

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

Meeting:	Deputy Leader
Date:	14 July, 2021
Cabinet portfolio:	Deputy Leader
Directorate:	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
---	--------	--------	---	-----	-----

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

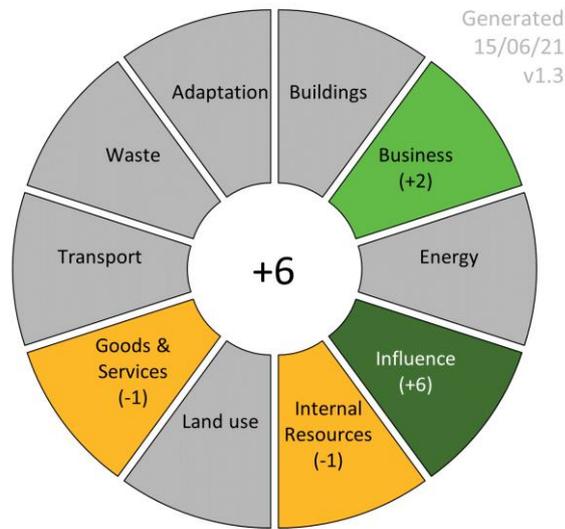
12.1 The new actions under the climate change action plan have a direct impact on the skills of both elected members and CBC officers through a commitment to extended training on climate change.

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

Key decision number	Non-key decision
Wards affected	All

Document information

Report author
Will Rolls – Climate Change Officer
Background documents
These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.
None
Appendices to the report
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