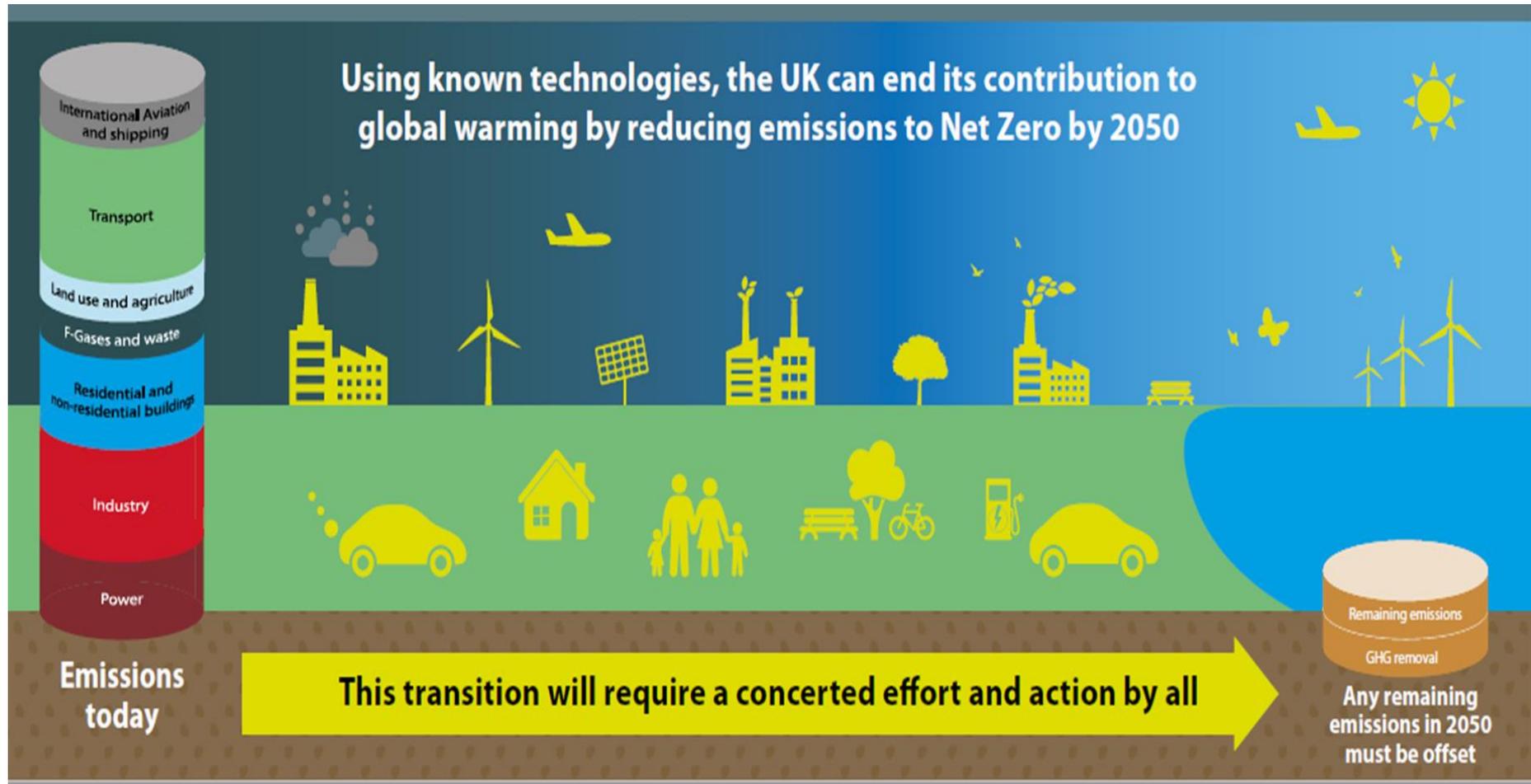


APPENDIX A

Climate Change Action Plan progress summary January 2021



Summary

RAG ratings

Of the 39 actions described in the Climate Change Action Plan adopted by Chesterfield Borough Council:

- **6** have been **completed** and currently require no additional work beyond maintenance.
- **26** are rated as **green** and are expected to be delivered as described
- **7** are rated as **amber** and are expected to be delivered however this may be later than originally anticipated (though still within the period covered by the action plan)
- **0** are rated **red** where severe obstacles or challenges exist which render the action impossible to deliver on time without significant intervention or modification
- **0** have been **removed** (rendered moot due to changes in policy or external factors).

Barriers / challenges January 2021

The Covid pandemic has had an impact on the work carried out to date given the unprecedented demands that this has placed on local government. This has reduced the capacity of many staff across the organisation as they deal with lockdown measures, challenges regarding changes to working locations / practices, and unexpected changes to working patterns. In spite of these challenges, progress on the actions in the climate change action plan has been positive.

The new Climate Change Officer has been employed (Climate Change Action Plan action number 39) and is currently operating on three days per week until April 2021 to enable them to write up their PhD thesis. Whilst original timescales were set on the basis of the role being occupied on a full time basis, the additional benefits the organisation will realise from the enhanced learning and academic achievements of the officer when the role moves to full time in April will be significant.

Housing & Buildings

Actions and deadline	Progress	RAG
<p>1. Invest in improving the thermal / energy efficiency of existing housing stock (3/2023).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £13.7M programme of improvement of CBC housing stock is under way. This is aimed at providing energy savings and affordable warmth for council tenants which will directly support tackling fuel poverty. • The average for the CBC stock is current SAP72 (Band C). This is above the national average of 62 (social housing 67, owner occupied 61, and private rented 60.) 	Green
<p>2. Review the existing home improvement offer to widen support for vulnerable / low income households (3/2021).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £500k Green Homes Grant has been secured, with a further application in for another £500k submitted January 2021. Work continues with neighbouring authorities to develop further funding requests to support this work. • A housing stock condition survey has been carried out and a new Private Sector Renewal Policy is in draft form ready to go to cabinet in March, which supports this programme. 	Green
<p>3. Refresh planning guidance in relation to raising environmental standards for house building locally (3/2021).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new Local Plan was adopted 09/2020 (to be reviewed in 2025) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This includes provision for EV charging, a higher water efficiency standard, biodiversity net gain, and a requirement for sustainability statement (CLP20 design) ○ Our ability to introduce specific new standards has been limited by legislation and national guidance (Deregulation Act and associated ministerial statements and withdrawal of Code for Sustainable Homes) 	Complete

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Higher energy efficiency and heating standards are to be addressed in Building Regulations through the Future Homes Standard 	
4. Identify a preferred environmental standard to deliver new social housing across the borough (3/2021).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We are working to commission a study identifying the range of possible environmental standards and their effect on building cost. This will enable us to balance the competing needs of numbers of houses, and their relative environmental performance. 	Green
5. Refresh asset management strategy to focus on its operational premises to be fuelled by clean technology (3/2022).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A new asset management strategy that covers the period up to-2023 is in draft form and includes sustainability and climate change as one of the main priorities. It is anticipated that this document will be finalised and approved during 2021, subject to capacity pressures resulting from Covid-19. ● Please note that whilst the formal strategy is currently not completed the principles within it regarding climate change and sustainability are being adopted as projects allow. 	Amber

Power & Electricity

Actions and deadline	Progress	RAG
6. Install LED lighting in all CBC premises (3/2023).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Light fittings in CBC buildings are being replaced with LED units at end of life. 	Green
7. Support the establishment of a local organisation to identify preferred energy providers to residents (3/2022).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A local organisation (dontdoadodo.com) is close to completing infrastructure development, ready to become operational for a pilot in Chesterfield during 2021 	Green
8. Switch to renewable electricity energy provider (3/2021).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CBC switched to a renewable energy supplier in April 2020 	Complete
9. Work with DCC to accelerate conversion of street lighting to LED and convert CBC external lighting to LED (3/2023).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External lights on CBC buildings are being replaced with LED units at end of life. Further discussion is required with DCC to better understand current lighting infrastructure and plans for conversion. 	Green
10. Investigate opportunities / sites for energy production from solar and wind (3/2022).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial discussions have taken place, including contact with two separate companies to assess the CBC buildings portfolio. Work on this is ongoing. 	Green

Transport

Actions and deadline	Progress	RAG
<p>11. New housing developments to be connected to the cycle / walking network (3/2021).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new Local Plan prioritises walking and cycling in the overall spatial strategy and in a range of specific policies throughout the Plan. • No specific threshold has been set (provision has instead been linked to impact of development). A minimum threshold would risk missing small developments that could make significant incremental improvements. • Preparation of Walking and Cycling SPD has been delayed due to resourcing constraints while responding to White Paper on Planning. This is expected by the end of 2021. 	Green
<p>12. Integrated transport assessment within the borough to inform transition to sustainable transport (3/2022).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Integrated transport assessment is underway and is building on the work developed in the Station Master Plan. 	Green
<p>13. Work with taxi and bus operators to support the move to electric vehicles in Chesterfield (3/2022).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement is ongoing, but one large taxi operator has already expressed an interest in switching to either electric or hydrogen powered vehicles. • CBC is working on a grant via the Onstreet Residential Chargepoint Scheme operated by the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV). This has a maximum value of £169,100 for further on street charge points. 	Green
<p>14. Develop and implement a policy to invest in electric fleet vehicles (3/2023).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on a CBC fleet needs assessment has been completed and is being refined in readiness for contract renewal. • We are working with Energy Saving Trust for a full fleet audit. 	Green

15. Raise with DCC and neighbouring districts options regarding local bus service regulation (3/2021).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No progress to date	Green
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Industry & Business

Actions and deadline	Progress	RAG
16. Engage with the LEP to ensure that climate change is assessed as part of decision making (Ongoing).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial discussions have taken place internally to identify mechanisms for influencing the decision-making priorities of the LEP. This (initially) is expected to be in the form of an outline business case for increased spending on new green projects and addressing the long-term sustainability of investments. 	Green
17. Work with local business organisations to support SMEs access to funds and expertise for reducing carbon emissions (3/2022).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial discussions have been had with Destination Chesterfield however further work to be undertaken on this. 	Green
18. Work with local business organisations to encourage sharing of best practice (3/2021).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial discussions have been had with Destination Chesterfield however further work to be undertaken on this by WR. 	Green
19. Work with local business organisations to develop a sustainability business awards (3/2022).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will be picked up during discussions under actions 17 and 18 which will inform options to fulfil going forward. 	Green
20. Work with local business to develop a sustainability mentoring programme (3/2022).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will be picked up during discussions under actions 17 and 18 which will inform options to fulfil going forward. 	Green

Land Use

Actions and deadline	Progress	RAG
<p>21. Undertake a full inventory of CBC owned land to identify how to maximise carbon capture (3/2021).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CCO has a strong background in this kind of work and is currently in the process of developing a brief to commission a study of CBC owned land with an assessment of potential carbon storage and capture. • A tree canopy cover assessment has been undertaken to better understand tree planting options across the Borough. • The quality / availability of GIS data map data showing CBC holdings is still not clear, and this is slowing delivery. • See action 23 and reference to the work with the Woodland Trust. 	Amber
<p>22. Work with DCC to transition to nature friendly road verges (3/2022)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ownership, management, and frequency of cutting of verges in the borough are variable. In urban areas the verges were cut 5 times in 2020 (down from 12 in 2017) and on rural highways 3 times per year (although this has been reduced where possible and many rural verges were only cut twice). • This change was partly due to restrictions to a non-essential service during the pandemic, but a minimum frequency of cutting was maintained to ensure adherence to the Highways Act 1980 and maintain clear lines of sight. Additional discussions about the rates of cutting during 2021 are taking place. 	Green

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important to note that a transition to nature friendly road verges is not automatic with reduced cutting and it takes a significant length of time (circa 10 years) for verges to reach their potential. 	
23. Implement a tree planting programme to deliver a minimum of 1,000 new additional trees per annum (3/2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CBC will be planting 3000 – 4000 trees in the 2020-2021 planting season. Policy CLP16 of Local Plan requires a measurable increase in the biodiversity net gain metric on all on all planning permissions for development, although there is potential for offsetting payments from development that can be used. CBC is currently working with the Woodland Trust regarding support for the Northern Forest and a strategic approach to tree planting. A meeting has been arranged with Chesterfield Climate Alliance (Jan 2021) – biodiversity subgroup to discuss opportunities to enhance biodiversity across the borough. 	Green
24. Use existing planning policy and supplementary planning guidance to ensure developers introduce more open / wild spaces in new developments (3/2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CBC is a key delivery partner for DWT rewilding funding which includes planting on CBC owned land as well as wider habitat management outcomes. Policy CLP16 of Local Plan requires a measurable increase in the biodiversity net gain metric on all planning permissions for development in advance of requirement in forthcoming Environment Act 	Green

Waste

Actions and deadline	Progress	RAG
25. Develop a sustainable trade waste policy (3/2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covid-19 pressures have impacted upon this area of work. However, a brief is currently being developed to inform commissioning support to develop the policy for domestic and trade waste and wider engagement with regards to community sharing. 	Amber
26. Develop a sustainable domestic waste policy (3/2021)		Amber
27. Support and promote a community sharing and reuse scheme (3/2021)		Amber
28. Co-produce sustainable waste management guide and education material with local schools (3/2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications work has been slowed (see action 29) but we are seeking to progress this as soon as possible to develop resources in collaboration with partners (including Plastic Free Chesterfield) 	Amber

Engagement

Actions and deadline	Progress	RAG
29. Develop and implement a comprehensive engagement and communication plan (10/2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consultation on the outline of the plan has taken place and has received a broadly positive reception. • The plan is currently being drafted and is expected to be released as an early draft for further comment in mid-January. • The final draft is expected to be released 1/2/21 – although this is a working document which will be edited as we go. • Slippage occurred on this action due to a substantial increase in the work carried out by the Communications team to support the Covid-19 local, regional and national response. • It should be noted that despite the pressures of Covid-19 the authority sought to build in climate change related communications wherever possible since the action plan was approved at Council in February 2020; included but not limited to shop local and disposable face coverings. 	Amber
30. Develop a suite of marketing / promotional material to support the plan (3/2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of these materials is to be informed by the communication and engagement strategy. • Materials will be developed as needed to support actions in other areas. 	Green
31. Use reduce, reuse, recycle in all communications in relation to climate change (Ongoing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This message is established and now embedded in relevant council communications. 	Complete

<p>32. Encourage the use of local labour, services, goods and sustainable food to support a low carbon economy (Ongoing)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CBC has a policy requiring Local Labour and Supply clauses on all planning permissions for new major development, this is continued in the newly adopted local plan (policy CLP6 Economic Growth).• This message is now embedded in our communications e.g. the shop-local campaign.	<p>Complete</p>
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Policy & General

Actions and deadline	Progress	RAG
33. Refresh CBC growth strategy to take account of climate change and sustainability (3/2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Chesterfield economic recovery plan was approved by Cabinet in July 2020 which includes several areas regarding sustainable recovery and climate change impacts. 	Green
34. Introduce climate change impact assessments for all reports where key decisions are made (7/2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports now have a mandatory section to identify impacts on (and of) climate change More detailed guidance is in development for a structured impact assessment 	Green
35. Commit to working on climate change with neighbouring Derbyshire authorities (Ongoing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D2 action planning meetings are taking place to coordinate work across the County. Includes representatives of all districts and Boroughs, DCC and organisations such as the University of Derby. It is notable the several other local government bodies have also advertised for climate change officers (including DCC and Derbyshire Dales District Council locally) which will further grow the collaborative capacity across the county. 	Green
36. Establish formal governance arrangements to enable the use of section 106 / CIL to fund sustainable initiatives and programmes (3/2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainability is considered through the planning application process that determines what S106 planning obligations may be required and CIL is directed in accordance with Local Plan policies that underwent Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). 	Complete

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The principle of use for CIL / Section 106 is to mitigate impact of development on infrastructure so there is frequent overlap with sustainability objectives, for example provision for walking, cycling, public transport and green infrastructure. • Mechanisms have been established for the allocation of the Neighbourhood portion of CIL. To date two rounds of CIL funding has been released, the most recent closing date being 31/12/2020 • Opportunity to review CIL expenditure through preparation of Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) by end of December 2021, to increase focus on sustainability benefits of expenditure. 	
37. Introduce new sustainable procurement conditions for suppliers (3/2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As discussed at the full council meeting (16/12/20) in the motion addressing single use plastic, a procurement review is in progress, and sustainability will be one of the considerations when assessing suppliers. 	Green
38. Lobby Central Government to provide resource and powers to effectively tackle climate change (Ongoing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter from the council was sent when the climate change emergency was declared, and a reply from Government has been received. • Current lobbying has focussed on support to help with Covid response. • New legislation (the environment bill 2020) is on its way through the system with regards to environmental targets and this will be an opportunity for further lobbying where appropriate. 	Green
39. Engage an additional dedicated officer time to work solely on the climate / sustainability agenda (10/2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new Climate Change Officer (Will Rolls) started on 19/10/2020 	Complete

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• He will be working part time temporarily until April 2021 when he will become full time.	
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