activity and to further their objectives. Central government is likely to be publicising activity to date and setting ambitious goals to demonstrate that they are taking the issue seriously to give weight to their negotiating position.

These expected developments are likely to have a significant impact on our reporting requirements and goals as they take place.

### Funding

It appears likely that substantial sums of money will be released by central government to meet national-level climate objectives. There are also a range of private and third sector organisations with objectives to improve their climate change performance,

which may take the form of partnership working, investments, or in-kind support for green projects and infrastructure. This represents a significant opportunity for the borough, both in our ability to manage our emissions, and through enhancement of existing programmes to address wider environmental and socioeconomic goals.

### Savings

Nearly all the goods and services which we buy have some form of GHG emission associated with them; this means that most council emissions are correlated with expenditure. The magnitude of the emission per pound varies (if we buy low carbon alternatives for example) but some form of emission still exists whenever money is spent. This means that, in many cases, a reduction in emissions also results in a reduction in cost. The only major exception to this rule is when our spending prevents an alternative, higher cost scenario from arising.

### Covid-19

In a post-Covid environment many teams and individuals within the council have been stretched, our ability to deliver ongoing services has been tested, and in many cases simply maintaining standards has required all available resources. CBC has constrained financial resources, and limited staff capacity to engage with new opportunities, this has been exacerbated by the effort required to handle Covid

## What does this mean?

Our ambitions to reach carbon neutrality by 2030 will require significant changes to our working practices and infrastructure.

As we get closer to our targets, more rapid action is likely to be necessary. In addition to this, we expect that reporting requirements to become stricter and more focussed over time as climate change activities continue to increase in urgency.

**The CCAP is supporting our ambitions to reduce emissions but reporting and monitoring capacity could be improved to identify our strengths, weaknesses, or progress against our goals in relation to climate change.**

**Constraints exist on CBC's ability to implement climate change mitigation projects on the scale required. While large funding opportunities are available, our ability to engage with them and draw down financial resources is not sufficient in all areas.**

## Proposal

Given the situation as outlined above, and the recent release of a guidance document by the Climate Change Committee<sup>1</sup> there are several activities which would improve the council's ability to manage our goals, obligations, and aspirations for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

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<sup>1</sup> *Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget*. Available from <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/local-authorities-and-the-sixth-carbon-budget>

We need to

1. Understand that the regulatory and political framework, and opportunities surrounding climate change activities are changeable, and that we need to be prepared to meet new challenges.
2. Monitor and measure our emissions, and prioritise the most significant sources of GHGs
3. Review our actions against our goals and identify areas which need greater support to meet targets.
4. Identify a route for decarbonisation both for the organisation, and for the wider borough

On this basis, changes are proposed for the implementation of the CCAP. These include some minor changes to existing actions, and the addition of six new items to better equip the council to manage our climate change obligations in the future.

**Most of the actions outlined here are not expected to require modification to the climate change budget, however several them do involve changes to the activities of council officers which may have workload implications for the teams concerned. The only proposed action which is believed to possibly have financial implications beyond the climate change budget, is the development of a carbon accounting framework (CBC to identify a portfolio of potential climate change mitigation and adaptation projects in outline / draft form to support external funding bids.**

Action 43). The cost associated with this action depends entirely on the mechanism chosen for delivery.

The revised actions represent changes to a wide range of internal council activities, and as such are likely to require support and interventions from senior officers or elected members to implement.

### Amendments to existing CCAP actions

Two actions have been identified within the plan which would benefit from minor changes as shown in Table 1.

*Table 1 Proposed modification to existing CCAP actions.*

Action	Existing text	Revised text	Rationale
5	CBC to refresh its asset management strategy to focus on its operational	CBC to refresh its asset management strategy to focus on <i>reducing the</i>	Focusses the action more tightly on activity to handle climate change without

	premises to be fuelled by clean technology.	<i>greenhouse gas emissions from its operational premises.</i>	requiring a definition of "clean technology".
15	CBC to raise with DCC and neighbouring districts and boroughs options regarding local bus service regulation.	CBC to engage with DCC and neighbouring districts <i>to work on improving sustainable transport networks.</i>	While bus services remain a key element within this action, including wider sustainable transport networks allows work to be carried out supporting other greener transport activities.

### New CCAP actions

To address the gaps identified above, and deal with expected changes in council obligations, six additional actions are proposed for the CCAP:

- Action 40. Review CCAP and prioritise actions.
- Action 41. Training and development
- Action 42. CBC Capacity building
- Action 43. Carbon accounting framework
- Action 44. Climate neutral council report
- Action 45. Climate neutral borough report

These are outlined below:

#### Action 40. Review CCAP and prioritise actions.

While most of the items on the CCAP are useful and may result in climate change mitigation this impact is variable and several actions exist which are likely to have very limited impact on the climate.

As shown in Figure 2, total borough emissions are overwhelmingly from static energy use (primarily heating and electricity) and transportation (mostly road-based). Actions prioritising emissions from waste, industrial processes, and land use have a lower impact proportionally, even though they may be desirable for other environmental, social, or economic reasons.

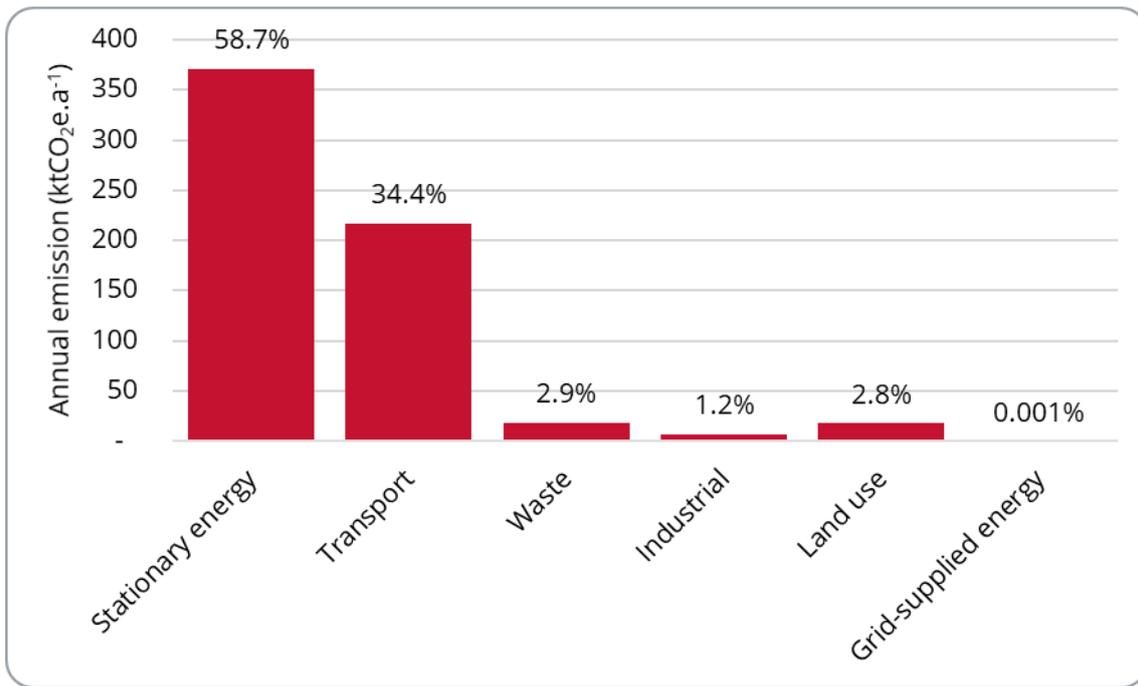


Figure 2. Chesterfield whole borough annual emissions inventory 2018. Data from the ScatterCities tool<sup>2</sup>

These actions, as well as activities to support social, economic, and other environmental benefits (such as biodiversity) are important and should remain part of wider council policy and delivery, but should not be allowed to absorb resources through this delivery pathway which are disproportionate to their climate impact.

In order to apply resources intelligently, an assessment is needed to identify and prioritise the actions in terms of the impact specifically on climate change.

The financial cost to CBC of this reprioritisation is expected to be small as it represents a re-evaluation of internal delivery.

**CBC to re-evaluate CCAP actions 1-39 and prioritise them by estimated magnitude of climate change mitigation /adaptation impact.**

#### Action 41. Training and development

To effectively prioritise and implement climate change policies, officers and elected members need a good general understanding of the effects of climate change, the degree / urgency of action needed, potential opportunities and existing best practice. This activity has already been started under the “Engagement and communications” action of the action plan (CCAP:29). We are in the process of organising “carbon literacy”<sup>3</sup> training for 20 elected members and exploring the feasibility of developing an

<sup>2</sup> ScatterCities Project, run by Anthesis Group: <https://scattercities.com/data/inventory>

<sup>3</sup> The Carbon Literacy Project, run by The Carbon Literacy Trust: <https://carbonliteracy.com/>

internal training programme for other elected members and CBC officers. The costs associated with this programme are not large and are partly covered by our ongoing membership of the Local Authorities Energy Partnership; however, senior support for the programme will be important to encourage uptake. An outline proposal for delivery is included in Appendix 3: Draft Carbon Literacy Programme

**CBC to implement a programme of training to provide elected members and officers with the knowledge and understanding necessary to meet CBC's climate goals.**

#### Action 42. CBC Capacity building

There are two clear barriers to more effective and extensive climate change action by the council; these are finances and officer time. Funding and support for climate change projects is available from a range of sources, this allows us to address the financial implications of action and contract-in expertise - which reduces the requirement for officer time. It is important to recognise that funding deadlines are often very tight and instructing / managing third party contractors also carries a resource overhead.

In order to access wider support, we need to develop a pipeline of potential projects to address climate change that can be expanded to take advantage of additional resources as they become available. This will require us to:

1. Identify a portfolio of possible projects which align with our climate change ambitions and other goals
2. Be aware of new resourcing opportunities
3. Be prepared to draw up formal funding bids with little warning.
4. Effectively manage new projects if the bids are successful

To develop a portfolio of early-stage draft ideas, CBC should develop a multi-disciplinary working group to identify and assess potential projects. These members of staff will also act as climate champions within their directorates to identify the opportunities, benefits and costs of the projects, gather feedback and suggestions from within their teams, and to help disseminate further information about climate change

Financial costs are not necessarily large depending on team configuration, and existing workload. This action is specifically designed to identify sources of funding and as such should result in a net increase in council budgets for climate change related activity. While support for this activity can be provided to some extent by the Climate Change Officer, delivery of this action will require expertise and experience in a range of different fields, and this will require the engagement of a cross section of council staff.

**CBC to identify a portfolio of potential climate change mitigation and adaptation projects in outline / draft form to support external funding bids.**

#### Action 43. Carbon accounting framework

At present, CBC is not recording all the data necessary to calculate carbon emissions as an organisation. This reduces our effectiveness at reporting to government, prioritising actions, communicating successes, and justifying policy decisions. It also prevents us from identifying areas where a reduction in GHG emissions would also result in a reduction in financial cost.

Software solutions exist to facilitate this kind of data collection and management. These vary from simple database / dashboard systems with very basic assumptions about emissions, to complex data analyses based on financial data and sophisticated models. Aside from the obvious financial cost of implementing this kind of analysis there can be significant resourcing implications for integration with existing IT systems, and data input.

In the expectation that reporting of carbon emissions will become mandatory in the near-term, CBC should work to identify a cost and resource effective solution which is compatible with our existing practices and data management. This system should allow reporting of CBC emissions, as well as allowing more detailed analysis of the main sources of emissions within the council's control.

**CBC to explore options for monitoring greenhouse gas emissions with a view to implementing a data recording and analysis structure from the beginning of the financial year 22/23.**

#### Action 44. Climate neutral council report

CBC currently has a limited understanding of our current emission profile, the efficacy of our actions to date, and the steps we need to take to reduce this to zero by 2030.

A report should be commissioned to include:

- A review of CBC activities and estimates of their relative climate impact (linking to action 43 if possible)
- A detailed proposal for reducing the impacts of these activities to zero by 2030, including interim targets and possible mechanisms / technologies (linking to action 42)
- An analysis of CBC strategy and policy documents with respect to climate impact, and an assessment of potential conflicts which require resolution.

This report would then inform future decision making within the council, the development of future CCAP activities, and influence ongoing strategy development.

**The financial cost of such a report is likely to be substantial, however the risks of acting in an incoherent manner on climate are extremely large. Savings have been identified within the existing climate change budget, and it is proposed that a**

proportion of these be redirected to this action and CBC to commission a “pathway to a climate neutral council” report

Action 45 below.

**CBC to commission a “pathway to a climate neutral council” report**

**Action 45. Climate neutral borough report**

Direct emissions from CBC activities are believed to be a relatively small proportion of emissions borough-wide, but the council does have a wider role in leading, promoting, and supporting the transition of the borough to a climate neutral space.

Significant progress has already been made in reducing emissions compared to the widely used 1990 baseline, however most of these savings are as a result of national grid decarbonisation and “exporting” emissions outside the national boundary. Significant changes to lifestyles, infrastructure, and business practice will be required to get the rest of the way.

Governance functions which would be significant to this process are not all carried out by CBC - coming from both higher and lower tiers of government. Another (more extensive) range of activities by members of the public fall outside CBC’s direct control. Given these significant constraints, a report should be commissioned to provide an assessment of the changes which would need to occur within the borough to reach climate neutrality by 2050. This should include:

- An assessment of the main sources of climate impacts within the borough and their relative importance.
- A detailed proposal for reducing the impacts of these activities to zero by 2050, including interim targets and possible mechanisms / technologies.
- A breakdown of how CBC could / should aim to influence other tiers of government and the wider public to reach these goals.
- A series of key recommended actions for CBC to take with a timeline for action and an indication of cost.
- An analysis of the opportunities to the borough in terms of green economic growth
- A mapping exercise of key partner organisations, and opportunities for collaboration

As described above, the financial cost of such a report is likely to be substantial, however the risks of acting in an incoherent manner on climate are very large. Savings

of have been identified within the existing climate change budget, and it is proposed that a proportion of these be redirected to this action and Action 44 above.

### **CBC to commission a “pathway to a climate neutral borough” report**

## **Overarching principles**

The proposal outlined here is informed by a number of key principles. These have been adopted in order to compensate for existing constraints within CBC’s climate change response and are intended to apply across the new and existing activities within the CCAP. They also ensure that existing programmes incorporate recommendations made in the recent *Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget* report by the Climate Change Committee<sup>4</sup> as described in Appendix 2.

### **Evidence based decisions and focussed action**

There is a lack of evidence on the relative impacts and urgency of different actions that the council could take, and we have limited resources and time in which to act. As such, interventions and activities within the council need to be carefully targeted to ensure that resources and time are used efficiently. Although uncertainties remain and all future decisions take place to some extent with incomplete information; activities need to be adopted with a clear understanding of the rationale behind the decision and how it relates to the council’s climate objectives. This principle is most clearly adopted in actions 40 (CCAP prioritisation) 43 (carbon accounting) 44, and 45 (the climate neutral reports).

### **Collaborative delivery**

CBC is not able to address the task of reducing the borough’s climate impact alone, and neither is the climate change officer able to reduce CBC’s impact without widespread cooperation and support from within the organisation. Actions 41 (training) 42 (capacity building) and 43 (carbon accounting) are designed to expand the level of collaboration and coordination between different elements within the council primarily through the development of a climate champions programme.

### **Flexibility**

Climate change has moved up the agenda rapidly, and significant changes will need to take place at pace if CBC is to meet its commitments. Funding opportunities are available, as are a huge range of potential overlaps and synergies between climate change projects and other environmental, social, and economic goals. A core aim of these proposals is to improve the council’s ability to react to new information and opportunities – by clearly defining a strategic direction of travel (actions 44, and 45: the

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<sup>4</sup> *Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget*. Available from <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/local-authorities-and-the-sixth-carbon-budget>

climate neutral reports) the core priorities (actions 40:CCAP prioritisation and 43: carbon accounting) and improving our internal capabilities in depth (actions 41:training and 42: capacity development)

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## Appendix 2 Comparison of the CCAP with recommendations for local authorities from *Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget*

This appendix includes a comparison of the CBC actions in the CCAP and the recommendations for local authorities from *Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget* Climate Change Committee (published December 2020). The full document is available from <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/local-authorities-and-the-sixth-carbon-budget/>. The report also makes ten recommendations to central government which are not reproduced here.

CCC Recommendation	CBC implementation
<p>1. Develop Net Zero or Climate Action Plans with delivery projects that prepare the area to make the transition to net zero choices from 2030, and align with climate adaptation, biodiversity net gain and other key local strategies. Include immediate actions that kick-start delivery now and that support low-carbon and green skills and jobs.</p>	<p>Implemented initially via the Climate Change Action Plan. Future implementation will be detailed in the decarbonisation roadmaps (new CCAP Actions 44 and 45) to be implemented in future iterations of the CCAP.</p>
<p>2. Monitor and report on progress in reducing emissions to local communities and government. Where possible share standardised data, benchmark and provide clear evidence to inform policy.</p>	<p>Data is currently incomplete, and not collected in all cases. This is to be improved via new CCAP Action 43 (implement a carbon accounting framework). The CCAP will be reprioritised based on the findings of this (Action 40)</p>
<p>3. Conduct policy and service reviews to align policy, spending and functions with Net Zero. Identify contradictions, then put in place mitigation plans to align them at a future date and reduce emissions in the meantime. Develop project and financial appraisal systems that include emissions and climate impacts.</p>	<p>This is partially implemented through the existing CCAP actions 34 (climate change impact assessment to be addressed in all council decisions) and action 37 (introduce new sustainable procurement conditions for suppliers.) Future development of this work will be informed by the development of new CCAP Actions 40 (review and prioritise), 43 (carbon accounting framework), 44, and 45 (climate neutrality reports).</p>

CCC Recommendation	CBC implementation
<p>4. Implement training and capacity building to deliver Net Zero within the local authority and with key suppliers and contractors. Climate, energy, sustainability and carbon understanding needs to be embedded in the whole authority, across staff and systems. Increasingly specialist skills will be needed around energy systems. Climate change should be central to Elected Member and Senior Director training.</p>	<p>This is being partially implemented through the existing CCAP action 29 (engagement and communication work) and carbon literacy training for elected members is expected to be available post-Covid. Further development of this recommendation will take place under new Action 41 (implement a climate change training programme for elected members and council officers)</p>
<p>5. Develop capacity to innovate and scale up. Climate change action plans help identify future delivery projects for when funding becomes available. Local authorities should prioritise applying for funding and managing funds if successful. This recommendation sits alongside the recommendation to government to implement longer term funding windows, longer periods for funding and flexibility to blend funding streams. It is also backed by a recommendation for more funding for local authorities to act on climate change.</p>	<p>This is to be addressed under the new Action 42 (Capacity Building)</p>
<p>6. Collaborate with neighbouring and cross-tier local authorities and other key delivery bodies on strategies and plans which ensure systems-wide transformation is coherent and supportive of Net Zero. This should include energy, transport, housing, infrastructure and skills. This should enable local authorities to cluster to share skills, expertise, achieve economies of scale and deliver more effectively. Local area energy plans should be conducted at a scale larger than small district councils and with awareness of the wider energy assets in the region.</p>	<p>Cross boundary collaboration is already taking place via Vision Derbyshire, and through CCAP action 35 (work with neighbouring authorities).</p>

CCC Recommendation	CBC implementation
<p>7. Develop Green Finance know-how. Private sector investment and Green Finance will be required to deliver the scale of the change needed. Local authority legal and finance teams, and project delivery teams will need to develop their knowledge of the finance industry.</p>	<p>CBC has been successful in attracting significant sums of money through existing channels (notably existing action 2 in the CCAP) however, we have not been successful in bidding for other funds due to a lack of capacity to write and coordinate bids and manage funding streams and new projects. This is to be addressed under the new Action 42 (Capacity Building)</p>
<p>8. Communicate and engage with local communities, businesses and partners on Net Zero so that a mandate for action is maintained. Support community action with citizens, schools, businesses and other groups. Assess the skills needed locally to deliver the transition, developing green and low carbon jobs and supporting a resilient recovery.</p>	<p>Implemented via the existing commitment to engagement and communication (CCAP actions 29, and 30)</p>
<p>9. Local authority pension funds should disclose their approach to assessing and managing climate risks and should consider investing in Net Zero aligned schemes within their legal duties.</p>	<p>CBC is a member of the Derbyshire LA Pension fund. We have already represented to them that we wish them to divest of fossil fuel backed investments.</p>

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# Draft outline of carbon literacy rollout to CBC

## Context / overview

As part of our wider climate change action plan (CCAP) additional work will be taking place to:

- Develop a pipeline of potential projects to address climate change that can be expanded to take advantage of external funding and CBC/partnership resources
- identify the largest carbon costs associated with council operations and develop alternatives to save both financially and in terms of carbon.

The recommended mechanism for delivery is to develop a multi-disciplinary working group to identify and assess potential projects. These employees will also act as carbon champions within their directorates to identify the opportunities, benefits and costs of the projects gather feedback and suggestions from within their teams and to help disseminate further information about climate change.

These champions should ideally:

- Have sufficient skills and seniority to embed changes throughout the organisation
- Have a proportion of their time dedicated to improving the climate performance of the organisation and the wider borough.
- Have access to sufficient training to understand the need and urgency of climate action, and the technical support to identify opportunities within their work areas

## The course

The Carbon Literacy Project <https://carbonliteracy.com/> is a not for profit organisation funded via BEIS who deliver well-regarded training materials and accreditation on climate change.

- The course materials are all available from CLP for free, and there are tailored versions for elected members, senior officers, and wider staff.
- The course takes around 8 hours to run, and this can be delivered as a single day event, or over a number of smaller sessions as needed.
- Assessment is via a written submission by each candidate giving details of how they will reduce carbon emissions in their own workplace and how they will work to promote changes more widely. Formal assessment of each candidate costs £10 to be certified, and the pass rate is in the 90%+ region.
- Delivery can be commissioned externally, and a session has been booked for September for the elected members as part of our agreements with the LAEP. Going forward, a more effective strategy would be to deliver training in house, to reduce overheads and improve flexibility.

## Proposed Delivery

### Stage 1: Foundation (total cost £1k + staff time)

Will Rolls (WR) to attend a standard course run by APSE (21/7/21) cost £175

WR and Helen Brightmore (Member and Civic Support Officer) to attend the Carbon Literacy Trainer course, also run by APSE (19-20/8/21) cost £379 each.

Rina Jones from the LAEP has already been booked in to deliver the training to up to 20 elected members in September (priority for portfolio holders and scrutiny members). This is paid for out of our LAEP subscription and will incur no additional cost. This will also be attended by WR, and Helen Brightmore (HB)

WR to deliver an internal course as a pilot to the first tranche of climate champions estimated total cost £100-150 + champion's time.

The financial cost of this phase can be met from the climate change budget

### Stage 2: phased rollout

Following evaluation of phase 1, and the context in terms of climate champion recruitment, and the results from the carbon accounting and project identification exercises. WR to deliver additional training to the corporate leadership team as a priority. A commitment will also be made to include carbon literacy training in the member induction for all new members (By-election) from 2021/22 and as part of the full member induction following the May 2023 election.

### Stage 3: ongoing delivery

Depending on evaluation of phase 2, delivery CBC to continue a programme of internal training for all staff with decision making and budgetary responsibilities. This will be delivered via a set number of training days per annum for example once a quarter by WR. Climate Change Champions can assist with induction activity as officers join the council.

## Chesterfield Borough Council Equality Impact Assessment - Full Assessment Form

Title of the policy, project, service, function or strategy:	Chesterfield Climate Change Action Plan update 2021	
Service Area:	Policy	
Section:		
Lead Officer:	Will Rolls	
Date of assessment:	06/21	
Is the policy, project, service, function or strategy:	Existing	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Changed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	New / Proposed	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Section 1 – Clear aims and objectives

What is the aim of the policy, project, service, function or strategy?

Chesterfield Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency on 17 July 2019. The Notice of Motion also committed the Council to develop a costed action plan to support the Council and the Borough to achieve net zero carbon by 2030 and 2050 respectively. This action plan was formally adopted by the council on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2020.

Following the first year of delivery against the plan and the emergence of new data and information a review of the action plan has been undertaken by the Council's Climate Change Officer and an updated action plan is being recommended for implementation during 2021/22 – 2023. These changes are designed to improve the council's ability to deal with climate change through internal capacity building, development of monitoring systems, and targeted research to inform future policy development.

Who is intended to benefit from the policy and how?

The purpose of the action plan is to focus the work of the Council specifically in those areas that will help 1) achieve the most significant climate change mitigation activity and, 2) support the borough in adapting to the aspects of climate change which are unavoidable.

The actions in the plan are intended to benefit all residents within the Borough as well as representing a contribution to the global efforts to deal with climate change.

What outcomes do you want to achieve?

The action plan represents a first step towards a decarbonisation strategy that is intended to result in CBC becoming a climate neutral organisation by 2030, and the wider borough becoming climate neutral by 2050.

The revisions to the plan are essential groundwork to deliver this vision.

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What barriers exist for both the Council and the groups/people with protected characteristics to enable these outcomes to be achieved?

Engagement with all sectors and all communities as for some climate change will not be something that they feel they can influence.

Resources for both the council to engage in major carbon reduction programmes and for the wider community to invest / make changes to how they live and work.

Legislation – currently there is no legal requirement for local authorities to take action to meet local carbon budgets.

These are the high-level overarching barriers; however, it is accepted that there may be further emerging barriers as action specific EIA`s are undertaken.

### Any other relevant background information

The Council will actively monitor Central Government Equality Impact Assessment on Climate Change as policy develops to ensure our approach is suitably informed.

The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is everyone's responsibility and whilst local authorities currently have no statutory responsibility for this, they are uniquely positioned to take a leading role in tackling climate change.

This update to the climate change action plan represents the CBC implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee on Climate Change, in Net Zero – The UK's contribution to stopping global warming<sup>1</sup> and Local Authorities and the sixth carbon budget<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/net-zero-the-uks-contribution-to-stopping-global-warming/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/local-authorities-and-the-sixth-carbon-budget/>

## Section 2 – Collecting your information

What existing data sources do you have to assess the impact of the policy, project, service, function or strategy?

The impact of the policy is currently measured through specific activity-based metrics (essentially whether the actions in the CCAP have been carried out). The additional elements to the CCAP are primarily intended to monitor and assess the impact of council activity and develop new policies which are based on solid data and research.

Actions 44 and 45 are explicitly research-based and are expected to include assessments of impact of policy change on demographics and those with protected characteristics.

Further equality impact assessments will be conducted as required for specific activities during action plan delivery.

### Section 3 – Additional engagement activities

Please list any additional engagement activities undertaken when developing the proposal and completing this EIA. Have those who are anticipated to be affected by the policy been consulted with?

Date	Activity	Main findings
23 October 2019; 25 November 2019, 10 December 2019, 14 January 2020, 30 January	A climate change working group was developed by expressions of interest from citizens across the Borough to be part of the working group, which resulted in a working group of nineteen people being established to support the development of the Council's Climate Change action plan. The group was developed with due regard to equality and diversity to help ensure that it was as representative as possible.	The group have supported the development of the climate change action plan in accordance with the notice of motion declared by the Council in July 2019.
23 January	Wider reference group comments sought on the draft action plan. The wider reference group is made up of those individuals who were not selected for the core working group.	The group were supportive of the plan and indicated a keenness to progress action in this area.
11/2020 - present	A number of further meetings have taken place with the climate change working group getting feedback on ongoing activity. This has been in addition to ongoing engagement work with community organisations working on environmental / climate related activities.	The groups are keen to ensure that a "just transition" takes place and that all areas of society are included.

## Section 4 – What is the impact?

Summary of anticipated impacts. Please tick at least one option per protected characteristic. Think about barriers people may experience in accessing services, how the policy is likely to affect the promotion of equality, knowledge of customer experiences to date. You may need to think about sub-groups within categories e.g. older people, younger people, people with hearing impairment etc.

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	Positive impact	Negative impact	No disproportionate impact
Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability and long-term conditions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender and gender reassignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage and civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pregnant women and people on parental leave	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ethnicity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion and belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Details of anticipated positive impacts.

Equality, diversity and social inclusion issues formed a key part of the considerations when developing the original Climate Change Action Plan. Many of the activities within the plan not only make a significant contribution to reducing the impact and speed of climate change but also present opportunities for positive impacts for equality, diversity and social inclusion. Other impacts may become apparent at an individual project level, but a preliminary assessment suggests that there will be positive impacts in:

- Fuel poverty reduction. Increased insulation in social housing within the borough, should lead to reductions in fuel poverty among residents which particularly affects the elderly.
- A switch to LED external lighting is likely to change the profile of a number of public spaces within the borough with respect to crime. This is expected to have a positive effect for groups which may have personal safety concerns at night relating to perception of crime, or those who are victims of hate crime.
- Improved access to cycle infrastructure is likely to change the accessibility of some areas of the borough for those who do not wish to (or who are unable) to drive. In particular this is likely to improve access to local services by young people within the borough.

The update to the CCAP is not expected to result in new positive impacts.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion
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Details of anticipated negative impacts.

	Negative impact:		We have not identified any negative impacts based on the scope of the Councils current climate change action plan in either its original or updated form.					
	Mitigating action:		The Council recognises that Central Government policy / legislation may have a more direct impact on our local communities and as such we will actively monitor Central Government Equality Impact Assessments and Policy in relation to their activities on Climate Change to inform local actions required by the Council.					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion

Have all negative impacts identified in the table above been mitigated against with appropriate action?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	If no, please explain why:
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## Section 5 – Recommendations and monitoring

How has the EIA helped to shape the policy, project, service, function or strategy or affected the recommendation or decision?

Given the diverse subject matter it is recognised that specific actions will require further detailed equality impact assessments to ensure that suitable arrangements are in place to support our communities. The climate emergency and the legislative requirement to achieve net zero carbon by 2050 is such that there is a specific need to progress the action plan however it is essential that this is done in such a way as to support those who would be most vulnerable from any specific action which include having due regard to frameworks such as Just Transition that consider social interventions to support people as economies shift to more sustainable production and programmes.

How are you going to monitor the policy, project, service, function or strategy, how often and who will be responsible?

The climate change action plan is one of the items contained within the Council Plan. This means the action plan will be subject to the Council's formal governance framework for monitoring and evaluating performance including formal scrutiny governance. Finance and performance Board monitoring quarterly, scrutiny every six months.

## Section 6 – Knowledge management and publication

Please note the draft EIA should be reviewed by the appropriate Service Manager and the Policy Service before WBR, Lead Member, Cabinet, Council reports are produced.

Reviewed by Head of Service/Service Manager	Name:	
	Date:	
Reviewed by Policy Service	Name:	
	Date:	DD/MM/YY
Final version of the EIA sent to Policy Service		
Decision information sent to Policy Service		

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Category	N <sup>o</sup>	Brief action (original action)	RAG status
Homes & Buildings	1	CBC to invest in improving the thermal / energy efficiency of its existing housing stock.	Green
Homes & Buildings	2	CBC to review the existing home improvement offer to widen support for vulnerable / low income.	Established
Homes & Buildings	3	CBC to refresh planning guidance in relation to the raising of environmental standards for house building locally.	Established
Homes & Buildings	4	CBC to define its preferred environmental standard to deliver new social housing across the Borough.	Amber
Homes & Buildings	5	CBC to refresh its asset management strategy to focus on its operational premises to be fuelled by clean technology.	Green
Power & Electricity	6	CBC to install LED lighting in all CBC premises.	Green
Power & Electricity	7	CBC to support the establishment of a local organisation to identify preferred energy providers to residents	Established
Power & Electricity	8	CBC to switch to renewable electricity energy provider.	Established
Power & Electricity	9	CBC to work with DCC to accelerate where possible all street lighting to LED, and CBC to replace all its own external lighting to LED.	Green
Power & Electricity	10	CBC commits to explore the installation of SPV technology on all appropriate nondomestic CBC premises and investigate opportunities / sites for energy production from solar and wind.	Green
Transport	11	New housing developments to be connected to the cycle / walking network. CBC to establish the minimum size of development that this would be applied to.	Amber
Transport	12	CBC to commission a strategic assessment of integrated Transport within the Borough to support our communities making the transition to sustainable modes of transport.	Green
Transport	13	CBC to work with taxi and bus operators regarding the move to electric vehicles within Chesterfield.	Green
Transport	14	CBC to develop and implement a policy that commits to invest in appropriate electric fleet vehicles when the current vehicle lease expire.	Green
Transport	15	CBC to raise with DCC and neighbouring districts and boroughs options regarding local bus service regulation.	Amber
Industry & Business	16	CBC to engage the Local Enterprise Partnership to ensure that climate change is assessed as part of decision making.	Green
Industry & Business	17	Using local business organisations develop a scheme to support small and medium sized enterprises to access funds and expertise for reducing carbon emissions.	Green

Industry & Business	18	CBC to work with Destination Chesterfield / other business organisations to encourage sharing of environmental best practice.	Established
Industry & Business	19	CBC to work with Destination Chesterfield / other business organisations to investigate options regarding environmental sustainability business awards.	Green
Industry & Business	20	Work with local business and seek to develop a sustainability mentoring programme.	Green
Land Use	21	Undertake a full inventory of all CBC owned land to identify how to maximise carbon capture.	Amber
Land Use	22	CBC to develop a policy working with DCC of nature friendly road verges that are subject to re-wilding / reduced / no grass cutting.	Established
Land Use	23	CBC commits to Implement a tree planting programme on its own land to deliver a minimum of 1,000 new additional trees per annum.	Green
Land Use	24	Use existing planning policy and where appropriate supplementary planning guidance to ensure developers introduce more open / wild spaces in new developments.	Established
Waste	25	Develop a sustainable trade waste policy and work with our contractor for an associated trade waste service that promotes circular economy waste policies.	Amber
Waste	26	Develop a sustainable domestic waste policy and work with our contractor for an associated domestic waste service that promotes circular economy waste policies.	Amber
Waste	27	Support and promote a community sharing and reuse scheme.	Amber
Waste	28	Co-produce sustainable waste management guide and education material with local schools that promotes circular economy waste policies.	Amber
Engagement	29	CBC to develop and implement a comprehensive engagement and communication plan.	Established
Engagement	30	CBC to develop a suite of marketing / promotional material to support the plan	Green
Engagement	31	CBC and partners to use reduce, reuse, recycle in all communications in relation to climate change	Established
Engagement	32	Encourage the use of local labour, services, goods and sustainable food to support a sustainable low carbon economy.	Established
Policy & General	33	CBC to refresh its growth strategy to take account of the climate change agenda and sustainability.	Established
Policy & General	34	Introduce climate change impact assessments for all reports where key decisions are made.	Green
Policy & General	35	CBC to commit to working as part of a county wide forum on climate change with all neighbouring Derbyshire Authorities.	Green

Policy & General	36	Establish formal governance arrangements to enable the use of section 106 / Community Infrastructure Levy to fund sustainable initiatives and programmes.	Established
Policy & General	37	CBC to introduce new sustainable procurement conditions for suppliers.	Green
Policy & General	38	CBC to call on Central Government to provide resource and powers to effectively tackle the climate change agenda.	Green
Policy & General	39	CBC to engage additional dedicated officer time to work solely on the climate / sustainability agenda.	Established
Policy & General	40	CBC to re-evaluate CCAP actions 1-39 and prioritise them by estimated magnitude of climate change mitigation /adaptation impact.	Proposed
Policy & General	41	CBC to implement a programme of training to provide elected members and officers with the knowledge and understanding necessary to meet CBC's climate goals.	Proposed
Policy & General	42	CBC to identify a portfolio of potential climate change mitigation and adaptation projects in outline / draft form to support external funding bids.	Proposed
Policy & General	43	CBC to explore options for monitoring greenhouse gas emissions with a view to implementing a data recording and analysis structure from the beginning of the financial year 22/23.	Proposed
Policy & General	44	CBC to commission a "pathway to a climate neutral council" report	Proposed
Policy & General	45	CBC to commission a "pathway to a climate neutral borough" report	Proposed

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