

General comments

“Complete” items

It is possible that there has been a misunderstanding of the use of the term “complete”. In the report this was used to indicate projects which were in place, operating, and required no additional resource – either time or funding – other than for maintenance (as stated in appendix A page 2). It was not intended to indicate that no further action would take place, simply that no further action under the CCAP is currently required to keep them running. Alternative wording will be considered.

Climate Change Action Plan content

A number of points were raised in terms of alterations or additions to the actions to be delivered against the action plan. The plan is being implemented as adopted by the council on the 25th of February 2020 following extensive work with the Climate Change Working Group. This plan lasts until March 2023 but we will be working with a range of stakeholders (including members) to develop the plan for the period April 2023 to March 2027. This new plan will be signed off at Full Council in February 2023, however if there are urgent items that need to be considered for inclusion prior to this date the Deputy Leader has some delegated authority to approve updates to current actions within the plan.

Climate Change Working Group

The role of the Climate Change Working Group was to inform policy development in relation to CBC developing an action plan. This activity is now complete - in that the plan has been adopted. The group’s current terms of reference do not include a scrutiny role, this is carried out by the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny arrangements. We recognise that the issue of climate change is of great importance to many people, and we welcome constructive criticism, suggestions, and dialogue – which we intend to continue under the new communications and engagement plan implementation. Discussions are taking place over what form the group should take next (possibly involving a substantial change in terms of reference, and membership) or whether it should be disbanded having served its function.

Specific points

Question / point	Response
<p>We have spoken about a Councillors action plan and what this could mean for each ward. Certainly to give a specific example we could seek to ensure that there were say at least 50 trees planted by each councillor in each ward and this involve and enable activity, this applies wider and can be beyond simply being a foot note in the communications plan. In this context it would be possible for each councillor or ward to draw up their own targets for environmental initiatives that moved beyond the</p>	<p>Developing the relationship with councillors to identify new projects, join-up existing opportunities, networks, and groups is a key aspect of how we intend to implement the new comms and engagement strategy. Further activity has taken place on this point and will be reported at the March committee meeting.</p> <p>As described in the report, we are on target to plant 3,000 trees this planting season on selected sites. If councillors wish to suggest alternative planting sites,</p>

<p>carbon capture but was part of the wider agenda for sustainability.</p>	<p>or other projects within their wards, then we would be glad to discuss them.</p>
<p>Action 3.</p> <p>Are the commitments in the new Local Plan materially different - does this mean we have taken a step change. If we check back to the Local Plan will we consider them to be tough and enforceable enough or are they simple as strong as we are currently allowed under legislation. Given lobbying is an action in and of itself it seems odd that we didn't want to go better and further, and that we have regarded this action as "complete".</p> <p>There is no mention of solar panels in the progress report - is that deliberate and intentional?</p>	<p>In respect of the action: To refresh planning guidance in relation to environmental standards. This action is complete – having been included in the new local plan (September 2020).</p> <p>For the reasons outlined in the report and in the meeting – we have limited scope to address a number of sustainability requirements through the existing planning process without action from central government. This includes PV panels.</p>
<p>Action 4.</p> <p>The progress makes reference to "possible environmental standards and their effect on building cost". This seems to hint solely at price when in fact in the discussions of the Climate Change Working Group there was a direct desire articulate to reflect the true cost to the planet and not just the cost and this the essential need to do things and the need to subsist for affordable housing to be achievable and provided. Has this point about the cost to the planet been now set aside?</p>	<p>To be clear, we are assessing the balance between housing provision, budgetary constraints, and house specification. We are working to provide the highest specification we can within budget, while meeting our obligations.</p>
<p>Action 6</p> <p>The progress says "in CBC buildings" does this mean all CBC owned or just CBC used? Has for example the Bowls Club in Beetwell street agreed to change to LED?</p>	<p>All buildings for which we have direct operational responsibility e.g. the Town Hall, Stonegravels depot etc. or retain the direct overall day to day management of e.g. Tipton Innovation Centre.</p>
<p>Action 8.</p> <p>CBC switched - this is the same as immediately above - does it relate to buildings we use for our own staff or all buildings we own.</p>	<p>We have switched the supply contract, so this relates to all buildings where we pay for gas and/or electricity.</p>
<p>Action 9.</p>	<p>Firstly, the completion date is the end of March (as the end of the financial year) which was actually seven weeks from the date of the question, and</p>

<p>This doesn't appear to have progressed with regards to DCC and is perhaps one of the best examples where the traffic lighting is misleading. In fact we are, in this report no wiser as to progress and yet it is flagged as GREEN and therefore expected to be delivered as described. In truth we appear not to know and the colour coding is optimistic at best.</p>	<p>nearly ten from when the report was presented to the committee (21/01/21).</p> <p>DCC 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 78,175 streetlights of a total of 88,902 (about 88%) have been converted to LED across Derbyshire. DCC does not disaggregate the figures by borough.</p> <p>All CBC external light fittings are being replaced with LED units as they are replaced as described under action 6</p>
<p>Action 12.</p> <p>The progress on the Integrated Transport Assessment is not just the Station Master Plan but should also be Staveley and Walton for example as is a huge piece of work about getting people out of cars and into buses and only bikes and shared car use. To suggest that this is on course for 2022 completion based just on the Station Master Plan is stretching things at best and misleading at worst.</p> <p>Further this does not reflect that the Borough has in Chesterfield a bespoke coach station that does not fall within the Station Master Plan.</p>	<p>The action 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.</p>
<p>Action 13.</p> <p>There are a number of taxi and bus operators within the Borough - to suggest that this is going to be achieved by 2022 (next year) based on one operator who has expressed an interest is stretching things considerably.</p> <p>Regarding the onstreet residential chargepoint scheme there was considerable debate in the working group and an urging that priority was given to Council owned estates within the town and Borough. It is unclear whether this has been retained in the plan.</p>	<p>The action is to work with transport operators, not to complete a transition. We have had productive discussions with one company, and we are pursuing another route via Destination Chesterfield to engage with others.</p> <p>On street EV charge points are not included in the plan specifically, but we have been able to attract funding to increase the number of charge points via the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles. This is in addition to working towards CCAP actions</p>

<p>Action 15.</p> <p>To suggest that this is a green assessment when there is “No progress to date” does rather make a mockery of the desire to make a step change in tackling the climate emergency and the completion date is two weeks away.</p>	<p>As previously stated, the completion date is the end of March, and the committee meeting was on the 21st of January.</p>
<p>Action 18.</p> <p>To suggest that working with local business organisations is on course for completion in two weeks when in fact only “initial discussions” have been had with Destination Chesterfield. Further this does not reflect that there are many local business organisations and some of those are not within the orbit of DesChes and that there is currently no progress on picking those up regarding this agenda.</p>	<p>As previously stated, the completion date is the end of March, and the committee meeting was on the 21st of January.</p> <p>As you will be aware, businesses are facing considerable hardships. In-depth communication during the pandemic has been difficult. We are working with Destination Chesterfield, but this does not preclude engagement with other trade / business bodies.</p>
<p>Action 21.</p> <p>There was an understanding that this would be manageable within our control and achievable as we unusually have 2 country parks. Further, there was a working assumption based on the composition of the working group and also on the recommendations and discussion that the carbon capture of CBC land would be aided by the existence of Chatsworth land. This appears to be lacking in the Progress Report.</p>	<p>While we are open to working with the Devonshire Group, the commitment made under the CCAP was to do an assessment of CBC land.</p> <p>As discussed at the committee meeting on the 21st of January, the Climate Change Officer’s time has been limited, and the original work programme was designed based on a full-time post (not 0.6 FTE). Further slippage has occurred due to a lack of compatible GIS data to allow external consultants to conduct research. Further development has taken place on this, which will be reported at the March committee meeting.</p>
<p>Action 23.</p> <p>When the working group pushed for the annual target of tree planting to be higher than just 1,000 per year this was not placed in the final plan. But the planting of 3-4,000 In 2020-21 should not be seen as the commitment for the next 3-4 years. This should mean that in future years at least an additional 1,000 trees should be planted.</p> <p>Further, this report progress makes no mention of the point was made consistently that it would be net planting - ie it would account for the trees that had come down due to development and sale of land. This is now absent from this report.</p>	<p>We have exceeded our target for the 20/21 planting season. This does not imply that we will not also be planting during the 21/22 and 22/23 seasons as well (with a reasonable expectation of also exceeding those planting targets).</p> <p>The CCAP voted on by full council makes no mention of increasing net canopy cover, simply a flat rate of 1000 trees per year. It should be noted that we do not have the authority to prevent the felling of trees when it is carried out legally (as per the Forestry Act 1967). This includes trees in gardens, on the highways and railways, where planning permission is granted, or where a felling licence is issued by the Forestry Commission. Planning applications now</p>

	<p>have a requirement of net biodiversity gain to be granted consent. This does not always mean tree planting (but is likely to in many cases where trees have been felled).</p>
<p>Actions 25., 26. And 27.</p> <p>Worse than progressing it now clear from reports to Scrutiny that recycling rebates have regressed and that we are falling further behind other local authorities.</p>	<p>The last figures available (2019) show that CBC has an average recycling rate for local authorities in the UK. It seems likely that the rates decreased during 2020 because of the widespread use of Covid PPE and changes in working locations. This does not mean that we should not be working to improve the rate of recycling in the borough. Members will be aware that we have (at the time of the January meeting) some substantial difficulties with domestic recycling collection. This matter is being addressed and is included in the most recent report.</p>
<p>Action 29.</p> <p>Despite verbal commitments this fails to acknowledge the existence of councillors as means of embedding these other pledges and actions. Further given t(e significance of the time risk of 12 years to tackle our carbon responsibility this should now be given the utmost priority.</p> <p>We have suggested that there should be ward and councillor compacts to help deliver on these actions are a more localised level.</p>	<p>While work specifically with and through councillors was not explicitly stated in the report, we are happy to confirm that this is one of our priorities in implementing the comms and engagement plan. Councillors are often thoroughly embedded in the communities which they represent and are already engaged with groups, local issues, and communities. This connection to the community is valuable, both in terms of informing us of projects which would make a big difference locally, but also in terms of disseminating information about climate change as an issue.</p> <p>Further work has taken place on this – which is included in the more recent report.</p>
<p>Action 31.</p> <p>Given this pledge is ongoing it is curious to note that it is complete and again reflects the narrow lens within which this has been scripted. Does it apply to all communications with all partners or just within council controlled and produced communications. Are Property Services for example looking for the measures detailed within the report to be adopted by all tenants of our property and how does that impact on retail tenants in our high streets?</p> <p>To sign this off as complete shows a lack of appreciation of the step change we expected when</p>	<p>The activity as specified in the CCAP was to embed the Reduce Reuse Recycle message into our communications. This has been adopted by the comms team and as such (using the definition described above) has been marked as complete. This is because communications efforts are underway and will continue without further input. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, is one of a number of messages which will be embedded as part of the wider comms and engagement work and promotion / marketing.</p>

<p>councillors who voted for the declaration of a climate emergency.</p>	
<p>Action 32.</p> <p>The assertion that this is complete is neither credible nor believable. There are too many examples where this has not and is not happening and it was deliberately marked by the Working Group as ongoing to ensure that there was no let-up to this commitment.</p>	<p>The activity as specified in the CCAP was to encourage the use of local labour, services, goods, and sustainable food.</p> <p>CBC has a policy requiring Local Labour and Supply clauses on all planning permissions for new major developments, this is continued in the newly adopted local plan (policy CLP6 Economic Growth).</p> <p>This message has also been adopted by the comms team and as such (using the definition described above) has been marked as complete. This is because communications efforts are underway and will continue without further input. Shop local (and messages around sustainable consumption) are one of a number of messages which will be embedded as part of the wider comms and engagement work and promotion / marketing.</p>
<p>Action 34.</p> <p>Analysing the reports that have come through thus far, it appears that far from being an assessment of the proposal it is becoming a tick box that the team who have compiled the report ensure is ticked. There is a real opportunity here to stretch and achieve and this should be seized with assessment being undertaken by the staff in the climate change team - perhaps working with the compilers of each report.</p>	<p>Further guidance and an assessment tool is being developed with reference to a number of other authorities who have already developed similar reporting frameworks (principally: Cornwall County Council, Stroud District Council, and Leeds City Council). Support is available from the climate change officer if teams are unsure about the impacts of their decisions.</p> <p>The principle of including a climate impact assessment with every report gives members an opportunity to scrutinise the decisions made with reference to climate change and consider the impacts of decisions. If reporting is insufficient, then it is the role of councillors to highlight this and request clarification</p>