

For publication

Climate Change Action Plan

Meeting:	Council
Date:	26 February 2020
Cabinet portfolio:	Deputy Leader of the Council Health and Wellbeing
Report by:	Assistant Director – Health and Wellbeing

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- 1.0 **Purpose of report**
- 1.1 To advise Members of the progress made in relation to development of the Council's Climate Change action plan.
- 1.2 To advise Members of the dates for both the Council and the Borough to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions.
- 1.3 To seek Council approval for the adoption and implementation of the Councils Climate Change action plan.
- 1.4 This report is due to be considered by the Joint Cabinet and Employment and General Committee at its meeting on 25 February, 2020.

2.0 **Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Members approve the proposed Climate Change action plan as detailed in Appendix A, to support the Council to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030, and Chesterfield Borough by 2050.
- 2.2 That a new post of Climate Change / Sustainability Officer be established.
- 2.3 That the Council allocates a sum of £100,000 per annum in each of the next 3 financial years to support the Council's work on Climate Change.
- 2.4 That the proposal for the Council to collaborate with the other district / borough councils in Derbyshire and Derbyshire County Council as part of a county-wide approach to tackling Climate Change is supported as is further work with Nottingham City Council to better understand the carbon footprint of the Council and Chesterfield Borough.
- 2.5 That the Deputy Leader is given delegated authority in consultation with the Cabinet Member – Health and Wellbeing to approve action plan updates to ensure the plan remains current and relevant.

3.0 **Background**

- 3.1 The United Kingdom passed the world's first Climate Change Act over a decade ago, which provided a framework to set statutory carbon budgets and established the independent Committee on Climate Change.
- 3.2 On the 27 June 2019, the United Kingdom became the first major economy to set a net zero target in law.

- 3.3 Chesterfield Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency on 17 July 2019.
- 3.4 The Council noted *'the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C', published in October 2018, which confirmed the catastrophic consequences of manmade climate change and the urgent need to act to address the marked increases that we are already seeing with regards higher sea levels, flooding, other extreme weather events, crop failures and destruction of land and marine eco-systems'*.
- 3.5 Noting the IPCC's 'Special Report', the Council declared unequivocally *'that our town and borough, country and planet are facing a climate emergency'*.
- 3.6 The Notice of Motion also committed the Council to establishing *'a Chesterfield Climate Change working group with the shared purpose of enabling Chesterfield to become a low carbon, resilient and sustainable borough'* and inviting the working group to *report back and make recommendations to Full Council on a realistic date for Chesterfield to be carbon neutral, and to develop a costed action plan, by March 2020, setting out the required work to achieve this outcome'*.
- 3.7 To enable effective collaboration the Notice of Motion also confirmed *'that Chesterfield Borough Council would work with other local authorities and public, private and voluntary sector partners on carbon reduction projects'* and *'called on the Government to provide the necessary resources and powers for Chesterfield Borough Council to achieve its ambition of becoming a carbon neutral town and borough.'*

4.0 Climate Change Working Group

- 4.1 The Notice of Motion gave the mandate for the Council to recruit members of the community to form a working group. To

enable this, expressions of interest were sought from citizens across the Borough, which resulted in a working group of nineteen people being established to support the development of the Council's Climate Change action plan.

- 4.2 The first meeting of the working group took place on 23 October 2019; further meetings were held on 25 November 2019, 10 December 2019, 14 January 2020 with a final meeting on 30 January where agreement was reached on the final content of the action plan.
- 4.3 The working group has developed the action plan around the following eight themes;
- Housing / buildings
 - Power / electricity
 - Transport
 - Industry / business
 - Agriculture / land use
 - Waste / consumption
 - Engagement / education
 - Policy / general
- 4.4 These themes adopted by the working group were informed by the Friends of the Earth document 'Climate action plan for councils', details of which can be found at;
<https://takeclimateaction.uk/climate-action/get-your-council-adopt-climate-action-plan>
- 4.5 Against each theme, the working group identified a long list of potential actions. The working group then worked through the long list at each meeting to a point where the final action plan is populated with thirty-nine actions. You'll note from the action plan at Appendix A that each action has an associated timescale and cost, where applicable, to ensure that what we are seeking to achieve is realistic and will make a positive impact.

- 4.6 In developing the actions members of the working group have had due regard to the position taken by Derbyshire County Council on Climate Change, the national legislative framework as set out in the Climate Change Act 2008 and the Queen's Speech from December 2019, which contained significant reference to Climate Change and actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- 4.7 The Council's Council Plan 2019 – 2023 has also been adjusted to incorporate the action plan, which will mean that the latter will be subject to the Council's performance management framework.
- 4.8 The action plan review through the Council's performance management and governance framework including the formal Overview and Scrutiny process, will ensure that the plan includes emerging opportunities linked to technological improvements, innovation, best practice etc. To enable the plan to be amended and developed to reflect such changes, delegated authority for the Deputy Leader in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing is being sought to approve action plan updates between March 2020 and March 2023. A fully revised plan will be developed for delivery from April 2023.

5.0 Report Details

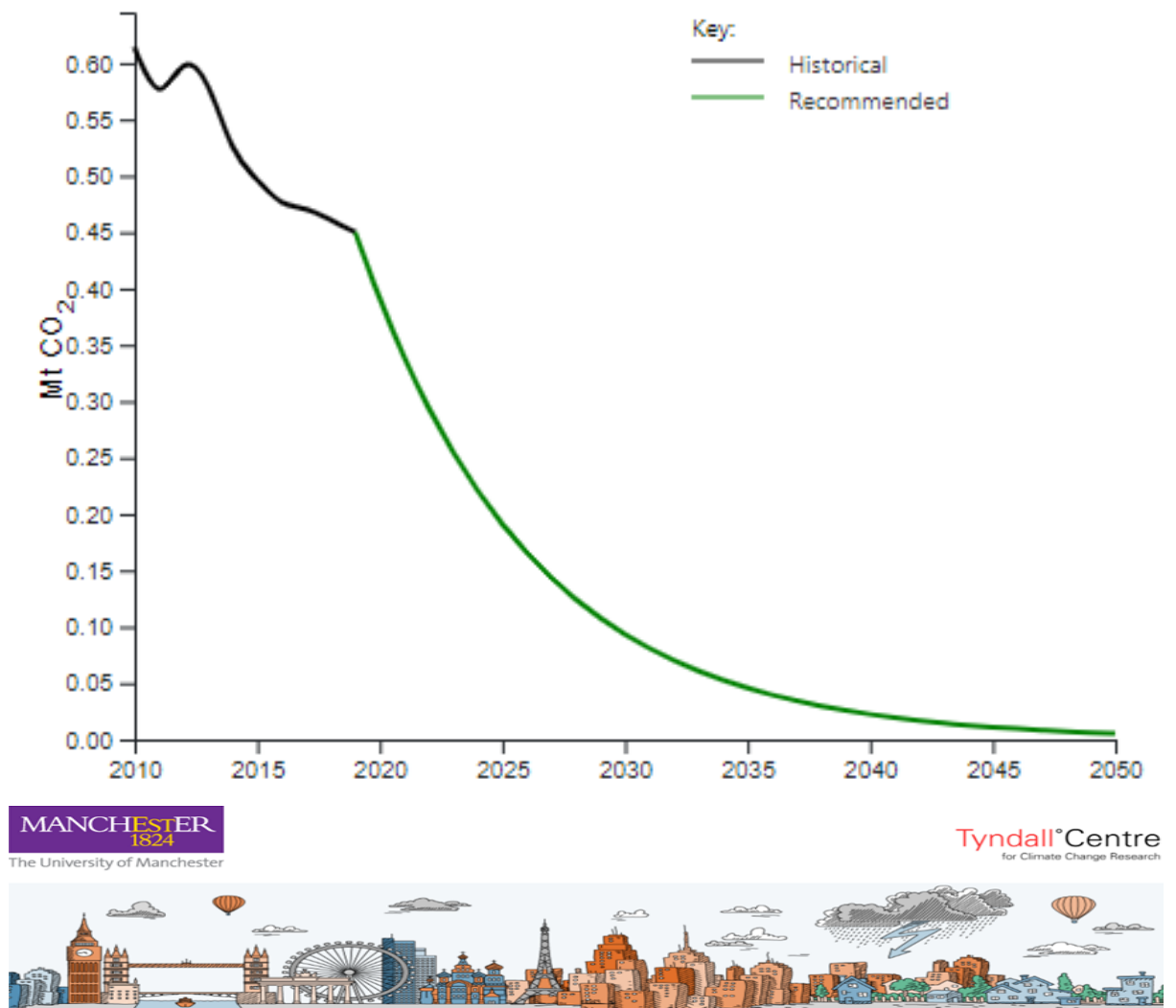
- 5.1 There have been significant developments to tackle climate change globally and nationally. Agreement was reached at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Paris Agreement in 2015 to limit the global temperature rise to a maximum of 2°C. Significant work has been carried out as a result of this Agreement to calculate the cumulative amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions permitted to keep the earth within a certain temperature threshold, in this instance a global temperature rise of 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

- 5.2 This is known as the global carbon budget. The global carbon budget has since been divided amongst individual countries, including the UK. Further work has then been undertaken by The Tyndall Centre, on behalf of the Government, to allocate the UK's carbon budget amongst local authority areas. In September 2019 local carbon budgets were made available at district and borough level.
- 5.3 There is currently no legal requirement for local authorities to take action to meet local carbon budgets, however in view of the UK's commitment to achieve at least net zero carbon emissions in the UK by 2050, statutory emissions targets are likely to be set for local authorities at some point in the future. As such, it is important that the Council takes action now and begins its journey towards carbon neutrality demonstrating its role as a community leader and advocate for sustainable change whilst supporting the most vulnerable within our communities utilising frameworks such as Just Transition.
- 5.4 Although it is important that the Council leads by example and tackles its own emissions, it is important to note that emissions from the Council's own estate and operations, based on current data sources, are estimated to account for less than 1.00% of total emissions across the Borough.
- 5.5 Nottingham City Council's Energy Projects Team (who are considered nationally to be a leading authority in relation to greenhouse gas emissions and carbon reduction programmes) have given the Council a greater insight into our emissions and also additional data / further analysis to enhance our understanding of the Borough Council's levels of greenhouse gas emissions.
- 5.6 Through analysis of direct emissions from our controlled or owned sources and indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy used by the Council, Nottingham City

Council's Energy Projects Team has identified that the most significant contributor to the Council's carbon footprint is our use of natural gas (51%) to heat and provide hot water for our operational buildings. This is followed by the consumption of electricity (24%) and diesel (21%) for our fleet.

- 5.7 Given these figures the action plan has a specific focus on refreshing the individual asset management plans for the council's operational buildings to identify clean energy solutions for the future provision of heating and hot water. There is also a clear direction of travel for the organisation to invest in L.E.D lighting schemes and renewable energy. Finally, the action plan makes a clear commitment for the Council to transition its fleet to electric vehicles.
- 5.8 The commitment to tackle and address these areas alongside other actions will enable the Council, based on current data sources, to reach a net zero carbon position by 2030.
- 5.9 Chesterfield area-based annual greenhouse gas emissions as referenced by Anthesis Group, Scatter tool 2019, currently stand at circa 567,536 tonnes CO₂e. Tackling Borough wide emissions is a challenging task requiring joint action by communities, businesses, all local authorities and other public sector organisations.
- 5.10 Figure 1 below sets out the pathway for Chesterfield to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 as identified by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, The University of Manchester. It highlights the positive downward historical trend since around 2012 and the significant reduction required in emissions across the Borough between 2020 and 2030. In addition, it highlights the significantly lower carbon and more resilient position of the Borough by 2040 to enable the net zero position to be achieved by 2050.

Figure 1. Chesterfield area CO2 emission pathway consistent with Paris Climate Change Agreement



5.11 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.

The Independent Committee on Climate Change, in its report 'Net Zero – The UK's contribution to stopping global warming' recognised the role of local authorities in tackling climate change ... *'Cities and local authorities are well placed to understand the needs and opportunities in their local area, although there are questions over whether they have sufficient resources to contribute strongly to reducing emissions.'*

In addition to our regulatory and strategic functions, the Council recognises its role as a community leader, major employer, landlord and large-scale procurer of goods and services. Whilst the other district / borough councils in Derbyshire are at different stages in their Climate Change journeys, the Leaders of all, including Chesterfield Borough Council, have recently agreed to come together with Derbyshire County Council to tackle climate change across Derbyshire.

- 5.12 In this regard, Derbyshire County Council has established an environment and climate change framework to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to levels which are consistent with allocated carbon budgets for Derbyshire and to reduce carbon emissions in Derbyshire to net zero by 2050. County strategies including those relating Low emission Vehicle Infrastructure, Local Transport Planning, Waste Management and Air Quality Management will help shape district and borough council activity at a local level.
- 5.13 The Council is committed to this collaborative and co-design approach with local authority partners to tackle climate change and to achieve net zero emissions across the borough and county geographies by 2050.
- 5.14 The Council is also committed to working with the Peak District National Park Authority with particular reference to growing opportunities for carbon capture.
- 5.15 Reductions in greenhouse gas emissions will only be achieved through co-ordinated and concerted effort from everyone, given the Councils' limited direct influence. Residents, the voluntary sector, businesses, public organisations, transport and agriculture sectors, amongst others, are all critical influencing agents and as such the climate change action plan has a significant focus on communication and engagement.

6.0 Human resources / people management implications

- 6.1 The Council's adoption of the Climate Change action plan necessitates the recruitment of an additional officer resource to co-ordinate the work of the Council. The new post holder will act as a local expert to help ensure the actions are integral to the way the Council's members and staff think and work from this point forward as opposed to the appointee just being responsible for delivery of the action plan.
- 6.2 It is critical that everyone within Chesterfield Borough Council takes ownership of the Climate Change action plan. The Council's corporate induction programme will be adapted to include climate change and we are currently exploring the relative merits of a range of learning and development opportunities to raise member and staff awareness and engage staff teams in the direct delivery of the action plan.
- 6.3 Plans are also well advanced with regards rolling out a staff communications and engagement plan across the Council so that all staff are able to fully understand and appreciate the individual roles that each can play through their own direct action as well as through partners, suppliers etc.
- 6.4 It is also proposed to introduce a new Climate Change implications section within all Council reports where key decisions are made to ensure that Climate Change features as a key consideration at all levels of Council decision making.
- 6.5 To support this work, it is proposed that meaningful and productive engagement takes place with the Trade Unions which represents the Council's staff through Employer and Trade Union meetings and Departmental Joint Consultative Committees. It is envisaged that the partnership agreement with the Trade Unions will directly support a positive approach to engaging and supporting staff utilising suitable opportunities such as the Just Transition framework.

7.0 Financial implications

- 7.1 The Council had already made a one-off commitment of £100,000 to kick start work on developing the action plan and to start to progress implementation of agreed actions. Based on the costs now identified in the action plan at Appendix A, it is recommended that the allocation be increased to £300,000 over a 3-year financial horizon to fund the new officer post and directly support implementation of the action plan. The Budget Risk Reserve currently has sufficient funds within it to enable the recommended allocation to be made in full.
- 7.2 Failure to invest this level of resource will significantly reduce the impact that full implementation of the action plan will have and consequently has the potential to jeopardise the Council's ability to achieve its net zero target by 2030. In addition, any failure to deliver at the Council level could adversely impact on the wider Borough and County net zero target date of 2050.

8.0 Risk management

- 8.1 The main risks associated with the proposals are shown in the table below:

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
The action plan is not delivered upon	High	Medium	The plan has been developed in consultation with members, officers and the wider Chesterfield borough community and as a result comprises actions that are reasonable and achievable. In	High	Low

			<p>addition, the Council intends to appoint a dedicated officer resource to champion delivery of the action plan which includes the development of a detailed communications and engagement plan given the requirement to engage all our communities.</p>		
<p>Specific areas of the plan are not delivered upon</p>	High	High	<p>The Council's performance management framework will be applied to ensure that the agreed actions are implemented to time and within budget. This will enable any actions where progress is not being made to be identified at an early stage and corrective measures taken. In addition, due to advances in technology during the timeframe of the action plan, alternative actions may come to replace those currently listed; which in turn will</p>	Medium	Low

			enable improved outputs and outcomes to be achieved.		
Resource is not allocated to support the delivery of the action plan	High	High	Full cost estimates have been applied to those actions that require additional resource and a budget of £300,000 allocated to support delivery of the Climate Change action plan over a 3-year financial horizon. Expenditure against this sum 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.	Medium	Low

9.0 Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion considerations

9.1 Equality, diversity and social inclusion issues formed a key part of our considerations when developing the 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. For example, there are a range of actions relating to improving thermal efficiency across different housing tenure types within the borough. This will improve the quality of housing but will have a particularly positive impact on low income groups by reducing energy bills and alleviating fuel poverty, but also for people with some disabilities or conditions which are exacerbated by housing issues such as damp and cold. The work to investigate improvements around integrated transport systems, in particular public transport, has the potential to reduce social isolation and increase access to key amenities across the borough and beyond.

- 9.2 As the Climate Change Action Plan actions are developed into projects and activities, individual equality impact assessments will be undertaken to maximise equality, diversity and social inclusion benefits and where necessary seek to mitigate any potential negative impacts.

10.0 Recommendations

- 10.1 That Members approve the proposed Climate Change action plan as detailed in Appendix A, to support the Council to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030, and Chesterfield Borough by 2050.
- 10.2 That a new post of Climate Change / Sustainability Officer be established.
- 10.3 That the Council allocates a sum of £100,000 per annum in each of the next 3 financial years to support the Council's work on Climate Change.
- 10.4 That the proposal for the Council to collaborate with the other district / borough councils in Derbyshire and Derbyshire County

Council as part of a county-wide approach to tackling Climate Change is supported as is further work with Nottingham City Council to better understand the carbon footprint of the Council and Chesterfield Borough.

- 10.5 That the Deputy Leader is given delegated authority in consultation with the Cabinet Member – Health and Wellbeing to approve action plan updates to ensure the plan remains current and relevant.

11.0 Reasons for recommendations

- 11.1 To ensure that the legislative requirement for net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 can be met.
- 11.2 To provide the Council with a realistic and costed approach to achieving its ambition to be a carbon neutral Council by 2030.
- 11.3 To ensure that the Council gives effect to the Notice of Motion passed at a meeting of full Council in July 2019 to enable Chesterfield to become a low carbon, resilient and sustainable borough.

Decision information

Key decision number	939
Wards affected	All wards
Links to Council Plan priorities	To improve the health and well-being of people in Chesterfield Borough.

Document information

Report author	Contact number/email
Ian Waller	01246 345337 ian.waller@chesterfield.gov.uk
Background documents	
These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.	
Just Transition https://www.tuc.org.uk/research-analysis/reports/just-transition-greener-fairer-economy	
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C', October 2018.	
Friends of the Earth document 'Climate action plan for councils.'	
Climate Change Act 2008.	
Queen's Speech December 2019.	
Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, The University of Manchester.	
Independent Committee on Climate Change - 'Net Zero – The UK's contribution to stopping global warming.'	
Derbyshire Environment and Climate Change Framework.	
Appendices to the report	
Appendix A	Climate Change Action Plan