

For publication

Climate Change Strategy 2023 – 2030 and Climate Change Delivery Plan 2023-2024 DL190

Meeting:	Cabinet Council
Date:	21.02.23 22.02.23
Cabinet portfolio:	Deputy Leader
Directorate:	Corporate
For publication	

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To seek Council approval for the adoption and implementation of the Council's Climate Change Strategy to enable the Council to achieve its 2030 carbon neutral commitment and begin supporting activities towards the wider 2050 Borough-wide decarbonisation target.
- 1.2 To seek Council approval for the adoption and implementation of the Climate Change Year 1 Delivery Plan).

2.0 Recommendations

That Cabinet recommends to full Council:

- 2.1 To approve the adoption and implementation of Climate Change Strategy 2023- 2030.
- 2.2 To approve the adoption and implementation of the accompanying Climate Change Delivery Plan, which details the year one activities (2023- 2024).
- 2.3 To authorise Cabinet to approve annual updates to the Climate Change Delivery Plan.
- 2.4 To give delegated authority to the Service Director – Corporate, in consultation with the Deputy Leader, to make amendments to the Climate Change Delivery Plan working document between the formal review periods to enable operational effectiveness.

- 2.5 To approve the Corporate Climate Change budget as set out in section 6.0, subject to and in line with the proposals set out within the Medium Term Financial Plan, which is being considered on the same agenda.

3.0 Reason for recommendations

- 3.1 In July 2019, Chesterfield Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency. As part of the declaration, CBC made a commitment to become a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 and to support the wider borough to become carbon neutral by 2050.
- 3.2 The Council's initial Climate Change Action Plan (2019-23) is now complete, and the proposed subsequent Climate Change Strategy 2023-2030 will provide a framework for the Council to reach its corporate commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030, and take early steps to support the wider Borough to reach carbon neutrality by 2050 as required by government.

4.0 Report details

Background information and activities to date

- 4.1 Following the Council's Climate Emergency declaration, CBC developed a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) detailing thirty-nine actions to be carried out by the council before 2023. This CCAP was formally adopted by the council in early 2020 and amended in 2022 to include six additional actions to build an evidence base for future activity and improve organisational capability for further development.
- 4.2 Progress in the delivery of the existing Climate Change Action Plan has been monitored and reported via the Council Plan performance monitoring arrangements, and through regular Overview and Performance Scrutiny sessions. The existing Climate Change Action Plan is expected to be delivered as required by the end of March 2023.
- 4.3 Since declaration of the climate emergency, CBC emissions (relating to the 2030 target) have dropped by 32%, and borough-wide emissions (relating to the 2050 target) have fallen by 7.5% between 2019 and 2020 (according to the most recent data available).
- 4.4 The new Strategy document highlights other key achievements throughout the life of the first Climate Change Action Plan including, for example: improvements to the Council's housing stock, supporting improvements to private sector rental properties, delivery of the Council's training programme at all levels of the Council, procurement and completion of significant research reports into the scoping and potential pathways for Council and borough-wide decarbonisation, embedding our innovative Climate Change Impact Assessment (CCIA) tool within our decision-making process. The CCIA

tool in particular has attracted much interest from other local authorities many of which have sought advice on replicating the approach in their local area.

Consultation and Engagement

- 4.5 Delivery of the Climate Change Strategy is dependent upon activities being embedded across the Council, and services taking a lead on delivery in their own areas. To support this, significant internal engagement has also taken place. This has included service focussed sessions with all Tier 4 managers, strategic workshops with operational leads, service managers and directors on the themes within the strategy, and engagement with CLT.
- 4.6 As part of our ongoing engagement in relation to Climate Change, and to complement the CAN campaign, during November 2022 the Council undertook a public consultation with stakeholders and the wider community on the themes of the proposed Strategy. We also visited Chesterfield College as part of their 'Kindness' week.
- 4.7 The consultation achieved 98 responses, having been promoted widely with stakeholders and the wider community via a range of channels, including face to face sessions at the college, and Overview and Performance Scrutiny, e-newsletters to MyChesterfield participants, and the via Council's corporate communications channels.
- 4.8 The consultation generally supported the Council's proposed approach, and has enabled us to enhance particular areas of the Strategy and Delivery Plan eg. waste, biodiversity net gain, and small build guidance (DM.02, GL.07, GL.06, in the Delivery Plan). Some comments and suggestions made are related to wider environmental issues, or are beyond the Council's control or current influence, but may be able to be factored into future versions of the Delivery Plan, or in partnership activity with organisations such as Derbyshire County Council.
- 4.9 As summary of areas mentioned by respondents is tabled below, and the full report and methodology of the consultation is available at Appendix 3.

Category	Examples
Energy reduction	Energy efficiency, insulation, reduce radiator temperatures
Local renewables	Solar, wind turbines, heat networks, heat pumps, biogas, hydroelectricity
Building standards and planning	A rated, ecological standards, rainwater harvesting, renewables as standard, brownfield sites, use of empty buildings, discourage residents paving gardens
Electric Vehicles	Council vehicles, buses, encourage EV users
Active travel	Lead by example, cycle routes, safer walking routes, bike scheme for staff

Public transport	Hydrogen/electric busses, increased frequency, reduced cost, bus service for hospital staff
Infrastructure	Charging points, pedestrianisation, traffic management
Greenspace	Access, maintained paths, allotments, tree planting
Nature	Preserve, protect, Increase biodiversity. Grass verges, no pesticides
Communication	Free advice, public awareness, carbon calculator, urgency of situation
Engagement	Community 'swapping markets', support local volunteer groups, work with schools/colleges, incentives for local businesses
Training	Continued Climate training for staff/councillors, offer external training to partners/suppliers/residents
Baseline data	Accurate, monitoring, carbon figures, air quality data
Progress updates/examples	Lead by example, live projects e.g. PEAK team, communicating progress, have a focussed project to use as an example e.g. taxis
Procurement	Ask suppliers to consider climate change impacts
Waste & Recycling	Access to recycling bins, paper reduction, plastic reduction
Partnerships	Local LAs, local businesses, volunteer groups, local investments in renewables e.g. green bonds, diversity – invite everyone to the conversation
Miscellaneous	Reduce number journeys e.g. for external meetings, food – promoting meat alternatives, adaptation for extreme weather events, less land for animal agriculture, real-life actions, celebrating Chesterfield, co-benefits, consider all corporate activities, include 'progress towards' 2050 targets, stop wasting taxpayers' money on climate hoax, stop listening to the green woke

Climate Change Strategy 2023 - 2030

- 4.10 The Council's first Climate Change Action Plan (2019 – 2023) enabled the Council to begin its journey towards its carbon neutral target. Building on this, the Council now needs to develop a Climate Change Strategy (2023 – 2030) to guide us to 2030.
- 4.11 The Strategy also enables the Council to undertake groundwork towards the wider Borough's 2050 decarbonisation target, and much activity will require long-term consideration and planning. This new Strategy will be supported by a Delivery Plan which we will review and engage on regularly as a working document.
- 4.12 The Council has identified six strategic themes which we intend to use as building blocks for the Climate Change Strategy. To help us do this, we have gathered an improved set of evidence and information about climate change in Chesterfield through independent research projects. The findings of these projects show:

- The predicted impact of climate change on the Borough
- A clarified definition of the Council's 2030 carbon neutral target, and what activities and emissions should be included in this.
- Possible pathways and activities for the Council to consider to become carbon neutral
- Possible pathways and activities for the wider Borough to consider to become carbon neutral

4.13 We have also considered:

- Public consultation
- Engagement with children and young people via our schools local democracy programme and engagement with Chesterfield College
- Consultation with Tier 4 managers
- Strategic workshops with Service Directors, Tier 4 managers, operational leads.
- Lessons learned and progress made when developing and implementing the Council's first Climate Change Action Plan
- Changes in our understanding of the climate emergency
- Improvement in our understanding of the actions of other local councils
- National changes to strategies and legislation
- Changes in public perception of the climate emergency (largely due to significant news coverage of COP26 and COP27, and record-breaking heatwaves in the summer of 2022).

Climate Change Delivery Plan 2023 - 2024

4.14 The Climate Change Delivery Plan which accompanies the Climate Change Strategy, is a working document that will be reviewed at least annually. The proposed Delivery Plan for 2023 – 2024 contains 48 actions to be completed during the first year of the Strategy, many of which are feasibility and research projects required to ascertain next steps and opportunities. These actions are grouped under the themes outlined in the Strategy document:

- i. Buildings and Energy – 14 actions
- ii. Travel – 10 actions
- iii. Green Space, Land Use and Offsetting – 8 actions
- iv. Communications, Engagement and Training – 7 actions
- v. Data Monitoring and Corporate Activity – 5 actions
- vi. Influence and Partnership – 4 actions

4.15 It is proposed that the Delivery Plan may be updated in consultation with the Deputy Leader in between formal reviews to enable the Council to be flexible in its response to emerging technologies and approaches, funding streams, and changes in legislation to enable operational effectiveness

5.0 Alternative options

5.1 An alternative would be not to approve the strategy and delivery plan, however, this would greatly diminish the Council’s ability to achieve its corporate commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030, and its wider role in supporting the Borough to reach net zero by 2050.

6.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money

6.1 The Council’s climate change activity has, so far, been funded using the Council’s reserves. Table 1 below outlines a proposed mainstreamed annual corporate Climate Change Budget from the General Fund. This would cover two permanent posts (Climate Change Officer and Assistant Climate Change Officer) and the ‘corporate’ climate change activities not included in other service budgets, for example, contributions towards feasibility studies, and membership of partnership and best practice organisations.

Table 1: Climate Change Mainstream Annual Budget	
Climate Change Team (based on top of scale with on costs)	GF - £47,508 HRA - £26,724
Communications and engagement To include CAN activities, engagement and Forum facilitation and activities.	£5,000.00
Annual memberships for supporting partnerships and bodies	£6,320
Feasibility studies fund / research To support other service areas with decarbonisation projects within the council. To include development of offsetting strategy.	£16,500.00
Training Carbon Literacy and Climate Fresk accreditation and training resources for organisational training programme.	£2,000.00
Supplies and services	£5,000.00
Total Staffing costs	£74,232.00
Total non-staffing costs	£34,820.00
Grand Total	£109,052.00 GF – 82,236 HRA – 26,816

6.2 The Delivery Plan indicates other sources of funds in addition to the Climate Change budget to support the proposed climate change activity e.g. service area budgets, HRA, and external sources such as UKSPF. It also makes provision for enhancing the Council’s capacity to access external funding streams such as the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.

7.0 Implications for consideration – Legal

7.1 The UK is a signatory of the Paris Agreement which set the international target to limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C with the aim of 1.5°C

above pre-industrial levels². To reach this goal, the UK has adopted a legally binding target to reach net zero GHG emissions by 2050 (as set out in the Climate Change Act 2008 amended in 2019³).

7.2 A range of specific regulations have a bearing on council and wider borough activities. These include Government commitments to:

- Phase out the sale of fossil fuelled vehicles⁴
- Phase out sale of natural gas boilers⁴
- Modify the building regulations to include the Future Homes and Buildings Standard in 2025

7.3 It is important to note that (as yet) second tier local authorities have very little explicit statutory obligation to conduct activities to address climate change or report on emissions. This is significant because without statutory obligations, additional funding and guidance for activity is not available from central government. Therefore, there is a wide range of different approaches, levels of activity, available funds, and reporting measures across different local authorities in the UK.

7.4 It is anticipated that there will soon be a requirement for Local Authorities to publish their emissions and progress towards net zero. By developing an annual report approach, the Council will be well-placed to meet this anticipated requirement, and also able to demonstrate progress towards delivering the strategy and reaching organisational targets.

8.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources

8.1 The Policy and Partnerships Team includes two dedicated staff members who lead and co-ordinate the council's Climate Change approach supported by the Policy and Partnerships Manager and sponsored by the Service Director Corporate.

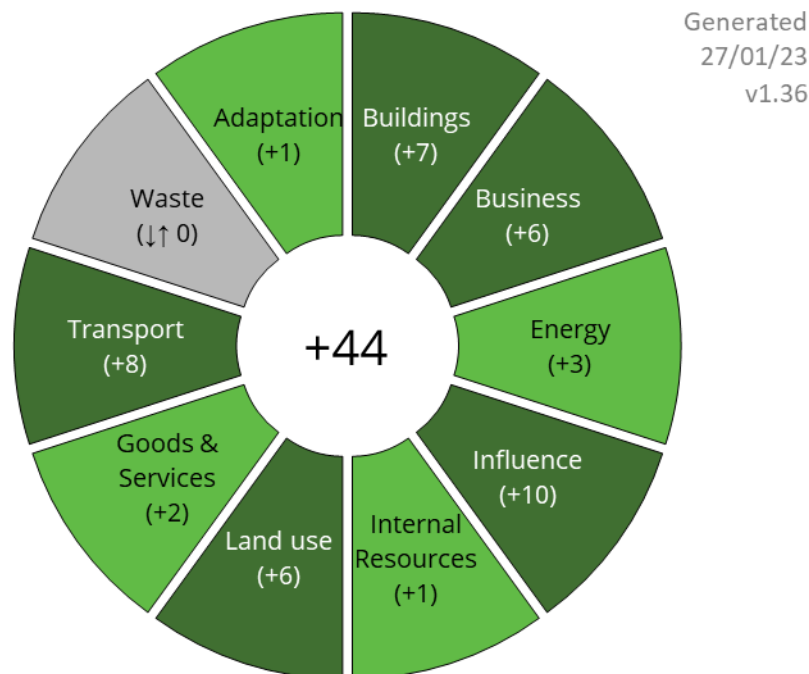
8.2 Significant progress has been made in embedding climate change activity across the Council. It remains critical that everyone within Chesterfield Borough Council takes ownership of the Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan. This has been supported by Tier 4 manager engagement in the development of the Delivery Plan, and through the establishment of strategic workshops on priority areas. The Council's corporate induction programme for new employees and members will be adapted to include climate change and an organisation-wide training programme is underway to ensure all staff and members have a base understanding of climate change and the Council's commitments.

9.0 Implications for consideration – Council plan

9.1 The Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan primarily support the Council Plan aim of 'improving the quality of life for local people', however, the widespread nature of the organisational activities within the strategy and delivery plan, and the use of the climate change impact assessment tool, result in climate change considerations and activities being embedded throughout the Council's activities. The priorities set out in the delivery plan will inform key priorities such as asset management, fleet, and delivery of energy efficient, low carbon homes.

10.0 Implications for consideration – Climate change

10.1 A Climate Change Impact Assessment has been completed. The resulting impact has been assessed as follows:



Chesterfield Borough Council has committed to being a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 (6 years and 11 months away).

10.2 The climate change strategy is expected to have a significant positive impact on the council's activities with relation to the climate. In particular work on the council's portfolio of buildings and fleet decarbonisation will be central to meeting our 2030 carbon neutral commitment. Wider benefits are likely to include more general environmental improvements to the local area and better engagement with the borough's residents on this issue.

10.3 Additional positive impacts of the Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan are anticipated through subsequent iterations of the Delivery Plan and as further project details are established through feasibility studies.

11.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity

11.1 The effects of climate change are likely to disproportionately affect the most vulnerable in our society, particularly residents in areas of high deprivation, younger children, and older people. The Strategy and Delivery Plan are not anticipated to disproportionately impact on any protected group, although targeted engagement and support may take place with particular groups as we move through the strategy. The EIA will therefore be periodically reviewed.

12.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
The strategy and delivery plan are not delivered.	H	M	The plan has been developed in consultation with managers and directors, and the wider Chesterfield borough community and as a result comprises actions that are reasonable and achievable. In addition, the Council intends to appoint additional dedicated officer resource to champion delivery of the action plan.	H	L
The Council is not able to meet its organisational target to become carbon neutral by 2030.	H	H	Given the difficulty of addressing some emissions, it is likely that they will not be fully eliminated by 2030. As such, we expect that we will need to compensate for some remaining emissions via a programme of offsetting. The degree of offsetting required will depend on the extent to which the Council is successful in decarbonising its activities in the strategy and delivery plan. Developing a costed Offsetting Strategy will support the Council in dealing with residual emissions.	H	M

Failure to attract external funding may limit the Council's ability to undertake activities which are deemed necessary to achieve carbon neutrality.	H	H	The delivery plan makes provision for additional capacity in making business cases and bids for external funding, particularly in relation to assets.	H	M
Resource is not allocated to support the delivery of the strategy	H	H	Full cost estimates have been applied to those actions that require additional resource and a mainstream budget allocated to support delivery of the Climate Change Strategy. Expenditure will be managed through existing internal budgetary control measures to ensure spend is in line with the original cost estimates and that value for money is achieved, for example, through proper recruitment and procurement processes.	M	L

Decision information

Key decision number	1126
Wards affected	All wards

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.
<i>This must be made available to the public for up to 4 years.</i>
Appendices to the report

Appendix 1	Chesterfield Borough Council Climate Change Strategy 2023 - 2030
Appendix 2	Chesterfield Borough Council Climate Change Delivery Plan 2023 - 2024
Appendix 3	Climate Change Strategy Themes Public Consultation Report