

APPENDIX 1: Climate Change Action Plan progress summary January 2021

Summary

RAG ratings

The actions outlined in the climate change action plan have been rated on a traffic light scale (red/amber/green) or RAG rating (as defined in the table below)

Rag rating definitions

Maintenance	Requiring no additional CCO time or budget beyond maintaining the current situation.
Green	Expected to be delivered as described
Amber	Expected to be delivered however this may be later than originally anticipated (though still within the period covered by the action plan)
Red	Severe obstacles or challenges exist which render the action impossible to deliver on time and on budget without significant intervention or modification
Removed	rendered moot due to changes in policy or external factors

Status

An overview of the current status of actions in the action plan is as shown in figures 1 and 2:

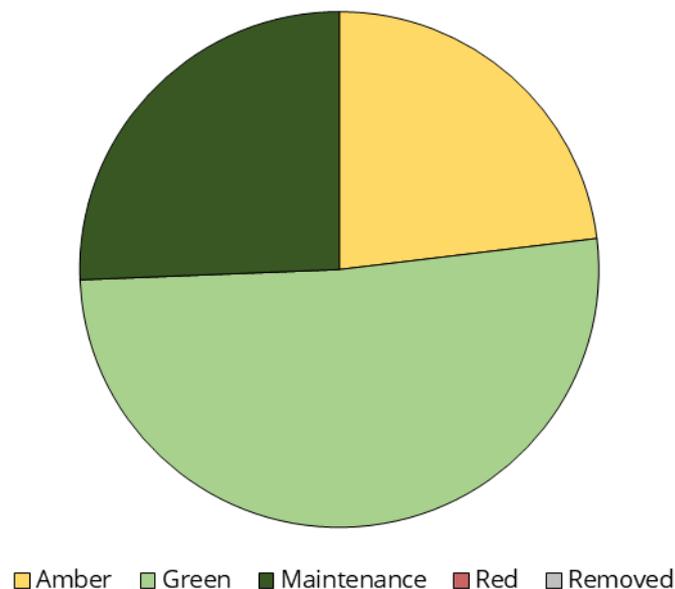


Figure 1. Current status of actions under the Climate Change Action Plan

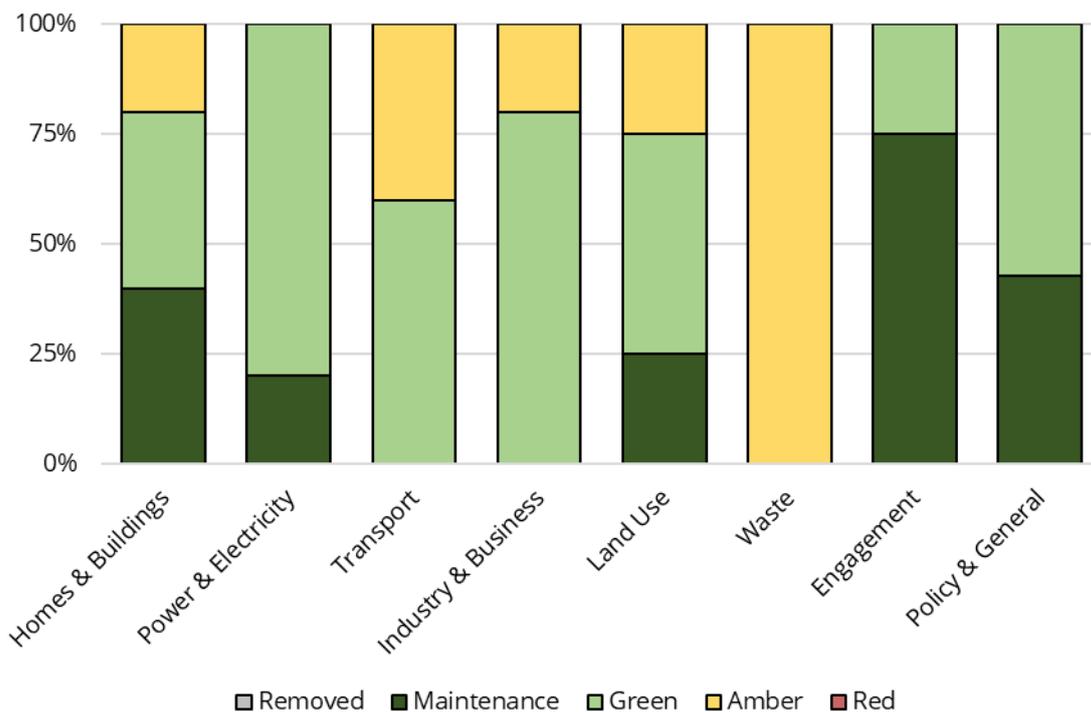


Figure 2. Current status of Action Plan delivery broken down by theme

Barriers / challenges March 2021

As described in the January report, the Covid pandemic has had a substantial impact on the work carried out to date given the 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. Despite these challenges, progress on the actions in the climate change action plan has been positive.

The Climate Change Officer is currently operating on three days per week until April 2021 to enable him to write up his PhD thesis. While 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. Some slippage is expected as a result of this change in working pattern.

Housing & Buildings

Action	1. Invest in improving the thermal / energy efficiency of existing housing stock
Deadline	End of March 2023
Rating	Green
Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A £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.) 	
Activity since last report	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of improvements is ongoing 	

Action	2. Review the existing home improvement offer to widen support for vulnerable / low income households
Deadline	End of March 2021
Rating	Maintenance (up from green in the last report)
Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We were one of only 52 local authorities to successfully apply for funding under the Green Homes Grant of which £500k has been secured under part 1a of the scheme. 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. 	
Activity since last report	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An additional £500k has been successfully bid for under Green Homes Grant scheme 1b, and a further £485k has been released under Green Homes Grant scheme 2. That puts us at approximately 1.5 Million to improve the energy rating of private rented sector and privately owned homes with energy ratings of D or below. • Future work will be carried out to deliver these improvements, but the work to review the current offer has taken place. 	

Action	3. Refresh planning guidance in relation to raising environmental standards for house building locally
Deadline	End of March 2021
Rating	Maintenance
Status	
<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). Higher energy efficiency and heating standards are to be addressed in Building Regulations through the Future Homes Standard 	
Activity since last report	
Nothing new to report	
Action	4. Identify a preferred environmental standard to deliver new social housing across the borough
Deadline	End of March 2021
Rating	Amber (down from green in the last report)
Status	
<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. 	
Activity since last report	
Work is ongoing, but time constraints have slowed delivery.	
Action	5. Refresh asset management strategy to focus on its operational premises to be fuelled by clean technology.
Deadline	End of March 2022
Rating	Green (up from amber in the last report)
Status	
<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.

Activity since last report

Work is ongoing, but constraints of time for the climate change officer and asset management team is presenting a barrier.

Power & Electricity

Action	6. Install LED lighting in all CBC premises.
Deadline	End of March 2023
Rating	Green
Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Light fittings in all buildings for which CBC have direct operational responsibility are being replaced with LED units at end of life. 	
Activity since last report	
Delivery is ongoing	
Action	7. Support the establishment of a local organisation to identify preferred energy providers to residents.
Deadline	End of March 2022
Rating	Green
Status	
<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 	
Activity since last report	
Delivery is ongoing	
Action	8. Switch to renewable electricity energy provider.
Deadline	End of March 2021
Rating	Maintenance
Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CBC switched to a renewable energy supplier in April 2020 for all energy purchases (electricity and gas) 	
Activity since last report	
The energy contract has been renewed, and prices are substantially (circa 25%) lower than last year.	

Action	9. Work with DCC to accelerate conversion of street lighting to LED and convert CBC external lighting to LED.
Deadline	End of March 2023
Rating	Green
Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External lights on CBC buildings are being replaced with LED units at end of life.
Activity since last report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCC report that they are in the process of switching all streetlights, illuminated signs, bus shelters, and traffic signals to LED operation. This has resulted in a saving of approximately 15.7 GWh of electricity per year since 2015 (around 11,700 tonnes of CO₂ emitted annually). Currently about 88% of streetlights have been converted to LED across Derbyshire. We are not able to provide a figure for Chesterfield because DCC has not been collating the data by borough.
Action	10. Investigate opportunities / sites for energy production from solar and wind
Deadline	End of March 2022
Rating	Green
Status	<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.
Activity since last report	Delivery is ongoing.

Transport

Action	11. New housing developments to be connected to the cycle / walking network
Deadline	End of March 2021
Rating	Amber (down from green in the last reporting period)
Status <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. 	
Activity since last report 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.	
Action	12. Integrated transport assessment within the borough to inform transition to sustainable transport
Deadline	End of March 2022
Rating	Green
Status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Integrated transport assessment is underway and is building on the work developed in the Station Master Plan. For clarity: this is not confined to the station master plan. As described at the meeting, the station master plan is being expanded and developed into a new borough-wide transport assessment. 	
Activity since last report Delivery is ongoing.	
Action	13. Work with taxi and bus operators to support the move to electric vehicles in Chesterfield.
Deadline	End of March 2022
Rating	Green
Status <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. 	

Activity since last report

Further engagement is being facilitated via Destination Chesterfield, and work by the CBC environmental health team.

It should be noted that while this action remains green, the private sector has suffered significant disruption over the last year, and engagement efforts are likely to suffer as a result. It is too early to tell, but this action may slip into amber in future reports.

Action	14. Develop and implement a policy to invest in electric fleet vehicles
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Deadline	End of March 2023
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Rating	Green
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Status

- Work on a CBC fleet needs assessment has been completed and is being refined in readiness for contract renewal (in 2023).
- We are working with Energy Saving Trust for a full fleet audit.

Activity since last report

Delivery is ongoing. A trial of electric bicycles for use by CBC staff in place of fossil-fuelled powered vehicles for work travel is being developed.

Action	15. Raise with DCC and neighbouring districts options regarding local bus service regulation.
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Deadline	End of March 2021
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Rating	Amber (down from green in the last reporting period)
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Status

- No progress to date

Activity since last report

Delivery is ongoing.

Industry & Business

Action	16. Engage with the LEP to ensure that climate change is assessed as part of decision making.
Deadline	Ongoing
Rating	Green
Status	
<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. 	
Activity since last report	
Delivery is ongoing.	
Action	17. Work with local business organisations to support SMEs access to funds and expertise for reducing carbon emissions.
Deadline	End of March 2022
Rating	Green
Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial discussions have been had with Destination Chesterfield however further work to be undertaken on this. 	
Activity since last report	
It should be noted that while this action remains green, the private sector has suffered significant disruption over the last year, and engagement efforts are likely to suffer as a result. It is too early to tell, but this action may slip into amber in future reports.	
Action	18. Work with local business organisations to encourage sharing of best practice
Deadline	End of March 2021
Rating	Amber (down from green in last report)
Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial discussions have been had with Destination Chesterfield however further work to be undertaken on this. 	
Activity since last report	
The private sector has suffered significant disruption over the last year, and this is having a substantial impact on our efforts to engage. Work is taking place in partnership with Destination Chesterfield, but it is progressing at a slower speed than we would like.	

Action	19. Work with local business organisations to develop a sustainability business awards
Deadline	End of March 2022
Rating	Green
Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial discussions have been had with Destination Chesterfield. 	
Activity since last report	
Destination Chesterfield are including a sustainability category within their Love Chesterfield awards in Autumn 2021. Discussions are due to take place about how this will be judged.	
Action	20. Work with local business to develop a sustainability mentoring programme
Deadline	End of March 2022
Rating	Green
Status	
<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. 	
Activity since last report	
Work is ongoing.	

Land Use

Action	21. Undertake a full inventory of CBC owned land to identify how to maximise carbon capture.
Deadline	End of March 2021
Rating	Amber
<p>Status</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. 	
<p>Activity since last report</p> <p>A preliminary tree canopy assessment found an average canopy cover in the borough of 16.3%. This is greater than the national mean for urban areas (15.8%) which is likely to reflect the rural nature of much of the borough. A more detailed survey is planned which will assess this in more detail using the i-Tree tool.</p> <p>Work is progressing with partners to begin to develop a full trees and woodland strategy – this will incorporate (and to some extent supersede) the work on CBC carbon storage, and also incorporate work on biodiversity mapping and other natural capital in the borough. This is a substantial piece of work, and is expected to take place during the summer of 2021.</p>	
Action	22. Work with DCC to transition to nature friendly road verges
Deadline	End of March 2022
Rating	Green
<p>Status</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. • 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. 	
<p>Activity since last report</p>	

Work is ongoing, but this activity has low priority at this time of year.

Action	23. Implement a tree planting programme to deliver a minimum of 1,000 new additional trees per annum
Deadline	End of March 2023
Rating	Green
<p>Status</p> <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. 	
<p>Activity since last report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBC is currently working with the Woodland Trust, Derbyshire Wildlife trust and other partners to develop a comprehensive woods and trees strategy to support our own tree planting, and inform planning going forward. • A meeting was held with the Chesterfield Climate Alliance biodiversity subgroup to discuss opportunities to enhance biodiversity across the borough. This was positive and CCA are conducting a skills audit to allow better collaborative working. • The green spaces team are investigating the possibility of developing a tree wardens scheme to encourage local communities to take a more active role in managing their local area. 	
Action	24. Use existing planning policy and supplementary planning guidance to ensure developers introduce more open / wild spaces in new developments.
Deadline	End of March 2021
Rating	Maintenance (up from green in the last report)
<p>Status</p> <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 	
<p>Activity since last report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBC is currently working with the Woodland Trust, Derbyshire Wildlife trust and other partners to develop a comprehensive woods and trees strategy to support our own tree planting, and inform planning going forward. • CBC is also working with DWT to develop a nature network recovery map. This will further inform planning decisions net biodiversity gain requirement in terms of the type and extent of habitat required, and its preferred location. 	

Waste

Action	25. Develop a sustainable trade waste policy 26. Develop a sustainable domestic waste policy
Deadline	End of March 2021
Rating	Amber
Status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid-19 pressures have impacted upon this area of work. However new developments in the waste management team mean that we can handle much of this work in-house. 	
Activity since last report Significant changes have taken place since the last report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBC has terminated our contract for domestic recycling and re-issued it on a temporary basis before a fresh tendering exercise. • The waste team now has an additional member of staff, who will be drafting both of these documents as part of his role. This will inform the new tendering exercise going forward. 	
Action	27. Support and promote a community sharing and reuse scheme
Deadline	End of March 2021
Rating	Amber
Status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid-19 pressures have impacted upon this area of work. However, work is underway to develop wider engagement with regards to community sharing and reuse. 	
Activity since last report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is ongoing, but the current objective is development of a bicycle library with local partners • Further work for this action will be defined by the strategies developed under actions 25 and 26. 	

Action	28. Co-produce sustainable waste management guide and education material with local schools
Deadline	End of March 2021
Rating	Amber
	<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)
	<p>Activity since last report</p> <p>Work under this action is ongoing and has been severely curtailed for a number of reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of this work was expected to take place under the local democracy for schools programme which has been suspended due to Covid. • Development of the partnership with plastic free Chesterfield caused us to reconsider our delivery mechanism • Schools have been closed for significant periods of time over the last year and are more concerned with ensuring that children remain safe, and learn the basics, rather than engaging in any extracurricular activity. <p>This item has been discussed with plastic free Chesterfield as a possible collaborative project and is expected to be implemented when possible given the wider constraints. It is possible that this action will be superseded, but much of this will need to be informed by the new waste strategy development.</p>

Engagement

Action	29. Develop and implement a comprehensive engagement and communication plan
Deadline	End of October 2020
Rating	Maintenance (up from amber in the last report)
Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A working draft of the document is included with this report. 	
Activity since last report	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A second round of consultation has taken place, and a working draft of a communications and engagement strategy is in use (attached). • A draft communications plan is being developed for the period 04/2021 - 03/2022 • We have negotiated further support for development of the climate change area of the website • A stakeholder mapping exercise is taking place. • An outline document suggesting a working arrangement between officer and councillors for local two-way engagement on climate change issues is being drafted. • Carbon literacy training for councillors is being identified and should be available after Covid restrictions are lifted. 	
Action	30. Develop a suite of marketing / promotional material to support the plan
Deadline	End of March 2023
Rating	Green
Status	
<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. • New publicity and branding materials are in development. 	
Activity since last report	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is taking place to develop visuals and branding for the campaign and a local design company has been appointed to develop materials. 	
Action	31. Use reduce, reuse, recycle in all communications in relation to climate change
Deadline	Ongoing
Rating	Maintenance
Status	

- This message is established and now embedded in relevant council communications.

Activity since last report

Work is ongoing

Action	32. Encourage the use of local labour, services, goods and sustainable food to support a low carbon economy
Deadline	Ongoing
Rating	Maintenance
Status	<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.
Activity since last report	Work is ongoing

Policy & general

Action	33. Refresh CBC growth strategy to take account of climate change and sustainability
Deadline	End of March 2021
Rating	Maintenance (up from green in the last report)
Status <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. 	
Activity since last report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is ongoing. 	
Action	34. Introduce climate change impact assessments for all reports where key decisions are made
Deadline	End of July 2020
Rating	Green
Status <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 	
Activity since last report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A tool is being developed to aid officers and teams in providing meaningful summaries of climate change impact. This will be an excel-based form which generates an index of impact score and a small graphic to provide an at a glance indication of impact which can be added to reports and projects. This is expected to be available within the next six weeks. 	
Action	35. Commit to working on climate change with neighbouring Derbyshire authorities
Deadline	Ongoing
Rating	Green
Status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A range of partnership meetings are taking place with other local authorities in the D2N2 region. Climate change officers (and equivalents) in local authorities within Derbyshire are already working to share information and best practice 	
Activity since last report	

- CCOs are developing a regular set of meetings to provide mutual support across Derbyshire.
- While it is not yet finalised, a skill sharing arrangement at county level is being discussed. Many of the CCOs are specialists in specific areas of climate change and have the skills necessary to develop plans over wider areas. This has a similar workload overhead to management of a project for a single area and will allow a more effective use of resources – staff time having been identified as a common limitation.

Action	36. Establish formal governance arrangements to enable the use of section 106 / CIL to fund sustainable initiatives and programmes (3/2021)
Deadline	End of March 2021
Rating	Maintenance
<p>Status</p> <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). • 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. 	
<p>Activity since last report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is ongoing, but a recent example is funding for Plastic Free Chesterfield to hold an event during the summer 	
Action	37. Introduce new sustainable procurement conditions for suppliers
Deadline	End of March 2021
Rating	Green
<p>Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As discussed at the full council meeting (16/12/20) in the motion addressing single use plastic, work is taking place to switch to a new procurement system. This should allow us to better identify the sustainability of our supply chains, and switch to more sustainable alternatives. • Sustainability and environmental criteria are an established part of our tendering process. 	
<p>Activity since last report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is ongoing. 	

Action	38. Lobby Central Government to provide resource and powers to effectively tackle climate change
Deadline	Ongoing
Rating	Green
Status	
<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. • The UNFCCC conference of parties is due to be held in the UK this year. This will provide a further opportunity to influence government. 	
Activity since last report	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is ongoing. 	
Action	39. Engage an additional dedicated officer time to work solely on the climate / sustainability agenda
Deadline	End of October 2020
Rating	Maintenance
Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officer is in post, and will move to full-time in April 2021 	
Activity since last report	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is ongoing. 	