

Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel

Agenda
Item:

A.5

Meeting Date: 27th February 2020
 Portfolio: Environment and Transport
 Key Decision: Yes
 Within Policy and Budget Framework: Yes
 Public / Private: Public
 Title: Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy
 Report of: Corporate Director of Economic Development
 Report Number: PC 09/20

Purpose / Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide background and context to the development of the draft Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy.

Recommendations:

- Scrutiny Panels are asked to comment on the strategy and relevant actions in the action plan.
- Panels are asked to note the opportunities for countywide work listed in the appendix B, relevant to this panel.

Tracking

Scrutiny:	Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel 20 February 2020 Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel 27 February 2020
Executive	22 June 2020
Council	

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

This draft Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy draws together the work undertaken by Members, Officers and partners since the Council's resolution in March 2019.

This strategy has been developed from the Council's own data and information, with additional evidence from Cumbrian authorities who are also progressing strategies and action plans.

The purpose of this report is to provide the background for the development of this draft strategy, which is now considered to be in a sufficiently mature state to publish for public consultation.

1.2 Developing the new strategy

In March 2019 the Council passed a motion to declare a Climate Change Emergency, since then the Council has undergone a transformation in both the number of wards and councillors.

In April 2019, the Council adopted the Joint Public Health Strategy which included the key aim to become a "carbon neutral" County and to mitigate the likely impact of existing climate change.

In June 2019, the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport reported to Council his intention to set up a Climate Change Working Group. The Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) is a cross-party Member and Officer working group, chaired by the Portfolio Holder. The group is supported and guided by the Corporate Director of Economic Development; members of the Policy & Communications Team; and lead officers from across all functions, where appropriate. Through their Terms of Reference the CCWG agreed to respond to:

- the Government's announcement (of 12th June 2019) to amend the Climate Change Act 2008 to require net United Kingdom carbon emissions to be zero by 2050
- Council's Climate Emergency motion (of 5th March 2019) to *inter alia* make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030.

The CCWG met in June, July and September 2019 to create a long list of potential actions which could be prioritised into a short list, the following key themes emerged from this work:

- Communication, Community, Education
- Economy, Transport, Waste management
- Finance, Property, Fleet, Technology
- Environment
- Partnerships, Policy

Alongside the member-led CCWG, an internal officer group has been convened, drawn from all Directorates. The internal group will focus on the technical detail that will underpin the actions

helping to identify 'quick wins' from within current budgets and ensure that any future proposed actions are fully costed.

In parallel to this work, and cross-referenced throughout, a Cumbria-wide approach to the challenge has emerged. The Cumbria Leaders Board and Chief Executives met in June 2019 and agreed to establish Countywide Climate Change Working Group (C_CCWG). The Countywide Climate Change Working Group have commissioned a Countywide Carbon Footprint from Small World Consulting (Cumbria Carbon Baseline).

The Countywide Climate Change Working Group has identified a set of contacts for the main economic sectors that give rise to Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. The Countywide Climate Change Working Group will continue to connect with these sectors to communicate and influence on the challenge of becoming a net-zero carbon county. The key sectors are: Energy; Housing; Transport; Waste; Industry/Infrastructure; Farming and rural economy; Tourism. The Countywide Climate Change Working Group has established a Local Authority Climate Policy Group (LACPG) to contribute to this work.

In addition, the C_CCWG has collaborated on a Lottery Bid for the 'Climate Action Fund', led by Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS). The aim of this bid is to source funding for additional capacity to help with the transformational work required to meet the challenge.

1.3 Action to date and projects in the pipeline

The Council's Economy & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel received reports on the Environmental Performance of the Council, up until 2014.

This report including progress against National Indicator 185, the percentage CO₂ reduction from local authority operations. This was an annually measured reduction of emissions against a set baseline. The 2014 report presents a chart showing the cumulative 2012/13 year on year reduction of Carbon Dioxide emissions compared to the baseline year of 2007/08 of 3,058 tonnes. A percentage reduction in cumulative terms compared with the actual emissions in 2007/8 of 49% was reported.

The Council has continued to make progress on energy efficiency through a number of projects and investments. The most significant have been:

- Micro-energy generation project. through the installation of Solar Photo-Voltaic Cells on the roofspaces of the Civic Centre and Sands Centre.
- Replacement of inefficient waste and recycling fleet with more efficient vehicles

The Council and its partners continue to develop and deliver Climate Change adaptation and mitigation. The following projects are underway, together they will significantly reduce the Council's greenhouse gas emissions:

- Sands Centre Redevelopment
- Civic Centre Ground Floor Reinstatement
- Replacement of footway lighting with energy efficient lamps

- Replacement of fleet and plant with lower carbon vehicles and equipment
- Waste management and recycling initiatives at operational sites.

The Council is delivering projects to help reduce Carlisle district's greenhouse gas emissions:

- Community Electric Vehicle Charging Points
- Improvements to the cycling and walking infrastructure, increasing the network for active transport.

The Council is also working in partnership to adapt to Climate Change, over the next three years Carlisle will benefit from the delivery of new flood defences and upstream natural flood management projects.

1.4 Emerging national strategies and plans

The UK Government's announcement (of 12th June 2019) to amend the Climate Change Act 2008 to require net United Kingdom carbon emissions to be zero by 2050, this legally binding target has renewed the national focus on this agenda.

The Queens Speech, December 2020, includes a number of bills, strategies and plans which will further this work, most notably:

- Climate Change Bill
- Environment Bill
- [Agriculture Bill](#)
- Fisheries Bill
- National infrastructure strategy
- [Green Finance Strategy](#)
- [Resources and Waste Strategy](#)
- [Clean Air Strategy](#)
- [Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage Action Plan](#)

The LACPG will keep the Countywide Climate Change Working Group well-informed of this legislative programme as it is brought forward.

1.5 Countywide action planning

The LACPG has been set the objective to work towards a combined action plan for Cumbrian local authorities, embedding this work in policy and decision-making frameworks. This work is closely linked to the implementation of the Joint Public Health Strategy, adopted by all local authorities in 2019.

The LACPG has compiled a discussion document which highlights the opportunities for joint action planning. This countywide summary of existing strategy and policy opportunities is presented in Appendix B and will inform our action planning.

1.6 Strategy: vision, objectives and actions

The work on methodologies is not currently seen as a barrier to setting the vision, objectives and action planning. A pragmatic approach has enabled these workstreams to progress in tandem.

The overall vision is taken from the Joint Public Health Strategy, it is 'to become a "carbon neutral" County and to mitigate the likely impact of existing climate change.'

The draft strategy presents actions grouped under five objectives:

Objective 1:

Reducing emissions from the City Council estate and operations.

This objective focuses on the GHG emissions from our operations, fleet and estate. The main components being the procurement of electricity, gas and vehicle fuel. It will also include the energy efficiency of our estate and the fuel consumed through business miles.

Objective 2:

Reducing energy consumption and emissions from homes and businesses in Carlisle and tackling fuel poverty, by promoting energy efficiency measures, sustainable construction, renewable energy sources and behaviour change.

Domestic energy consumption is a major component of our district carbon footprint, the local roll-out of smart meters and the Council's own initiatives to tackle fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency are good medium term actions. The longer term challenge is around the sustainable construction and local renewable energy networks.

Objective 3:

Reducing emissions from transport by promoting sustainable transport, reducing car travel and traffic congestion and encouraging behaviour change.

Transport is the likely to be the largest component of our district carbon footprint and continues to present a risk the success of the national strategies aimed at reducing GHG. This objective will focus on the opportunities for countywide and local action.

Objective 4:

Reducing consumption of resources, increasing recycling and reducing waste.

As a waste collection authority this is our core business, the GHG emission from the service need to be considered alongside the whole process of collection and disposal. As well as the 'embodied carbon' in the waste itself. This is the service that all of our residents use and has come to symbolise the 'greenness' of a Council and an area through its recycling rate. This objective is linked directly to objective 1 and 5.

Objective 5:

Supporting Council services, residents and businesses to adapt to the impacts of Climate Change.

This broad objective recognises that the challenge of adaption to the known impacts, such as severe weather and interruption to private water supplies, are felt by our residents and businesses.

A simple approach to the timescale using the terms short, medium or longterm is proposed. These timescales are best described in terms of financial planning:

Short: Within the current budget year or budget cycle for the following year

Medium: Within the period of the current Medium-Term Financial Plan (currently 2020-25)

Long: Beyond the Medium Term Financial Plan period but before the target date for net-zero

Each objective has a set of draft actions, listed with relevant service areas and proposed timescale for delivery. Each action will be linked to the baselining work and will be updated once it is completed. This approach will ensure that the relevant actions are linked to organisations production of greenhouse gases. This will enable informed decision-making, with the actions likely to have the biggest impact on reducing the organisation's carbon footprint being considered as a priority.

Where an action falls outside of the organisational footprint then it will be measured through the Cumbria Carbon Baseline, with a reference to a specific economic sector or activity. We would take a decision on reporting this as an 'additional emission'.

The timescale for the delivery of any actions is inextricably linked to capacity, resources and impetus. The adoption of an over-arching organisational or Cumbria wide target is a clear statement of intent, however a pragmatic approach based on an annual review with the option of revisions could provide a more flexible way forward.

1.7 Definitions and carbon accounting

At the root of this strategy development has been detailed work on definitions and methodologies for measurement. The definitions adopted by the Carlisle and Countywide Member Working Group, and therefore the internal officer group, are all consistent.

A balance between adaptation and mitigation actions will be explored both through this local strategy and the countywide groups. Two definitions that warrant specific attention are 'carbon footprint' and 'net-zero' or 'carbon neutral', clarity on these two terms will be a critical factor in the success of any strategy.

Carbon Footprint

A carbon footprint measures the total greenhouse gas emissions caused directly and indirectly by a person, organisation, event or product.¹

Net- zero carbon or carbon neutral

Carbon neutral or net zero carbon is the goal of ensuring that any given activity does not cause any additional carbon dioxide (or other greenhouse gas) to be added to the atmosphere. The net zero position can be achieved by balancing a measured amount of carbon released with an equal amount of carbon offsetting activities.

It is impossible for Cumbria to reach a target of 'zero carbon by 2030, 2040 or 2050' without first understanding its carbon footprint. It is difficult to judge if the actions undertaken to reach this goal are actually working without a baseline, target and agreed milestones. In short, the methodologies that will measure this strategy are as important as the activities themselves.

¹ [Carbon Trust](#)

The Local Authority Climate Policy Group has been set a number of objectives that directly relate to this 'methodological challenge', within the climate change challenge. These include:

- To support and advise the main Climate Action Group on the implications that the definition of "Net Zero Carbon" will have on local authorities;
- Identify and agree standard carbon footprinting approaches and local indicators to be measured and reported against;

It is on this second objective, 'standard carbon footprinting', that the LACPG has focused its initial work. This work has been running simultaneously to the Small World Consulting commission, on a Cumbria Carbon Baseline. It is anticipated that this second objective could lead to the greatest degree of divergence in methodologies and therefore the greatest. To prevent any potential for confusion and misinterpretation the LACPG have set out a clear approach.

The LACPG are recommending a methodology much closer aligned to the **International Greenhouse Gas Protocol** for carbon footprinting than the methodology used by Small World Consulting. A detailed paper on the proposed methodology, which will underpin the Council's approach, is presented in Appendix A.

In summary, the LACPG are recommending a 'production approach' to the organisational carbon footprinting while Small World Consulting have a preference for a 'consumption approach' to the Cumbria footprint. The terms are defined as follows:

Production accounting only considers day-by-day emissions from sources such as buildings and vehicles;

Consumption accounting includes 'upstream' emissions, also referred to as 'embodied carbon'. 'Downstream' emissions – those related to disposal of the item - may also be included.

These two approaches are compatible. Each organisations 'production carbon footprint' would be included within the overall 'consumption Cumbria footprint'. The Council's carbon footprint would be a very small part of the overall Cumbria footprint. The Cumbria Carbon Baseline report will deal with the issues of double and triple-counting that will arise from this deliberate divergence.

A final consideration when reporting the baselines, targets and actual performance is to be fully aware of the assumptions and caveats that are built into the models and methodologies. These considerations bring into focus questions on data accuracy and reporting precision. It has been proposed through the LACPG that a 'bandwidth' approach to baseline reporting would be more accurate than a precise figure, which will need revision as new information is made available.

It has been noted that the Business & Transformation Panel requested that a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) be added to future performance reports to monitor the response to the Climate Emergency. This KPI will be developed and reported once the carbon footprinting work is completed and the measures have been assured.

2. PROPOSALS

This is a new strategy and is therefore not listed in the Council's Policy and Budgetary Framework (Article 4). There is a reference to Agenda 21 on Policy and Budgetary Framework, this pre-dates the Climate Change Act 2008. Agenda 21 was developed out of the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio and is no longer referred to as an ongoing initiative. Executive will be requested, after consultation, to ask Council to update the 'Agenda 21' item on the Policy Framework to 'Climate Change'.

The Council adopted the Joint Public Health Strategy in June 2019, this strategy included the commitment to become a "carbon neutral" County and to mitigate the likely impact of existing climate change, this draft strategy is delivering against this commitment.

The initial recommendation to Executive is to publish the draft for consultation. The outline timetable for consultation has the finalised version ready for the Executive meeting in June. This will then be recommended to Council.

3. RISKS

There are a number of risks associated with this strategy:

- That the Council reputation will be damaged if it does not translate the resolution made in March 2019 into a working strategy and action plan.
- That the absence of a strategy may prevent the Council from accessing external funding that would mitigate and/or adapt to Climate Change.
- That the action plan may be too ambitious for the Council to deliver on its own and require additional capacity and resources.
- That the action plan may not deliver the 'net-zero' within the 2030 timescale as expected.
- That expectations on assessing impacts and carbon foot printing may delay the taking of key decisions, which in turn could lead to the Council incurring additional costs or suffering a loss of income.

4. CONSULTATION

The draft strategy has been informed by correspondence and awareness raising activity undertaken by CAfS and Sustainable Carlisle, this has included Carbon Literacy Training delivered in partnership with Carlisle College. Their views as well, as the views of a wide range stakeholders, will be sought on this draft.

This report will be presented to the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel on 20th February, it has also been included in the work programme for the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel for 27th February.

The topics within the remit of the Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel that link to each objective are listed in the table below:

	Objective	EGSP Remit
1	<i>Reducing emissions from the City Council estate and operations.</i>	Property (Strategic) (Joint responsibility with Finance, Governance & Resources Portfolio Holder)
2	<i>Reducing energy consumption and emissions from homes and businesses in Carlisle and tackling fuel poverty, by promoting energy efficiency measures, sustainable construction, renewable energy sources and behaviour change.</i>	Private Sector relationships including Cumbria Chamber; Housing Partnerships; Housing Strategy and Support; Economic Development; Building Control; Business Support and Sector Development; Development Control
3	<i>Reducing emissions from transport by promoting sustainable transport, reducing car travel and traffic congestion and encouraging behaviour change.</i>	Rural/Urban Policy; Strategic Transport & Infrastructure; Car Parking and Civil Enforcement Strategic Regeneration; Borderlands; Highways and Transport; Highways Partnership; Movement Strategy
4	<i>Reducing consumption of resources, increasing recycling and reducing waste.</i>	
5	<i>Supporting Council services, residents and businesses to adapt to the impacts of Climate Change.</i>	Relationships with Environment Agency/DEFRA; Land Drainage

The draft action plan is cross-cutting so we would welcome the views of members of the Business & Transformation Scrutiny Panel. To this end it has been suggested to the chair/vice-chair of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel that they invite the chair/vice-chair of the Business & Transformation Scrutiny Panel for this agenda item.

The public consultation on the strategy will be accompanied by a consultation document, setting out the background, context. A variety of events will be delivered during the consultation period aimed at engaging with communities, businesses and the general public.

Once the public consultation is completed the Member Working Group and internal officer group will review the responses to the draft strategy and action plan. The finalised documents will be presented to the Executive and then Council for approval.

An annual report on the strategy will be made available to Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel for inclusion in their work programme.

The outline timetable for consultation is:

Date	Function	Action
10 th February	Executive	Agree draft for consultation
20 th February	Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel	Scrutinise and comment on draft
27 th February	Economic Growth Scrutiny Panel	Scrutinise and comment on draft
20 th February – 25 th March	Engagement events	Engage with the widest range of stakeholders Period of additional sensitive requires a pause in the consultation activity
8 th May – 29 th May 2020	Engagement events	Consultation continues after the pause
29 th May 2020	End of consultation	Final date for feedback and comments
To be arranged	Internal Officer Group	Review and appraise responses
To be arranged	Member Working Group	Review and appraise responses
22 nd June 2020	Executive	Recommend final version to Council

5. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Through a combination of elected, representative leadership and officer work it is possible to coordinate a comprehensive programme of decision-making and activity at all tiers of government to tackle the challenge of climate change.

The work so far is sufficiently advanced to form a draft strategy and action plan. The continued progress at a countywide and national level means that these documents will need to be agile and responsive to new developments. It is therefore recommended that a draft strategy is published to focus the debate and discussions on the best way to move forward, together.

The recommendation to Executive is was to publish the draft for consultation.

Scrutiny Panels are asked to comment on the strategy, action plan and the proposed methodology for carbon accounting. Panels are asked to note the opportunities for countywide work listed in the appendix B.

6. CONTRIBUTION TO THE CARLISLE PLAN PRIORITIES

Clarity on a set of Climate Change objectives and actions will support the implementation of the Joint Public Health Strategy.

Climate Change adaptation and mitigation must be pursued to help to improve the health, wellbeing and economic prosperity of the people of Carlisle.

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Appendices attached to report:

A: Proposed carbon accounting methodology
B: Countywide summary of existing strategies and policies
C: Draft Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- None

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL - As the Report states, Article 4 of the Council's Constitution reserves 'Agenda 21' to full Council. Whilst no longer an 'ongoing initiative', Agenda 21 is a topic area which has evolved to become known as 'Climate Change'. Given Council's decision that it views the matter (sustainability) as so important it wished to reserve it to full Council, it is sensible that the Climate Change policy be viewed as the evolution of Agenda 21. Accordingly, it is planned that it will follow the Council's Budget and Policy Framework procedure. As stated in the report, it is timely for the Council to update the terminology from Agenda 21 to whatever it believes best captures the updated policy.

FINANCE – There are no immediate financial implications arising from this strategy, which is subject to a full consultation process; however, any future climate change projects or initiatives which require council funding, outwith the base budget, will require reports to the Executive or full Council, as appropriate.

EQUALITY – None

INFORMATION GOVERNANCE – There are no information governance implications with this report.

Appendix A: Proposed carbon accounting methodology

(Adapted by Local Authority Climate Policy Group, original work produced by Sustainability Adviser, Lake District National Park Authority)

The purpose of this methodology is to ensure that a consistent framework for carbon accounting and reporting is followed.

Definitions

1. Greenhouse Gases (GHG)

The Kyoto Agreement identified six GHG emissions:

carbon dioxide (CO₂)

methane (CH₄)

nitrous oxide (N₂O)

hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)

perfluorocarbons (PFCs)

sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆)

A carbon footprint is measured in tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (tCO_{2e}) to create a common unit for ease of comparison of these six GHG.

2. CO₂ equivalent (CO_{2e})

A carbon footprint is measured in tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (tCO_{2e}) to create a common unit for ease of comparison.

It is calculated using the activity data collated and then multiplied by standard emissions factors. The official set of standard emission factors are published by the UK Government, the 2019 UK Government Greenhouse Gas Conversion Factors for Company Reporting (2019 GHG Conversion Factors) are the most recent set.

The use of a factor is a substitute for the actual measurement of emissions, allowing for the calculation of GHG emissions from a range of activities, including energy use, water consumption, waste disposal and recycling, and transport activities. The factors include estimates within the calculations and are subject to annual review which has led to significant changes from year to year.

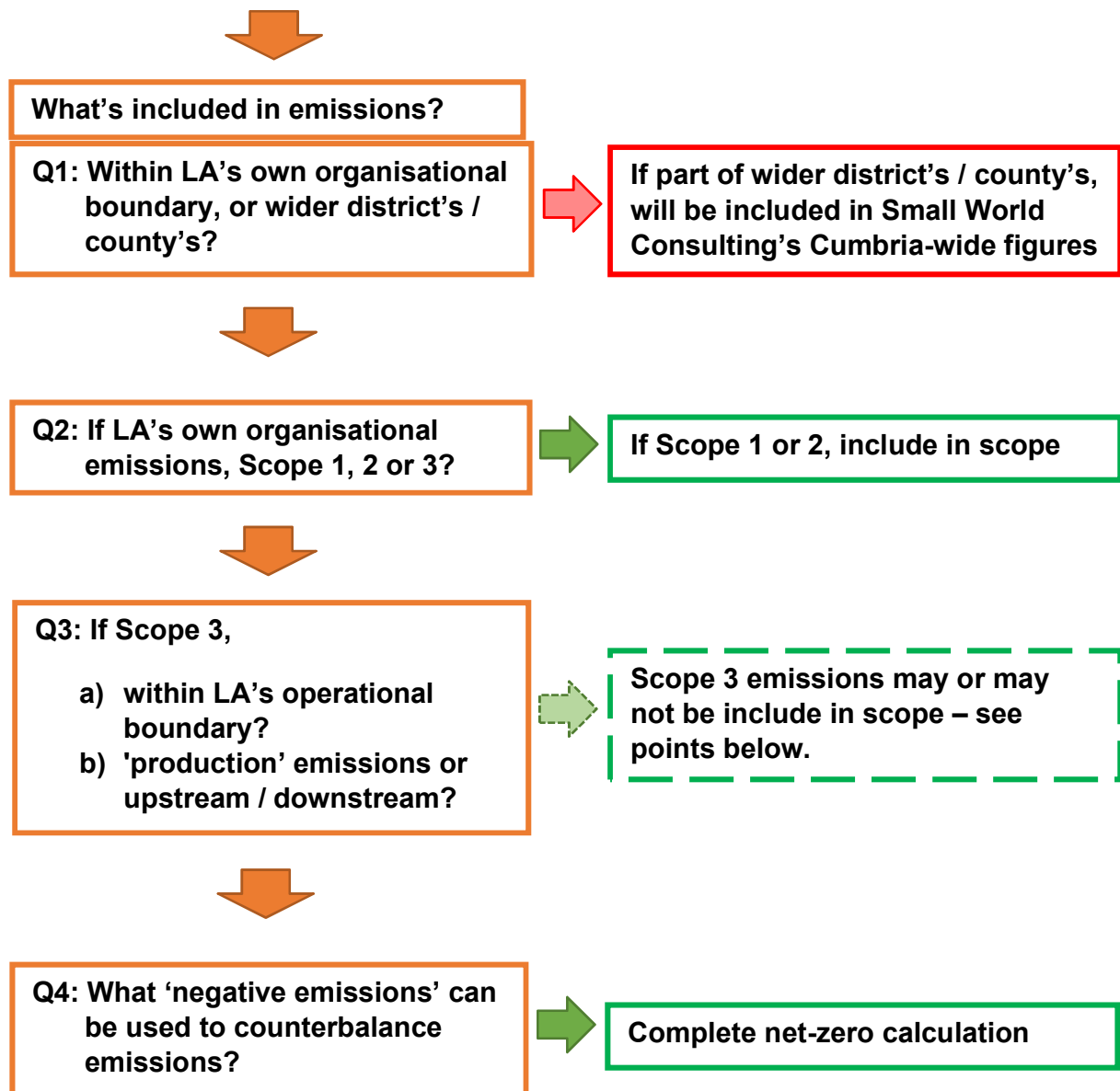
3. Net-zero

In simple terms, net-zero is achieved when greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (measured as carbon-equivalents, CO_{2e}) are balanced and neutralised (offset²) by carbon sequestration and/or other measures which result in a net decrease in atmospheric GHGs.

² The term 'offsetting' can have a more specific technical meaning, but used here in a more general way

4. Scope and organisational boundary

It is therefore crucial that the Council has a clear understanding and rationale for the components which comprise its emissions and any future offsetting. This is defined by the scope and organisational boundary, and can be answered with a cascade of questions:



Q1: Organisational boundary

We need to distinguish between the Council's own-operation carbon emissions and those of other organisations, the wider district or county or beyond. This is defined as the organisational boundary.

Emissions relating to the Council's owned assets are straightforward, but it is less straightforward with leased assets. **It is proposed that leased-in assets are included in the scope and leases-out assets are excluded from the scope.**

It makes sense to either include leased-in or leased-out assets but not both; and on balance, the user/occupier of a building has more control over its GHG emissions than the owner. **The exceptions to this rule are explored in scope 3.**

The Council's operational and investment assets have been assessed to produce Display Energy Certificates (DECS) and Energy Performance Certificates (EPCS), where required. This information is being used to assess the assets against the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES), these are the minimum level of energy efficiency required to let non-domestic property under the Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015.

Q2: Scope 1 and 2

Since organisational reporting standards were introduced around 2009, Local Authorities have reported on their own greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions following Government guidelines². These are based on the International Greenhouse Gas Protocol³, and divide emissions into Scopes 1, 2 and 3.

Scope 1 are direct emissions, these are the emissions from owned plant (such as boilers, vehicles and machinery).

Scope 2 is indirect energy, these are emissions from energy purchased from an external supplier (primarily electricity but also may be heat or cooling).

It is proposed that scope 1 and 2 activities are included in the accounting.

Q3: Scope 3

Scope 3 are other indirect emission. These can be from processes or transport not owned by the Council (such as business travel by public transport, emissions linked to waste disposal). Scope 3 items are optional and are included at the organisation's discretion, dependent on any specific goals determined.

The Council is free to decide what to include in scope, depending on either:

- Equity share
- Financial control
- Operational control

²https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/791529/ENv-reporting-guidance_inc_SECR_31March.pdf

³ <http://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/ghgp/standards/ghg-protocol-revised.pdf>

The Council may or may not include upstream / downstream emissions, known as 'embodied' carbon. This is analogous to a consumption approach rather than the preferred production approach.

Scope 3 will therefore be the biggest grey area in terms of organisational boundary but may also represent a high proportion of overall emissions so is an important factor in justifying a 'net-zero' declaration.

The two main areas of distinction within Scope 3 are in determining the operational boundary. Where a source of emissions is shared with an external party, such as an operation function which is outsourced. This is a question of operational boundary (as defined in the GHG Protocol).

There are three alternative ways to determine whether to include this emissions source in scope:

- Equity share. This is mainly suited to commercial companies rather than Local Authorities
- Financial control. This is recommended (but not prescribed) by UK government for Local Authorities. The determination hinges on how much financial interest there is in the operation.
- Operational control. This is the party which has operational control who has the greatest influence in the way that the operation is run and hence the carbon intensity.

The proposal is to include activities that the Council has a clear operational and/or financial control.

Production or consumption accounting

The key decision is whether 'production' or 'consumption' accounting is used – i.e. whether 'upstream' and possibly also 'downstream' emissions are included.

- Production accounting only considers day-by-day emissions from sources such as buildings and vehicles;
- Consumption accounting includes 'upstream' emissions, also referred to as 'embodied carbon'. 'Downstream' emissions – those related to disposal of the item - may also be included.

Production emissions are relatively straightforward to measure and account for, but consumption emissions are much more difficult to quantify – not least because most emissions are occurring elsewhere and produced by other parties. Consumption emissions are also more one-off (for instance, those associated with building a new building), making it harder to compare one year with another.

The proposal is to use production accounting for the Council's carbon footprint and consumption accounting for the Cumbria Carbon Baseline.

‘Negative emissions’

Negative emissions are generally referred to as ‘offsetting’, but care must be taken to distinguish between two aspects:

- Carbon sequestration
The actual removal of CO₂ (or other GHG) from the atmosphere by plant growth, incorporation of carbon into soil, carbon capture and storage (CCS) or some similar process.
- Emission avoidance
This covers many things which might be referred to as offsetting, such as:
 - Renewable electricity generation;
 - Recycling or other diversion of waste from landfill;
 - Stabilisation of peat erosion.

The proposal is to use the emissions avoidance activities of the Council, such as renewable electricity generation and recycling of waste as part of the accounting.

Summary of proposals

It is proposed that:

- Leased-in assets are included in the scope and leases-out assets are excluded from the scope. The exceptions to this rule are explored in scope 3.
- That scope 1 and 2 activities are included in the accounting.
- For scope 3, the proposal is to include activities where the Council has a clear operational and/or financial control.
- Production accounting is used for the Council’s carbon footprint and consumption accounting for the Cumbria Carbon Baseline.
- The emissions avoidance activities of the Council, such as renewable electricity generation and recycling of waste are part of the accounting.

Annual calculations

In applying these proposals the Council should use the following figures in the annual reporting and net-zero calculations:

1. Net GHG emissions: Scope 1 + Scope 2 emissions plus Scope 3 as defined above
2. Gross GHG emissions: As per (1) with additional reference to:
 - Full electricity emissions (if taking advantage of renewable tariff discount)
 - Full biomass emissions (including CO₂)
3. Additional emissions: separately quoted significant ‘upstream’ emissions, such as the embodied carbon associated with a new building.

Appendix B: Countywide summary of existing strategies and policies

Plan/Strategy	Owner and Status and summary	Contact/Working Group/Scope to Influence
Cumbria Transport Strategy (Previously Local Transport Plan LTP)	Cumbria County Council – In development stages.	Internal working group within Cumbria County Council
Public Health Strategy	Cumbria County Council – Published. Contain key climate change objective.	Influence through existing groups – Climate Change Working Group, Health and Well-Being Board
Cumbria Development Design Guide	In November 2017 the County Council adopted its updated Cumbria Development Design Guide. The updated Cumbria Development Design Guide takes account of recent national standards and include guidance in relation to Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) as well as detailed guidance in relation to highways, rather than having two separate guidance documents. The update has ensured that County Council's policy is in line with national guidance.	Internal working group within Cumbria County Council. Regular reviews of the guide will provide the opportunity to engage. Senior officers are aware of the climate change working group and through the policy team connections will continue to be made.
Local Energy Plan	Local Economic Partnership – Consultation draft published in July 2018. 'Cumbria is an internationally-recognised centre of nuclear excellence, with the capability to lead on a range of large-scale, nationally significant nuclear infrastructure projects which will contribute towards economic growth, locally, regionally and for the UK as a whole.'	To be confirmed

Plan/Strategy	Owner and Status and summary	Contact/Working Group/Scope to Influence
Flood Risk Management Strategy	Published and adopted as policy – to cover period 2015 – 2020 - Cumbria County Council	Flood Risk Management Strategy to be reviewed in 2019. Influence review and Environmental Assessment criteria.
Minerals and Waste Local Plan	Published and adopted as policy – to cover period 2015 – 2030 – Cumbria County Council The plan sets out the planning policy for assessing proposals for mineral extraction and waste management related development within those parts of Cumbria that are outside of the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks. The Plan has been prepared by the County Council because it is the minerals and waste planning authority.	County Council Minerals and Waste policy officers. Potential to influence during review phases and annual reports. Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) are also carried out – climate indicators could be built into these.
Cumbria Cycling Strategy / Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan(s) (CWIPs)	Cumbria County Council – Emerging strategy	Internal working groups – likely to be consultation
LEP Local Industrial Strategy	Local Economic Partnership – Emerging – likely to be published later in 2019. Final draft with government.	Use existing contacts with LEP and thematic/sector led working groups.

Carlisle Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy



Foreword

Human activity is damaging the environment in which we live and changing the world climate.

This Strategy aims to ensure that Carlisle City Council plays its full role in protecting the environment and in the worldwide movement which aims to tackle climate change.

Our commitment is, subject to public consultation and legal constraints, that all the activities of the Council, all strategic decisions, budgeting, and, in so far as the Council can influence, arrangements with partners, are in line with eliminating pollution and achieving net zero carbon emissions at the earliest possible date.

The challenge is deciding what can the City Council do? If we try to do everything, we will squander our resources and achieve nothing: it is important that we focus where we can influence change.

I would like to thank the members who attended the working group for their contribution to this work. I would also like to thank all for the contribution we have had so far. All ideas and opportunities to address climate change or improve environmental performance should be drawn together and incorporated into appropriate actions, plans, strategies and future presented committee agendas for consideration.

The key to the success of this strategy, reaching net zero, will depend upon a co-ordinated and comprehensive programme of communication and engagement to encourage behavioural change by residents and businesses.

Working in partnership will be essential to reduce the carbon footprint for the whole of Carlisle.



[Councillor Nigel Christian](#): Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport

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Vision and High-Level Strategy

In March 2019 the Council passed a motion to declare a Climate Change Emergency.

In April 2019, the Council adopted the [Joint Public Health Strategy](#). The Strategy included the key aim:

‘To become a “carbon neutral” County and to mitigate the likely impact of existing climate change.’

In June, the Government announced an amend the Climate Change Act 2008 to require net United Kingdom carbon emissions to be zero by 2050. The Council is committed to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) at the earliest possible date.

The Joint Public Health Strategy sets out a vision for a Healthier Cumbria based on the five capitals, taking inspiration from the World Health Organization’s Healthy Cities Model. The future for a healthier Cumbria can be seen as having five key components:

Planet: Cumbria’s natural environment, from our world-class landscapes to the centre of our towns, will be protected and enhanced. Sustainability will be at the heart of future development and Cumbria will reduce its ecological footprint even as it develops economically.

People: Everyone in Cumbria will have the opportunity to develop and use their skills and talents in a way that recognises the value they bring to society and to enjoy a varied and fulfilling life.

Participation: Cumbrian communities will be strong, resilient and inclusive, with well developed social networks and widespread engagement with community life.

Place: Cumbria’s physical infrastructure will promote health and wellbeing, with good quality housing, a high quality urban environment and good access to the services needed for a healthy lifestyle.

Prosperity: Cumbria’s economy will develop sustainably, with growth particularly focused on tackling poverty and providing quality employment for all.

The work done so far

Local Plan Policies

The [Carlisle District Local Plan 2015-2030](#) sets out the long-term vision through the spatial strategy and strategic planning policies, seeking to ensure that future growth is sustainable. The Local Plan has four policy objectives that are directly related to this strategy:

Spatial Strategy and Strategic Policies Objectives

- To promote a sustainable pattern of development, which will contribute to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, to support the vision for managed growth.
- To support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by meeting the housing needs of present and future generations, in a high quality environment with accessible local services.
- To contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment (including improving biodiversity), using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.

Climate Change and Flood Risk Objectives

- To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, including through securing energy from renewable sources, and avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding to ensure that the District is more resilient and less vulnerable to the effects of climate change and can successfully adapt to its effects.

Health, Education and Community Objectives

- To create a thriving, successful and healthy community for all by promoting cohesive mixed communities and ensuring that everyone can have a decent home, in a safe environment, with good access to health care, educational provision and other community facilities by sustainable modes, including walking and cycling.

Green Infrastructure Objectives

- To protect, enhance and increase the provision of the green and blue infrastructure across the District to create and maintain multifunctional, interconnected and attractive recreational and ecological networks for the benefit of residents, businesses, visitors and the wider natural environment.

Property, estate and fleet

The Council owns over £120.7 million in assets¹ across the whole district area, delivering a range of statutory and discretionary services. The operational and investment assets have been assessed to produce Display Energy Certificates (DECS) and Energy Performance Certificates (EPCS), where required. This information is being used to assess the assets against the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES), these are the minimum level of energy efficiency required to let non-domestic property under the Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015.

The 3 Year Repair and Maintenance Programme (2020/21 – 2022/23) delivers on the duty to manage property assets, particularly operational assets, in a safe and efficient manner and which contributes to the quality of service delivery. This maintenance strategy is fully integrated with the Asset Management Plan and environmental policy.

The Council has developed a Fleet and Plant Strategy that delivers on the commitment to reducing its impact on the local environment and improve local air quality by reducing vehicle emissions. Controlling fleet costs and conducting a robust 'fleet challenge' to determine genuine business need to support all fleet decisions is a key part of this strategy.

Recent projects that are making a positive impact include:

- Review of depots and efficient use of operational assets
- Replacement of waste and recycling fleet with modern efficient vehicles
- Continued investment in cycling and walking infrastructure
- Renewable electricity generation through Photo-Voltaic installations on the roof spaces of the Sands Centre and Civic Centre
- Programmed maintenance to improve the energy efficiency of the estate
- Homelife grants tackling energy efficiency and fuel poverty

The Council and its partners continue to develop and deliver Climate Change adaptation and mitigation. The following projects are underway, together they will significantly reduce the Council's greenhouse gas emissions:

- Sands Centre Redevelopment
- Civic Centre Ground Floor Reinstatement
- Replacement of footway lighting with energy efficient lamps
- Ongoing replacement of fleet and plant with lower carbon vehicles and equipment
- Waste management and recycling initiatives at operational sites

The Council is delivering projects to help reduce Carlisle district's greenhouse gas emissions:

- Community Electric Vehicle Charging Points
- Improvements to the cycling and walking infrastructure, increasing the network for active transport.

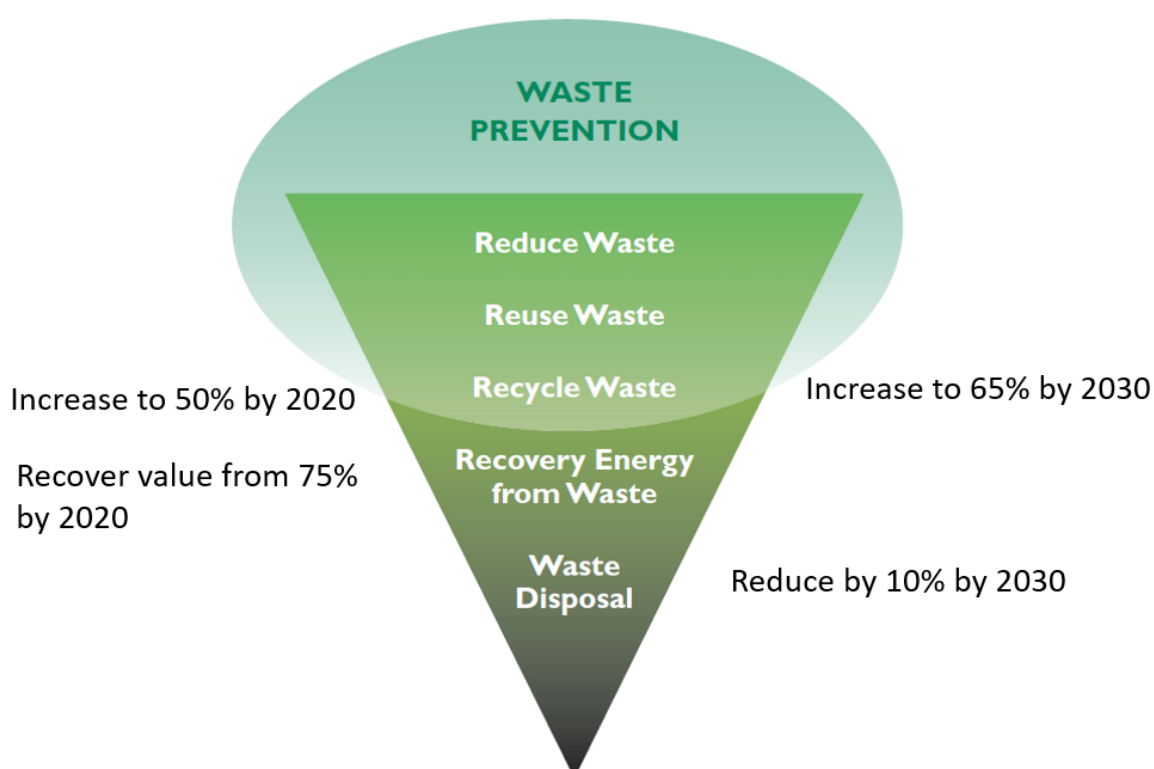
The Council is also working in partnership to adapt to Climate Change, over the next three years Carlisle will benefit from the delivery of new flood defences and upstream natural flood management projects.

¹ Asset Management Plan 2020-2025

Waste and recycling

The collection of waste is a duty of the Council, since 2004 the Council has provided extensive kerbside and community recycling services, leading the way on waste recycling.

The Joint Cumbria Waste Management Strategy 2008-20 and Cumbria Minerals and Waste Plan 2015-30 sets out the overall countywide strategy for waste and recycling. The simple goal is to climb the Waste Hierarchy, whilst remaining self-sufficiency and dealing with waste as close as practicable to the point at which it is generated. The key targets from the strategy are presented below alongside the hierarchy.



The goal of increasing the recycling rate to 50% (by 2020) and 65% (by 2030) is reported as a Key Performance Indicator. The collected recycling rate for 2018/19 is 41.3%.

When the collection recycling rate is combined with the tonnages from the Household Waste Recycling Centres and the recovery of materials during disposal, this rate of recycling increases to 55.7%² (CSe05/2018/19).

² March to February 2018/19

Determining Carlisle's Carbon Footprint

A carbon footprint measures the total greenhouse gas emissions caused directly and indirectly by a person, organisation, event or product.³

Carbon emission largely come from several main sectors of the Cumbria Economy:

- Energy
- Housing
- Transport
- Waste
- Industry/Infrastructure
- Farming and Rural
- Tourism

The Countywide Climate Change Working Group will connect into these sectors to influence and communicate what will be needed to become zero carbon. The purpose of this group is to plan and oversee a radical programme of action that will enable Cumbria to become a carbon neutral county and to mitigate the likely impact of existing climate change. In order to do this, the group will:

- Propose a shared definition of “carbon neutral”
- Propose a target date by which this is to be achieved
- Commission a baseline carbon audit for the County and agree ongoing monitoring mechanisms
- Identify leadership for developing action across key topics
- Establish a programme of action by key partners
- Lead joint campaigning to encourage wider public awareness and action.

The Countywide Climate Change Working Group has commissioned work from Small World Consultancy which will be pivotable to establishing a robust and consistent methodology.

The Council has also been working in partnership with all the local authorities in Cumbria to develop a methodology for organisation carbon footprinting. This combined approach will enable the Council to report a carbon footprint alongside the Carlisle district footprint, whilst putting these figures into the wider Cumbria and national context.

³ [Carbon Trust](#)

Objectives

To achieve the strategic goal of net zero GHG emissions the following objectives will be progressed:

Objective 1:

Reducing emissions from the City Council estate and operations.

Objective 2:

Reducing energy consumption and emissions from homes and businesses in Carlisle and tackling fuel poverty, by promoting energy efficiency measures, sustainable construction, renewable energy sources and behaviour change.

Objective 3:

Reducing emissions from transport by promoting sustainable transport, reducing car travel and traffic congestion and encouraging behaviour change.

Objective 4:

Reducing consumption of resources, increasing recycling and reducing waste.

Objective 5:

Supporting Council services, residents and businesses to adapt to the impacts of Climate Change.

Each objective has a set of draft actions, listed with relevant service areas and proposed timescale for delivery. Each action will be linked to the carbon footprint and baselining work, using scopes (1,2,3) and district options.

The timescale for the delivery of any actions is linked to capacity and resources. A simple approach to the timescale using the terms short, medium or longterm is included. These timescales are best described in terms of financial planning:

Short: Within the current budget year or budget cycle for the following year

Medium: Within the period of the current Medium-Term Financial Plan (currently 2020-25)

Long: Beyond the Medium-Term Financial Plan period but before the target date for net-zero

Key Actions

OBJECTIVE 1: Reducing emissions from the City Council estate and operations.

	Action/Outcomes:	Service Area:	Timescale	Carbon footprint scope
1.1	Develop new Carbon Management Plan for 2020-2025 to reduce energy and fuel consumption for the City Council's estate and operations.	Policy & Communications Property Services Neighbourhood Services Finance and Resources	Short	Scope 1 and 2
1.2	Take opportunities to improve the energy efficiency of the operational and commercial properties owned by the Council as they arise.	Property Services	Short	Scope 1 and 2
1.3	Explore the potential for introducing Environmental Management System in key services and operational sites.	Property Services Policy & Communications Health & Wellbeing Neighbourhood Services	Short	Scope 3 and district
1.4	Develop and implement a Council Employee Travel Plan including promoting and incentivising alternative methods of transport for Council business e.g. through provision of pool bikes, cycle mileage allowance, travel warrants, train travel and the provision of electric pool cars.	Human Resources & Payroll Organisational Development Policy & Communications	Medium	Scope 1, 2 and 3
1.5	Review of the procurement guide for staff to promote and support sustainable procurement.	Finance and Resources Internal Audit	Short	Scope 3
1.6	Work with partners to develop partnership projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including the development of Energy Masterplan (Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal)	Corporate Director of Economic Growth Regeneration Planning	Short	District

OBJECTIVE 2: Reducing energy consumption and emissions from homes and businesses in Carlisle and tackling fuel poverty, by promoting energy efficiency measures, sustainable construction, renewable energy sources and behaviour change.

	Action/Outcomes:	Service Area:	Timescale	Carbon footprint scope
2.1	Support residents to improve the energy efficiency of their property.	Regulatory Services Investment & Policy Development Management Building Control	Long	District
2.2	Work with voluntary and community groups to provide advice to businesses on reducing energy consumption and emissions as part of wider advice on sustainability.	Policy & Communications Carlisle Partnership Property Services Investment & Policy	Long	District
2.3	Require new non-domestic properties to be constructed to BREEAM Excellent Sustainability Standards, through policies in the revised Local Plan.	Investment & Policy Development Management Building Control	Long	District
2.4	Work with developers to deliver sustainable housing developments in Carlisle and promoting sustainable construction methodologies.	Investment & Policy Development Management Building Control	Long	District
2.5	Work in partnership with social landlords, developers and architects to share knowledge and learning on sustainable construction and promote the application of these principles on new development.	Investment & Policy Development Management Building Control	Long	District
2.6	Promoting low carbon and renewable energy provisions in new developments through Local Plan policies.	Investment & Policy	Long	District
2.7	Work in partnership where appropriate, including County wide on projects to promote energy efficiency and low carbon energy	Policy & Communications Carlisle Partnership Investment & Policy	Long	District

	Action/Outcomes:	Service Area:	Timescale	Carbon footprint scope
2.8	Develop a co-ordinated and comprehensive programme to encourage behavioural change by residents and businesses to reduce their carbon footprint.	Policy & Communications Carlisle Partnership	Long	District
2.9	Introduce consequential improvements policy as part of the Local Plan.	Investment & Policy Development Management Building Control	Long	District

OBJECTIVE 3: Reducing emissions from transport by promoting sustainable transport, reducing car travel and traffic congestion and encouraging behaviour change.

	Action/Outcomes:	Service Area:	Timescale	Carbon footprint scope
3.1	Work in partnership with the Local Transport Authority in improvements to transport infrastructure to tackle congestion, reduce journey times, reduce greenhouse gases emissions and improve air quality.	Policy & Communications Health & Wellbeing Neighbourhood Services Investment & Policy	Long	District
3.2	Work with partners and developers to ensure that new developments are served by public transport connections as well as making provision for cyclists and pedestrians.	Investment & Policy Development Management Carlisle Partnership	Long	District
3.3	Working with partners to promote and encourage a programme of improvements to cycling facilities, including remodelling street corners and junctions.	Health & Wellbeing Investment & Policy Development Management Carlisle Partnership	Long	District
3.4	Work with partners to facilitate provision of electric charging hubs for all types of vehicles in Carlisle, including bikes.	Health & Wellbeing Investment & Policy Development Management Carlisle Partnership	Long	District

	Action/Outcomes:	Service Area:	Timescale	Carbon footprint scope
3.5	Support and promote a Travel for Work Partnership to develop travel options for employees in the city.	Policy & Communications Carlisle Partnership	Long	District

OBJECTIVE 4: Reducing consumption of resources, increasing recycling and reducing waste.

	Action/Outcomes:	Service Area:	Timescale	Carbon footprint scope
4.1	Work with partners on the Sustainable Food Action Plan to achieve Sustainable Food City Status.	Carlisle Partnership Health and Wellbeing	Medium	District
4.2	Maintain the current level of occupying rates at existing allotments and support take-up of new community gardens and allotments in development areas.	Health and Wellbeing Development Management	Medium	Scope 3 and district
4.3	Work with partners on a programme for healthy eating including cooking skills to help reduce reliance on processed and packaged food.	Carlisle Partnership Health and Wellbeing	Long	District
4.4	Increase food waste collections from commercial properties.	Policy & Communications Carlisle Partnership Neighbourhood Services	Medium	Scope 3 and district
4.5	Explore opportunities to increase recycling through the range of materials and the number of sites.	Neighbourhood Services	Medium	Scope 3 and district
4.6	Develop and implement targeted recycling and waste minimisation awareness campaigns, including promoting national Zero Waste Week.	Policy & Communications Neighbourhood Services	Short	District
4.7	Help to promote Voluntary and Community Groups to be involved in recycling and reuse activities.	Policy & Communications Carlisle Partnership	Medium	District

	Action/Outcomes:	Service Area:	Timescale	Carbon footprint scope
		Neighbourhood Services		

OBJECTIVE 5: Supporting Council services, residents and businesses to adapt to the impacts of Climate Change

	Action/Outcomes:	Service Area:	Timescale	Carbon footprint scope
5.1	Include policies in a Supplementary Planning Document of the Local Plan which will support residents to adapt to the impact of Climate Change including policies on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designing buildings which are simple to keep cool and do not overheat in the hotter weather; - Requiring applications where appropriate to include Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDs) and ensuring that development is not at risk from flooding and that it does not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. 	Investment & Policy	Long	District
5.2	Work with Cumbria County Council and other partners in Cumbria Strategic Flood Partnership to manage climate change related flood risks.	Corporate Director of Economic Investment & Policy Development Management Policy & Communications	Long	District
5.3	Develop and implement a new tree strategy for managing risks and increasing the city's tree stock.	Health and Wellbeing	Medium	District
5.4	Work with partners of the Cumbria Local Resilience Forum to ensure that plans are in place to respond to climate change risks and that these are regularly tested and reviewed.	Policy & Communications Carlisle Partnership	Medium	District
5.5	Develop an evidence base for climate change adaption to enable us to have a better understanding of the climate risks facing the Council and district and the adaptation actions that will be the most effective.	Policy & Communications Carlisle Partnership Investment & Policy	Medium	District

Partnerships and procurement

Everyone and every organisation can get involved in this strategy. The partnership stakeholder map recognises the many examples of positive actions already underway. In addition, this map identifies the key groups and organisations that have specific roles in driving forward this strategy and commitments.

The Council, along with its partners, is committed to ensuring that services are delivered in a way that protects the quality of the environment and minimises any adverse impact on health and wellbeing. The Council recognises that procurement and commissioning is fundamental in delivering more sustainable outcomes. To achieve this, it is necessary to ensure that environmental and broader sustainability considerations are considered throughout the procurement and commissioning process, along with the use of local suppliers where appropriate. Three key actions will help deliver this:

- *Carbon Footprint*
- *National and Countywide Citizens' Assembly, to involve the wider population*
- *Carlisle Partnership Climate Change focus, which will proactively include young people, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future.*

Procurement decisions will provide opportunities to continually improve our environmental performance, especially in major capital projects and service contracts. The key partners will include:

- *Carlisle Partnership*
- *Carlisle Ambassadors*
- *Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal Partnership*
- *Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership*
- *Cumbria Strategic Flood Partnership*
- *Cumbria Local Resilience Forum*
- *Cumbria Public Health Alliance*

Performance

Alongside this strategy datasets will be identified and developed into management information for monitoring. As projects are initiated Key Performance Indicators will be established and monitored throughout the project lifecycle. This management information will be added to the Performance Dashboard and the KPIs will be included in the End of Year Performance Report for the Council's Executive and the Carlisle Partnership.

This strategy will be reviewed annually, and this review will be made available for public overview and scrutiny.

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2020

EX.18/20 LOCAL ENVIRONMENT (CLIMATE CHANGE) STRATEGY
(Key Decision)

(With the consent of the Chairman, and in accordance with Rule 15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules; and Regulation 10 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 this item was included on the Executive Agenda as a Key decision, although not in the Notice of Executive Key Decisions)

Portfolio Environment and Transport

Relevant Scrutiny Panel Health and Wellbeing; Economic Growth

Subject Matter

The Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder submitted report PC.02/20 presenting the draft Carlisle Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy which drew together the work undertaken by Members, Officers and partners subsequent to the Council's resolution in March 2019 to declare a Climate Change Emergency.

The report provided background and context to development of the draft Strategy, including information on action taken to date and projects in the pipeline; emerging national strategies and plans; and county wide action planning.

The Portfolio Holder indicated that the overall vision was taken from the Joint Public Health Strategy, namely 'to become a "carbon neutral" County and to mitigate the likely impact of existing climate change.' He added that the draft Strategy presented actions grouped under five objectives outlined at paragraph 1.6, with details of the definitions and carbon accounting being provided at paragraph 1.7.

Details of the risks associated with the strategy and the outline timetable for consultation were set out at Sections 3 and 4.

The Portfolio Holder stated that the Climate Change Working Group would be involved at all stages as the matter progressed, and he looked forward to the receipt of comments from as many people as possible on what was a very important document.

Moving forward, the Environment and Transport Portfolio Holder wished to see a greener city, with much greater resilience on public transport; people walking / cycling to work. Accordingly, he moved the recommendation that the Executive approve the draft Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy for consultation and public engagement.

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder stated that she served on the Climate Change Working Group, which represented a continuation of her life-long work on environmental protection.

The Portfolio Holder acknowledged that much remained to be done, adding that available options would be taken into account. It was particularly pleasing that consideration was being given to the 'green agenda'. Trees are the lungs of any city and she was therefore an advocate of tree planting.

The Portfolio Holder commended the Green Spaces Team for their work, to which Members could contribute. The objectives of the draft Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy mirrored the Cumbria wide local health document to which all Cumbrian authorities had signed up. It demonstrated that the green agenda was embedded in all that they did. Opportunities for environmental efficiency would also present themselves via projects such as the St Cuthbert's Garden Village.

Today Cumbria County Council had, in conjunction with the six District Councils, published a statement on tree cover; in addition to which the Local Government Association was undertaking work on climate change.

The Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder was therefore fully supportive of the Strategy.

Referring to page 22, the Deputy Leader was pleased that the Local Energy Plan (Local Economic Partnership – consultation draft published in July 2018) acknowledged the importance of nuclear power in reaching zero carbon emissions. He welcomed the fact that nuclear power was supported via the Strategy.

Summary of options rejected that the draft Strategy should not be approved for consultation

DECISION

That the Executive approved the draft Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy for consultation and public engagement.

Reasons for Decision

Through a combination of elected, representative leadership and officer work it was possible to coordinate a comprehensive programme of decision-making and activity at all tiers of government to tackle the challenge of climate change

The work so far was sufficiently advanced to form a draft strategy and action plan. The continued progress at a countywide and national level meant that those documents would need to be agile and responsive to new developments. It was therefore recommended that a draft strategy is published to focus the debate and discussions on the best way to move forward together