

## Council Plan 2023-2027 – A summary of progress by objective for the period ending 31st December 2023

### A Great Place that Cares for the Environment

*The following progress has been made on **reducing carbon emissions and pollution across the district**:*

*Assist and influence other public partners, residents, and businesses to reduce their carbon emissions.*

Sustainability Officer commenced in post on 27th November 2023 to co-ordinate the delivery of the Climate Change Strategy (Regeneration & Programmes)

Clay Cross Low Carbon Challenge Fund business engagement event held 16th November 2023. 10 Expressions of Interest and 4 full approvals for the commercial scheme received by end of quarter (Regeneration & Programmes).

18 cases of delivering efficiency advice to households for vulnerable people and providing signposting where eligible for assistance (Environmental Health).

The 2023 Annual Status Report, which documents the air quality monitoring data from the calendar year of 2022 has been compiled, submitted, and approved. During 2022 there were no reported exceedances of any Air Quality Objectives, including the annual mean NO<sub>2</sub> objective. This continues the trend of no exceedances over the last 6 years and therefore there remains no requirement to declare a Local Air Quality Management Area. The maximum reported NO<sub>2</sub> concentration in 2022 was 36.6µg/m<sup>3</sup> recorded at a new monitoring location (the annual mean objective for NO<sub>2</sub> is 40µg/m<sup>3</sup>). A decrease in annual mean concentrations from 2021 to 2022 was observed at 14 out of the 16 monitoring sites. The continued decrease in annual mean concentrations could be due to the establishment of a 'new normal' in traffic volumes, with organisations maintaining 'Working From Home' (WFH) patterns, thus reducing the number of vehicles comparative to pre-pandemic periods. Reductions can also be attributed to 'natural' compliance as the development of vehicles is seeing an increase in cleaner vehicles on the roads. (Environmental Health).

A media campaign was run throughout October, highlighting the safe and clean use of wood burners (Environmental Health).

Nox tubes were exchanged monthly at all sites and an order placed with the supplier for tubes for 2024, so the monitoring of Nitrogen Dioxide can continue throughout the year (Environmental Health).

Working with Authorities such as Wakefield Leisure Services to provide support on facility development and sharing best practice through APSE performance networking sessions (Leisure).

Attaching a condition on major planning permissions for major developments mitigating climate change condition e.g., 23/00708/FL (Whiteleas Avenue) – (Planning).

*Continually reduce the Council's own carbon emissions*

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Sustainability Officer undertaking a light touch review of the Climate Change Strategy to ensure alignment with the new Council Plan (Regeneration & Programmes)

Technical and financial audits underway for Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Round 3 (PSDS3) (Dronfield Leisure Centre), documentation submitted (Regeneration & Programmes)

AD has submitted an Expression of Interest to Town Board for a further 240 solar PV to be located on the pool roof (Clay Cross Active. Awaiting decision (Leisure).

District Council Office- options being looked at for EV charging points and PV panels at Mill Lane. Coney Green Business Centre - Low Carbon Challenge Fund application progressing. Streetscene depot (feasibility currently underway) should be significantly less than the existing facility at Eckington. EV fleet is also a further consideration (Property and Estates).

Meeting room and desk booking software setup and being utilised by Rykneld Homes and NEDDC staff to enable hotdesking and sharing of office spaces. Council Chamber Audio visual equipment project complete, providing large, hybrid meeting space for future meetings which could reduce travel requirements for staff, Members and members of the public (ICT)

30 External Wall Insulation (EWI) measures have been completed on the Council's housing stock in December. The total for Q3 (Year to date) is now 146 (Housing).

The project to replace hardware phones with softphones is continuing. This is an ongoing project; phones are not being taken away but not replaced when they break (Finance).

Most meetings, webinars and training with outside bodies and providers now take place online. This has allowed the finance team to interact on a more frequent basis and attend many more sessions than when travelling to an event but without increasing carbon emissions associated with travelling (Finance).

*Assist and influence other public partners, residents, and businesses to reduce pollution.*

Encourage and condition need for car charging points and renewable energy provision on major development approvals e.g., condition 13 of planning permission ref. 23/00601/FL at Clay Cross – (Planning).

Pollution control team dealt with over 150 service requests including responding to over 100 planning/licensing consultations and over 40 requests for advice on or complaints about industrial or commercial air/noise/odour/light pollution; 4 risk assessments of industrial premises were completed, and 3 check inspections carried out in respect of medium to high-risk premises (Environmental Health).

Parish council visits going well - making useful contacts and discussing Biodiversity Nett Gain (BNG) options (Streetscene)

*Develop policies and plans which require and encourage alternatives to car usage.*

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Economic Development working with Network Rail, DfT and DCC to consider next steps for the feasibility for Clay Cross Railway Station (Regeneration & Programmes)

Working with the Barrow Hill Line Restore Your Railways initiative regarding potential Killamarsh Rail Station (Regeneration & Programmes)

Secured travel plans on major developments in this quarter. Bus station improvements as part of CCTD approval (ref. 23/00601/FL) – (Planning).

*Directly and with partners and residents, reduce litter and pollution from waste.*

DEFRA initial settlement has been released which was under the amount needed to purchase all the vehicles required. Further meetings programmed to discuss procurement options (Streetscene).

Attach waste management plan conditions on planning permissions for major development e.g., condition 22 of planning permission 23/00708/FL – (Planning)

16 business waste compliance inspections were carried out across the district to ensure commercial waste is disposed of legally and correctly and 9 Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for: littering (3), fly abandoned vehicles (3), Failure to produce (2) and Breach of PSPO (1). High profile social media campaign and press release re renewal of dog control PSPO which will deter dog fouling. Communications on a littering Fixed Penalty Notice and a business waste compliance offence have been issued. (Environmental Health).

Sustainable Christmas campaign on social media and website targeting reducing litter has been undertaken in December (Communications).

*The following progress has been made on **increasing biodiversity across the district:***

*Assist and influence other public partners, residents, and businesses to utilise their assets to improve biodiversity.*

Engaging with DCC regarding the development of the Heartwood Community Forest following its approval in November. Potential for Community Action Grant support for community-led initiatives and using redundant NEDDC sites (Regeneration & Programmes).

Working with planning colleagues on identifying patches to be used of Biodiversity net gain. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) have submitted draft proposal for nature recovery plan for NEDDC (Streetscene).

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust have produced a draft Nature Recovery Plan and NEDDC's first Biodiversity Report has been drafted (Cabinet to consider before publication in Jan 2024) – (Planning).

*Where appropriate, utilise Council assets to improve biodiversity.*

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Sustainability Officer engaging with Planning for Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) work to ensure synergy on approach to deliver new legislation (Regeneration & Programmes).

Planning permission ref. 23/00601/FL (Clay Cross Town Deal) to preserve and enhance bat mitigation on existing historic buildings (Planning).

A sum of up to £50k will be invested to improve biodiversity for the Clay Cross Active development. This will include planting of trees, edgeways, etc and will be complete by December 2024 (Leisure).