

North East Derbyshire District Council

Communities Scrutiny Committee

22 July 2022

NEDDC Climate Change Strategy Refresh

Report of Steve Lee - Assistant Director, Transformation and Communication

Classification: This report is public

Report By: **Steve Lee - Assistant Director, Transformation and Communication**

Contact Officer: **Steve Lee - Assistant Director, Transformation and Communication**

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To inform the Communities Scrutiny Committee of the progress of refresh of the Climate Change Strategy 2022-2030.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the report is noted.

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details:

Since 2020 the Partnership Strategy Team has been responsible for maintaining oversight and of the Climate Change Strategy on behalf of the authority. Service Managers are responsible for management of departmental resources which contribute to the Strategy's delivery. External funding accessed for additional projects is overseen by either directly by the Partnership Strategy Team or in partnership with identified departments (such as Leisure regarding the energy efficiency installations at the leisure facilities).

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details:

Adherence is maintained to inward- and out-facing Service Level Agreements and NEDDC's Legal and Data Protection Policies.

Staffing: Yes No

Details:

Evaluation of workload implications upon the Partnership Strategy Team is undertaken in regular individual, team and Service Planning reviews. Engagement with other departments required to assist in delivery is maintained to ensure targets are achieved.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:</p> <p>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	No
<p>District Wards Significantly Affected</p>	All wards across the District
<p>Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet / Executive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SMT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>	Yes Details: Steve Lee, Assistant Director – Transformation and Communication

<p>Links to Council Plan priorities or Policy Framework including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.</p>
<p>Our Environment – Protect the character of our District; Tackle climate change; Ensure a clean, green environment; and Enhance the natural environment.</p>

REPORT DETAILS

1 Background

- 1.1 In 2019 the Council declared a climate emergency, launching its Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2030, *“Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink.”*
- 1.2 Since that time Officers have been working with Members to drive actions that work to positively mitigate the impact of climate change, reporting through the internal Climate Change Sub-Group. During the past three years a number of other strategies and working groups have emerged which have developed partnership working and influenced policy direction, such as the DCC Climate Change Strategy 2021-2025, Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy 2022-2025 and Officer Working Group, and the international COP26 meeting.
- 1.3 It was therefore felt appropriate to refresh the existing Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2030 in light of these changes, and whilst retaining the end timescale and *“Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink”* title, refocus it as the Climate Change Strategy 2022-2030.
- 1.4 This report provides a summary of the latest progress of refreshing the document for the 2022-2030 period.

2. Details of Information

Production

- 2.1 The production of this revised document was rescheduled until 2022 in order to ensure complementarity with other key emerging strategies and international and national approaches. This also enabled the Council to meet its staff intensive priorities of firstly delivering the COVID-19 discretionary business support grants between 2020 and 2022 and more recently preparing its application for £2,568,204 UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funding.
- 2.2 As a refresh of an existing Plan, the focus of the consultation of this work has been through the Climate Change Sub-Group which met in May 2022.

Content

- 2.3 Following COP26 the Council is restating its intention to achieve an 80% reduction in our carbon emissions by 2030 by being a proactive and strategic community leader, direct service deliverer, local regulator and major employer.
- 2.4 The vision of the Strategy is:

“A District that balances economic prosperity with environmental sustainability, improving the lives of our people and our environment today and in the future.”
- 2.5 It maintains the clear principles which give the document its name, which are:
 - REDUCE - consumables, energy, travel, waste;
 - REUSE - renewable energy, materials, products, equipment;
 - RECYCLE - water, waste, by-products;
 - RETHINK - can we do something different? Do we need to do it at all?

2.6 The document provides context in terms of international, national and local policy drivers and the current emissions in the District. The latter will be measured on an ongoing basis using the most appropriate available data.

2.7 The Council's approach to delivery sets out ten thematic areas which will be monitored through the Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Plan, the 'living document' that will be overseen by the Climate Change Sub-Group. These themes are:

- **Theme 1 - Operational Practices and Procurement**

Considering everyday planning, prioritisation, carbon awareness, procurement policy, operational transformation and policy and training development.

- **Theme 2 - Sustainable Buildings and Workplaces**

A fabric first approach the Council's buildings to reduce energy and water usage, minimise waste, reduce operating costs and seek external funds to upgrade facilities and commercial premises.

- **Theme 3 - Low Carbon Fleet**

Regularly reviewing the Council's own fleet, considering alternative fuel options and encouraging sustainable staff travel to work options.

- **Theme 4 - Renewable Energy**

Investigating opportunities for micro-generation on Council-owned property and supporting the use of renewable energy.

- **Theme 5 – Planning**

Developing appropriate guidance, policy and frameworks to ensure that planning measures for net zero buildings are integrated into the Local Plan and wider planning activities, working with others to influence carbon reduction.

- **Theme 6 - Biodiversity**

Taking a holistic approach to managing open and green spaces, such as our mowing strategy and reviewing open space maintenance and planting works.

- **Theme 7 - Waste and Recycling**

Aiming to increase the levels of recycling by residents and businesses and reducing the levels of waste and tackling environmental pollution.

- **Theme 8 - Local Authority Housing**

Adopting a fabric first approach to make carbon savings in Council owned homes, such as external wall insulation and heating and advice through visits from the Home Improvement Co-ordinator.

- **Theme 9 - Local Economy**

Supporting businesses to sustainably reduce their carbon footprint, promoting the reduction of travel by promoting local businesses and leisure opportunities.

- **Theme 10 - Community Collaboration**

Working with residents and businesses to raise awareness of climate change initiatives and projects and how behaviour changes can make a difference.

Monitoring and Delivery

- 2.8 Due to recent changes within the Partnership Strategy Team, a new Partnership Support Officer commenced on 4th July 2022 who will support the monitoring of actions led by colleagues within the Team and also from across the organisation. Monitoring will consider three strands:
- Internal Operations – all aspects of our operations
 - Indirect Control – things we are partly responsible for, such as our housing and planning
 - Influence – Community engagement, education etc.
- 2.9 Whilst the revised monitoring framework is still in production, operational activity to mitigate climate change is ongoing. Highlights include over £12m invested into social housing External Wall Insulation (EWI), £1.33m and £1.5m decarbonising investment into Dronfield and Eckington leisure facilities respectively, upgrading lighting to LED at District Council Offices and tree planting across the District.

Production

- 2.10 Subject to final amendments it is anticipated that the refresh of the Strategy will be presented to Cabinet in autumn 2022.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 To inform the Communities Scrutiny Committee of the work undertaken to refresh the Climate Change Strategy 2022-2030.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Not applicable.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Draft NEDDC Climate Change Strategy 2022-2030
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below.)	
n/a	