

Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee

Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy (2022-2025)

Date:	4 April 2022
Key ambition area:	Live and work sustainably
Sponsors:	Cllr Kevin Buttery – Amber Valley Borough Council Lee Hickin – North East Derbyshire District Council
For publication:	Yes

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To provide an update on the development of the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy (2022-2025) and seek endorsement for publication and delivery of the Strategy by Derbyshire’s county, district and borough councils.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Joint Committee endorses publication and delivery of the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy (2022-2025).

3.0 Reason for recommendations

- 3.1 To enable the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy to be delivered and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the county.

4.0 Report details

Overview

- 4.1 Within Vision Derbyshire there are four key workstreams, one of which is ‘Live and Work Sustainably’ with an objective of embedding sustainable and green strategic spatial planning Derbyshire-wide, including for housing and transport.
- 4.2 Two Vision Derbyshire Officers Groups have been established to drive forward work under the Live and Work Sustainably workstream:

- Climate Change Officers Group: With an aim to develop and deliver collaborative climate change projects and activities (e.g. behaviour change, domestic retrofitting)
 - Climate Change and Planning Officers Group: With an aim to develop a shared approach to planning policies to support climate change
- 4.3 Councils across Derbyshire are all taking action to tackle climate change, through reducing emissions from their own estates and operations, and playing their role in reducing county-wide emissions. However, with the increasing need to accelerate action on tackling climate change, the development and adoption of a joint climate change strategy has been identified by the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Officers Group as an opportunity to establish common ambitions and priorities, foster collaboration and resource sharing, and provide consistency in delivery.
- 4.4 As such, the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Officers Group has led the development of a joint Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy (2022-2025) to set out what needs to be done to reduce emissions across the county to net zero by 2050, or sooner, and how Derbyshire’s councils will work to achieve this through a series of ambitions and priorities, supported by an action plan. The Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Officers Group includes representatives from the county council and all eight Derbyshire district and borough councils.

Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy (2022 – 2025)

- 4.5 The proposed Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy (2022-2025) can be found in Appendix 1. It is not intended to replace individual councils existing climate change strategies and plans, instead it will complement these and set out key common areas of collaboration.
- 4.6 The Strategy focuses principally on what Derbyshire’s councils can do about the county-wide emissions that they have direct control or influence over, but also considers wider opportunities where councils can encourage, promote and facilitate action by others – including central government as well as businesses, communities and individuals across the county.
- 4.7 The Strategy has the following structure:
- **Introduction** – Sets out the wider context in which the Strategy sits, its purpose and scope, and why the Strategy is needed.
 - **Existing Strategies and Collaboration** – Provides a summary of the ways in which Derbyshire’s councils have already been working together to develop joint strategies to tackle climate change and wider sustainability issues at county and

regional levels. It also outlines the existing strategies and action plans to tackle climate change that have been developed at the county, district and borough levels.

- **Delivering the Strategy** – Sets out the importance of councils across Derbyshire working together to deliver projects and initiatives that align with and achieve the Strategy’s visions and priorities, and how this will be achieved.
- **Derbyshire’s Emissions** – Provides a summary of Derbyshire’s annual carbon emissions and their sources.
- **Strategic Vision and Priorities** – Sets out the strategic vision for net zero and a set of common priorities under five key themes:
 - Local Authority Estate, Operations and Services
 - Strengthening the Low Carbon Economy
 - Decarbonising Derbyshire's Housing
 - Sustainable Transport, Travel and Infrastructure
 - Waste and Resources
- **Carbon Offsetting and Sequestration** – Provides an overview of action that may be taken to help offset the remaining residual emissions to enable Derbyshire to be a net zero county by 2050.
- **Communication and Engagement** – Sets out the importance of Derbyshire’s councils working jointly with the county’s residents, businesses, academic, public, community and voluntary sectors to achieve the net zero ambitions.
- **Monitoring, Review and Reporting** – Sets out the monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements needed to deliver the Strategy successfully and effectively.

4.8 The Strategy covers the period 2022 to 2025 and will be supported by a live action plan, which is currently in development by the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Officers Group.

4.9 The action plan will set out the priority areas of collaborative working and projects. The action plan will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis by the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Officers Group to ensure that the councils are continuing to focus on and develop the appropriate climate actions necessary to achieve the net zero targets in collaboration with other partners, stakeholders, and community members, and to respond to future technological and policy developments.

4.10 As well as reducing emissions across Derbyshire, delivery of the Strategy will help to address the wider key issues facing society, including improving and future-proofing homes, businesses, infrastructure and transport, reversing the decline in biodiversity,

promoting community health and wellbeing, and the facilitation of a sustainable and robust low carbon economy.

Strategy Delivery and Governance

4.11 The delivery of the Strategy and the overarching collaborative approach to reducing emissions across the county will have implications for all Derbyshire councils and will require clear decision-making processes. As such, a Vision Derbyshire climate change governance and delivery structure has been established. This structure is shown in Figure 1.

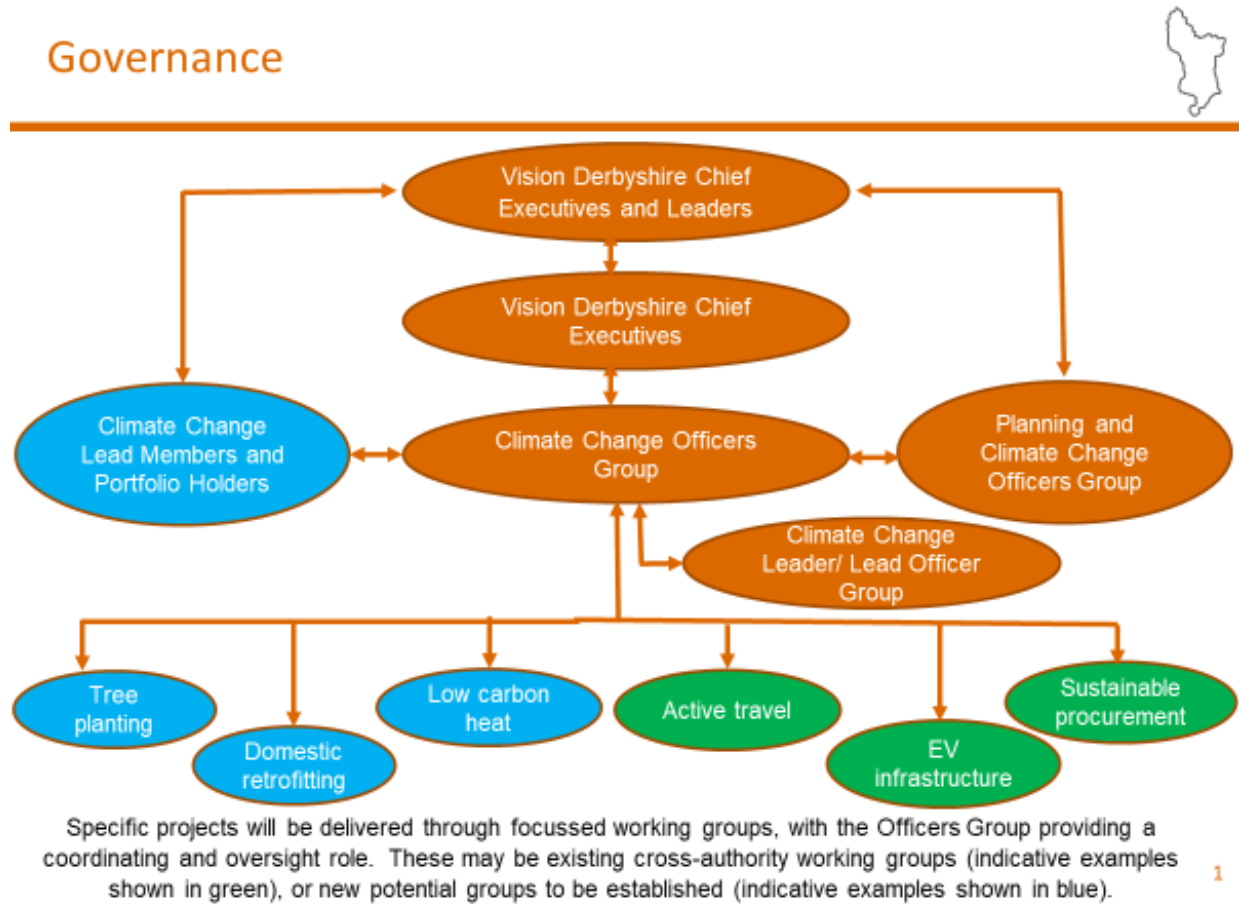


Figure 1: Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Governance Structure

4.12 The Strategy will be co-ordinated and monitored by the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Officers Group, which comprises of officers from the county, district and borough councils. This Officer Group reports into the wider Vision Derbyshire governance structure, ensuring oversight and accountability of activities and projects being delivered.

- 4.13 Derbyshire councils cannot deliver all of the necessary actions required to reduce emissions alone. Delivering the Strategy will therefore require collaboration with and across partners, citizens, businesses and communities.
- 4.14 The councils will collectively use their leadership, partnership building and influencing role to facilitate and promote actions across all sectors and groups. Councils will also work together to identify and prepare for external funding opportunities and maximise collective success in securing funding and other support for delivering action on decarbonisation.

Consultation

- 4.15 The Strategy was developed through consultation between officers from the county council and all Derbyshire district and borough councils through the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Officers Group, and with Elected Members through the Vision Derbyshire Lead Members and Portfolio Holders Group. There is no statutory duty to consult on this document. However, it is the intention to consult more widely with Derbyshire's businesses and communities on the delivery mechanisms of the Strategy where relevant.
- 4.16 The draft Strategy was presented to the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Lead Members and Portfolio Holders Meeting held on 3 February 2022. The Group supported the Strategy, and it was agreed that each council would individually seek the necessary support and approval for the Strategy.

5.0 Alternative options

- 5.1 **No Strategy:** The Climate Change Act 2008 (amendment 2019) commits the UK to a legally binding target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. Derbyshire's councils must, therefore, play their part in reducing emissions and take action to achieve this in line with the targets set out by the UK government. If the councils were to not take action and work together on the delivery of a joint Strategy, emissions across the county would not reduce sufficiently to achieve the targets.

6.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money

- 6.1 The delivery of some of the priority areas of work within the Strategy will have financial implications for Derbyshire's councils. These will be considered on a project-by-project basis.

7.0 Implications for consideration – Legal

7.1 There is no statutory obligation on Derbyshire’s councils to produce a Climate Change Strategy, however, councils have the power contained in the Local Government Act 2000, Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, Sustainable Communities Act 2007 and Localism Act 2011 to engage directly and work with other agencies in helping to tackle climate change.

7.2 The delivery of some of the priority areas of work within the Strategy may have legal implications. These will be considered on a project-by-project basis.

8.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources

8.1 The delivery of some of the priority areas of work within the Strategy may have human resource implications. These will be considered on a project-by-project basis.

9.0 Implications for consideration – Climate change

9.1 Delivery of the Strategy will improve the environmental sustainability of the county through reducing greenhouse gas emissions and provided wider environmental co-benefits.

9.2 The Strategy supports the UK government target for the country to be net zero by 2050 and informs the action that needs to be taken to meet this target.

10.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity

10.1 The delivery of some of the priority areas of work within the Strategy may have equality and diversity implications. These will be considered on a project-by-project basis.

11.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
The Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy conflicts with and contradicts strategies and plans held within individual councils	Medium	Medium	Existing individual council strategies and policies have been reviewed as part of the development of the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy. The Strategy is designed to complement existing documents and to focus on areas of collaboration. Delivery of	Low	Low

			the Strategy will be the responsibility of the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Officers Group, which includes representatives from all nine councils, ensuring all views are taken into account during decision-making.		
Lack of capacity within councils to coordinate, deliver or lead the necessary projects and initiatives, and to monitor the implementation of the Strategy	Medium	Medium	Delivery of specific projects and actions will be coordinated through the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Officer group, with focused working groups established where needed. Existing cross-council groups and forums will be utilised wherever possible to develop and deliver projects.	Medium	Low

Document information

Report author
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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
Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy (2022-2025)