



Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date **Friday 8 October 2021**
Time **9.30 am**
Venue **Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham**

Business

Part A

**Items which are open to the Public and Press
Members of the Public can ask questions with the Chair's
agreement, and if registered to speak**

1. Apologies
2. Substitute Members
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 July 2021 (Pages 3 - 20)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Any Items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties
6. Climate Emergency Response Plan
 - a) Report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change (Pages 21 - 70)
 - b) Presentation by the Principal Officer and the Carbon and Energy Analyst, Low Carbon Economy Team (Pages 71 - 86)
7. Renewable Energy Projects
 - a) Report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change (Pages 87 - 94)
 - b) Presentation by the Principal Officer and the Carbon and Energy Analyst, Low Carbon Economy Team (Pages 95 - 102)

8. Quarter 4 2020/2021 - Outturn Budget Report and Quarter 1 2021/22 Outturn Budget Report - Report of the Corporate Director of Resources (Interim) - Presented by the Finance Manager, Neighbourhoods and Climate Change, Resources (Pages 103 - 118)
9. Quarter 1 Performance report - Report of the Corporate Director of Resources (Interim) - Presented by the Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager, Resources (Pages 119 - 132)
10. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Helen Lynch
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
30 September 2021

To: **The Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Councillor B Coult (Chair)
Councillor J Elmer (Vice-Chair)

Councillors E Adam, P Atkinson, B Avery, L Brown, J Charlton, L Fenwick, G Hutchinson, C Kay, C Lines, R Manchester, C Martin, B McAloon, I McLean, D Nicholls, R Potts, J Purvis, J Quinn, T Stubbs and S Townsend

Co-opted Members:

Mr T Bolton and Mrs P Holding

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DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham on **Friday 16 July 2021 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor B Coult (Chair)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Elmer, E Adam, B Avery, J Charlton, L Fenwick, G Hutchinson, R Manchester, C Martin, I McLean, D Nicholls, R Potts, J Purvis, J Quinn, T Stubbs and S Townsend

Co-opted Members:

Mr T Bolton and Mrs P Holding

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors P Atkinson, L Brown and B McAloon.

2 Substitute Members

No notification of Substitute Members had been received.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2021 were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were not Declarations of Interest.

5 Any Items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

There were no items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties.

6 Neighbourhoods and Climate Change - Overview

Members considered the report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change that provided members with an introductory overview of the Neighbourhoods and Climate Change service grouping (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Head of Environment Services was in attendance to present the report and deliver a presentation (for copy of presentation, see file of minutes).

The presentation focussed on the services within the Service Grouping that were within the remit of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, that included Environmental Services, Technical Services and part of the Community Protection Service.

The Environment service covers a large number of services which are front facing and has statutory obligations to keep the streets clean and to respond within a reasonable timeframe. The Head of Environment explained that the grounds maintenance service has a £2.5million service level agreement (SLA) with schools and has similar contracts with social housing and Durham County Council open spaces. However, it was highlighted that the service had benefitted from the work of volunteers especially with Civic Pride projects and has provided opportunities for young people through the Hagrid project. In addition, Durham County Council employs 54 Neighbourhood Wardens some of which were sponsored by Town and Parish Councils, with one warden sponsored by Durham University.

Members were advised of the Bereavement Services that includes two crematoria which are managed by two joint committees, council graveyard and closed graveyards. The work of the Pest Control Service was also highlighted stating that the service undertakes both domestic and commercial work. It was also highlighted that this service area was responsible for allotments which is a large asset of the authority that is managed via devolved management or by direct let.

In relation to Waste Management the Head of Service focussed on how much has changed from being a wasteful society to becoming wiser in giving consideration to the environment and the impact of climate change. Durham County Council collects refuse and recycling from 250,000 households and in some areas garden waste too. Another area which was highlighted, subject to the ascent of the Environment Bill was food waste and that it is expected to be mandated by 2024 that local authorities collect food waste separately. This would require the service to be ready to meet that time frame, along with other local authorities. The Head of Service highlighted the work being done to encourage waste reduction and how the service was promoting and encouraging recycling, reusing and composting and avoiding contamination through engagement and education.

Members were advised about the waste contracts including the multi authority residual waste re-procurement contract which is a partnership contract with other local authorities that provides huge economies of scale. The facility would be a publicly owned energy from waste facility that would provide energy and heat offtake and the project will also benefit from carbon reduction and capture.

Members were advised that Technical services is divided into two areas – Strategic Highways is responsible for the assets, it covers planned maintenance of highways, footways and bridges; it also includes the Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project (SLERP); Drainage and Flood Risk Management and public rights of way. In a recent government survey regarding indicators to establish the efficiency of prioritising and targeting highways work Durham County Council came out top of all local highway authorities which enabled Durham County Council to secure further funding from government. The Highway Services are responsible for carrying out the actual maintenance of these assets including winter maintenance.

The presentation concluded with the challenges to the service being highlight and that these services covered areas that were front facing such as fly tipping which was an issue many members had in their divisions and it was important that Durham County Council combat this and other service challenges such as the increasing regulatory environment.

The Chair thanked the Officer for his very informative presentation and asked Members for their questions.

Councillor Stubbs referred to the garden waste collection service and the number of subscribers to the service and asked if this had increased during the COVID pandemic period or if the Council predicted a future increase.

The Head of Environment Services responded that they had seen an increase in the number of subscribers to the garden waste service despite the service being suspended for a short period during the pandemic at the start of the first lockdown, and that they now had over 65,000 subscribers to the service. The service had also come to the end of a three-year deal last year which could have resulted in a fall in subscriptions, but they had not seen any drop off from the renewal of the service and were at the highest level for the service since the introduction of the charges. He continued that government had indicated in the Environment Bill that there was a potential for requiring local authorities to collect garden waste for households for free or at a reasonable charge. Durham County Council would need to consider the Environment Bill and its implications, but the service was delighted at the take up of the garden waste collection services. This could result in extending the service and looking at current charges in the future.

Councillor Charlton referred to Highways Assets and was concerned to see a low number of grit bins.

The Head of Environment Services responded that providing additional grit bins was not an issue it was the servicing of them. In bad weather grit was used up very quickly and needed to be replenished very frequently and this was a limiting factor. There was a priority list for grit bins and when an application was received for a salt bin, an assessment was carried out of the conditions at that location. Currently there were a reasonable number of bins that could be replenished within the timescales.

Councillor Adam highlighted how the wide ranging and front facing services impacted on all individuals and asked in relation to the key challenges regarding staffing, and resources what the council could do to ensure they received fair funding from the government including from the shared prosperity fund, and any work required in terms of the levelling up agenda. He highlighted that these were key sources of funding to ensure that Durham County Council can meet the challenges identified.

The Head of Environment Services indicated that the challenges were across the council as a whole and not just for the Neighbourhoods and Climate Change Service Grouping. Colleagues in Regeneration, Economy and Growth Service Grouping and on a regional basis were doing their best to attract funding. The Head of Service advised that his role was to do the absolute best with the resources at hand and to achieve efficiencies where possible.

Mrs Holding congratulated the authority on the flower arrangements on the various roundabouts throughout the county adding that it was a pleasure to see the flowers on them and requested that more planting is undertaken. She then referred to dog fouling and indicated that while the dog mess was being picked up poo bags were not being placed in bins and were often left in situ or hung on trees and bushes and asked if the bags were biodegradable or if it was a lack of bins causing users to leave these bags lying around. She then referred to the waste from covid lateral flow testing kits and disposable masks and asked if they were recyclable and whether special bins could be used for this waste.

The Head of Environment Services thanked Mrs Holding for her feedback on the roundabouts and confirmed that he would feed this back to the team. He commented that they were trying to use more sustainable planting which resulted in less grass cutting, which was both better economically and for the look of the roundabouts. With regard to dog fouling this was a major irritation for members of the public. The service had produced informational posters and targeted areas where there were high numbers of complaints regarding dog fouling, Neighbourhood Wardens would also act on local intelligence where it was available. There were also campaigns and street signs that would indicate that the area was being patrolled and monitored and he confirmed that this was an ongoing issue and that the service was using various options to tackle this issue including education and working with schools to highlight this subject. In relation to the waste generated by COVID, there is a lot of waste resulting from COVID testing but it was designed as single use due to the biological material which could be hazardous. Where there

were centres with large volume of this type of waste, such as schools, arrangements are being considered for recycling. At the moment the government advice was to put these items in your waste bin, but the Head of Service indicated that he hoped that the agencies concerned were looking at what items could be recycled when safe to do so.

Councillor Manchester referred to food waste recycling and indicated that the committee were advised approximately three or four years ago that the council were preparing a business plan to implement a food waste programme. He asked if the Service would be able to use this work already undertaken or whether the service would have to start again and were the authority in a good position to meet or exceed any government expectations on time frames.

The Head of Environment Services indicated that the council had submitted a bid for food waste recycling for the Durham City area for a trial which was not successful. This however, had enabled the authority to do some thinking around this. The authority had received some government funding for waste research a couple of years ago and as part of this the service had investigated and analysed the potential for a food waste collection service. They were one step ahead of the game by having a comprehensive report that looks at the sort of vehicles required and caddies and in addition the council also has a team for this work, and he would keep the committee updated with the progress. The biggest challenge would be low emission vehicles to collect the food waste.

Councillor Quinn asked if there were any plans to improve cycle routes to encourage more cycling for example the A167 from Rushyford to Newton Aycliffe to improve travel safety.

The Head of Environment Services responded that the council has a Strategic Cycling and Walking Strategy and that was referenced in the Climate Emergency Response Plan to encourage the use of sustainable travel and supporting the Strategic Cycling and Walking Strategy. Supporting the strategy were a variety of bespoke plans to secure funds for new cycle and walkways as well as improving existing routes.

Councillor Adam added as the previous chair of the committee that consultation had taken place and plans were in place and that this route features in the strategic plan.

Councillor Nicholls referred to the winter maintenance and how some villages could be cut off if it was not for the winter maintenance programme. He asked if the same level of funding would be available for the team to maintain or improve the level of service. He also asked how the council were involving experts in the decisions made around the environment i.e., ecologists as Durham County Council needed to ensure everything was implemented in the best way possible and asked if resources such as Durham University and the Wildlife Trust were utilised.

The Head of Environment Services responded that Highways services do more gritting of priority networks in comparison to other local authorities, but that did not stop requests to expand the network. We have years where we have good winters and years where we have bad winters, and the approach was that a suitable budget was allocated which has enabled a build-up of resources as a result of the good winters and that the County had sufficient resilience and made it clear to the committee that he could not see any threats on delivery. In reference to environmental specialists the council does employ specialists and confirmed that the council feeds into the County Durham Partnership which is made up of public, private and third sector organisations and includes organisations such as the Wildlife Trust and the Environment Agency who all work together in delivering plans. He continued that, Durham County Council has worked closely with Durham University including having students work secondments with services, and that we were very fortunate that Durham University specialises in the areas that Durham County Council focus on and this is reciprocated as Durham County Council is an ambitious council.

Councillor Potts asked if they were plans to have a section where people could go to for advice in relation to the installation of solar panels and the erection of wind turbines.

The Head of Environment Services acknowledged that the members questions was very valid and advised that the service had the following plans going forward, firstly building on community intelligence to have a system similar to the single use plastics pledge providing the opportunity for individuals and companies to sign up to a similar pledge in relation to climate change and find out more information and ways they can help. Secondly, as a means of filling the gap without any funding establish a community organisation to change for example a gas boiler, which has a small grant fund providing a mix of grants and loans. On top of this the service has the Business Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP) which is very successful, they carry out a free survey and develop an action plan for businesses to help them through making small scale energy reductions.

Councillor Avery referred to the weight of bin wagons and commented that in his local area they were causing damage to the cobbled streets. He continued that this damage was being repaired with tarmac and that using tarmac was spoiling the look of these streets. He asked if the bins in these streets could be moved to the end of the street so as to prevent further damage to the cobbles.

The Head of Environment Services indicated that the vehicles weighed 26 tonnes and it was environmentally better to use the bigger vehicles as less journeys would be needed resulting in less carbon emissions, but there may be a potential to use a smaller electric bin lorry but would need to look at the merits of doing this.

Councillor Elmer referred to the contamination of recyclates and the disproportionate impact of the use of black bags in contamination and that it was difficult to persuade people to stop using them and required a national stance from government to ensure these products are not manufactured in the first place. He asked whether the council was putting pressure on government to legislate in relation to this issue.

The Head of Environment Services indicated that the upcoming Environment Bill announced proposals for greater national consistency in relation to recycling. However, it does require the support of the companies who make the materials to be in agreement also currently the rules regarding recycling can change from one local authority to another. There were two elements relating to black bags, a person who has excess recycling may think it is ok to put additional recycling into a black bag and place next to the recycling bin, the problem is that not only can black material not be recycled but the operatives cannot see what is in the bag. At the waste transfer stations those black bags are put to one side, there is no separate sorting of these bags. So, we either stop using black bin bags or we have an outlet that can utilise them in due course to extend as far as we can what we recycle in the county. An opportunity would be to have an outlet that could utilise the black plastic.

Resolved: That the report and presentation be noted.

7 Environment and Climate Change Partnership - Overview

Members considered the report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change that provided members with background information on the County Durham Environment and Climate Change Partnership (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

Prof Jon Gluyas, Durham University and Durham Energy Institute, Chair of the Climate Emergency workstream, Mr S Bhowmick, Environment and Design Manager and Mr S Priestly, Principal Ecologist were in attendance to present the report and deliver a presentation (for copy of presentation, see file of minutes).

The presentation set out details of the background and structure of the partnership, vision and partnership priorities, plans and challenges (for copy of presentation, see file of minutes).

The Environment and Design Manager advised members that following the County Durham Vision 2035 being agreed by the County Durham Partnership September 2019 and the restructure of the County Durham Partnership governance structure in September 2020, a new Environment & Climate Change Partnership (ECCP) was developed and introduced.

A workshop to consider a potential role, structure and priority areas for the new ECCP took place on 10 November 2020. Experts were drawn from across other

thematic partnerships as well as stakeholders from Durham County Council, Durham University, external agencies, the voluntary sector and business partners.

The new Environment and Climate Change Partnership governance structure was agreed at the workshop, with the partnership being led by the Environment and Climate Change Partnership Executive Board and supported by 3 workstreams:

- Climate Emergency
- Ecological Emergency
- Place, Health and Community

Following the establishment of the three workstreams the Environment and Climate Change Executive Board met for the first time on 24 March 2021.

Members were advised of the makeup of the Executive Board and of the new vision statement for the partnership - 'A better County Durham: sustainable communities, resilient to climate change, richer in nature.'

The Chair of the Climate Emergency Workstream, Professor Gluyas advised that he has worked with the low carbon team for a number of years and that this work stream had held their first meeting. The Chair of the Climate Emergency Workstream reminded members of the Council's declaration in 2019 of a Climate Emergency with two distinctive targets to reduce the Council's carbon footprint by 80% (relative to the baseline from 2008) by 2030 and that of the county completely decarbonise by 2050. However, the council's emissions equate to only 3% of the county's total emissions.

The remit of the workstream is broad in relation to the elimination of greenhouse gasses and link into national government and organisations. Durham University has developed the Durham Heat Hub. Half of the energy in the UK goes on heating and of that 77% comes from fossil fuels. The Durham Heat Hub is tackling this head on such as the repurposing of old coal mines and using the water from the disused mines to supplement heating. The Durham Miners Association at Red Hills had received a lottery grant to reduce their carbon footprint and would be an exemplar of how to move forward. The Chair of the Climate Emergency Workstream advised on the development of a customised Local Area Energy Plan to identify energy assets and challenges across the County and develop a programme of interventions. The workstream was also pulling together a countywide plan as to How to Tackle the Climate Emergency with the plan due for completion in February 2022. However, in the meantime the workstream has taken some old initiatives that perhaps needed more work such as the use of car parks and car ports to collect solar energy and potentially charge electric vehicles with, such initiatives allowing for greater engagement with the public. Another example of a project is the removal of greenhouse gasses produced in agriculture by the housing of animals which allows this to be undertaken. Work on this was being carried out by Durham University in

partnership with Houghall College this project was called Moothane. In relation to national work Durham University was working with the Church of England to reduce its carbon footprint with many Church of England Priests trained at Durham University therefore they will go out across the country taking the climate emergency message with them. There is a long way to go but this is the beginning.

The Principal Ecologist introduced the Ecological Emergency Workstream whose principal role was to co-ordinate strategic action to reverse the decline in biodiversity across the county. The Principal Ecologist explained how our wildlife has depleted over the centuries and the workstream would by following the Lawton Principles create bigger and better-connected habitats and ensure the strategies were in place to do this. Private, public and third sectors make up the representatives on the workstream, however going forward this may change to adapt to the needs of the workstream.

The main role of the Ecological Emergency Board will be to develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for County Durham which is likely to be a statutory requirement of the Environment Bill, due to receive Royal assent later this year. LNRS will help drive more coordinated, practical, focussed action and investment to help nature thrive, for its own sake and for the benefits a healthy environment brings to communities. The boundary for these statutory strategies is likely to be counties and the workstream was making progress towards the things likely to form part of these strategies, including habitat mapping, a statement of biodiversity priorities, key outcomes and associated actions to deliver them. Although the workstream representatives are currently fixed the workstream is aware they will need to adapt and change as they progress.

The Environmental and Design Manager introduced the Place, Health and Community workstream which has met twice and made considerable progress to date. The aim of the workstream was to make communities feel empowered to take environmentally based actions for themselves to achieve places where people want to live. The workstream intends to promote healthy lifestyles through community outreach including the links via the Area Action Partnerships and other engagement and partnership working.

The Environmental and Design Manager set out the workstream's intentions over the coming year and beyond and added that it had an opportunity to add value and be a critical friend to challenge existing agendas and use breadth of skills on the group to bring communities into the wider environmental agenda of Climate Change and Ecological Emergency but also the regional agenda.

The Chair thanked Officers for their comprehensive report and presentation. The officers responded to questions and comments from the Committee as follows:

Councillor Adam indicated that it was important to recognise the work that had been achieved since the council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and the creation

of the Climate Emergency Response Plan. The Partnership presentation identifies the joined up working and thinking and focusing on the outcomes and what can be delivered as a Council. This is a valuable partnership and the workstreams make it easier to manage and understand and was looking forward to hearing about its ongoing work. Councillor Adam then referred to the work programme and highlighted there was only reference made to one of the workstreams in the work programme (the ecological workstream) and suggested that the other work streams should be picked up in the committee's future work programme and that he would be raising this later. He indicated that the climate emergency workstream were having quarterly meetings but did not know how often the other workstreams were meeting. He then referred to the delivery of the reduction of CO₂ emissions, specifically transport, in terms of reduction of car use, delivery vehicles etc and asked whether there was work to be carried out in this field as it effects not only the carbon footprint but affects the air quality too which is a major health issue.

The Chair indicated that they would discuss the issues around the work programme at that agenda item.

The Principal Ecologist advised that the Ecological Emergency Board meets quarterly with sub-groups meeting in between board meetings to pick up on issues, also in both Cumbria and Northumberland they have both completed pilot Nature Recovery Strategies, so it is important to retain those links which have already been formed.

Prof Gluyas indicated that transport was a key part of their work, there was an active joint study between the Council and Durham University looking at what has happened during the pandemic with regard to energy consumption. It was clear from the unofficial results that there had not been much impact in terms of changes in energy required in buildings, but the real change was associated with people working from home and that there was a massive drop in carbon emissions from transport. Recently Durham University was awarded two national networks for the whole of the UK, one on the decarbonisation of heat and the use of hydrogen within transport that would address some of the issues with larger vehicles, possibly including some of the refuse vehicles. As the hub is in Durham then we would be the first to benefit from it.

Councillor McLean referred to an old colliery site in Horden that was not developed and through contacting officers in relation to establishing a countryside walkway, the site turned out to be a Specific Scientific Interest Site (SSIS) due to the natural habitat of invertebrates, however there was also mine water on the site too and there was a lot happening on the site with regard to ecology, the Councillor felt that the site had a lot to offer however, there seemed to be no engagement between services managing the various activities on the site, it needed to be pulled together. Discussions had been going on for three years and he commented that he was pleased to hear that something had now been set up to look at joint priorities.

Prof Gluyas indicated that he was not aware of that particular site but would ensure that it was on the agenda for the relevant workstream.

Councillor Potts indicated that he kept bees and commented on the importance of bringing people along and the difficulties faced by the public in finding who to contact about what should and should not be planted and suggested a website where people could get information and advice.

The Principal Ecologist responded that at the last meeting of the Ecological Emergency Board they discussed urban habitats and how they were classified as there was a danger of looking at it on too big a scale and you forget that you need to integrate biodiversity throughout the landscape and that included gardens, parks and urban areas and something like an oasis of a wildflower meadow in a community was a valuable resource and needed to be incorporated into the strategy. There had been discussion about a single point of contact and there was recognition that this needed to be done but this had not been achieved to date.

The Environmental and Design Manager reinforced the words of the Principal Ecologist and added that the Place workstream wanted to promote local food growth and provide links to cultivators and that discussions were taking place in relation to a food commitment statement. There was learning to be done and links had been made with other organisations and local authorities and this was a strong area to look at but unfortunately currently there was nothing joined up.

Councillor Potts added that lots of schools were trying to do this and perhaps this was a way forward.

Mrs Holding referred to homeworking and asked if because more people were staying at home was this having a detrimental impact on their individual carbon footprint.

Prof Gluyas responded that there was a reduction in transport with people working from home, and they will be publishing information from the study which may provide some information which may help to answer this question.

Mr Bolton referred to a previous question about where to get advice in relation to planting and advised of a couple of schemes local to him, 'edible incredible' that looks at growing vegetables on unused plots for intergenerational use and indicated that there are plots in Eldon and the Dene Valley areas. There were also groups in Darlington, Middlesbrough and Ashington so it may be worth having a look at the websites and suggested that this was something that members could sign post their local communities to.

The Environmental and Design Manager added that the Place, Health and Community workstream were getting local food growing at grass roots level embedded into the respective town and villages plans.

Resolved: (i) That the report and presentation be noted.

(ii) That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee include a further update from the Environment and Climate Change Partnership in its work programme for 2022/23.

8 Quarter 4 2020/2021 - Performance Management Report

The Committee considered the report of the Interim Corporate Director of Resources that presented the progress towards achieving the key outcomes of the Council's corporate performance framework (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager advised that this was a regular report to the committee and referred to the period from January to 31 March 2021, so it was not only a quarterly report it was also a yearend report in what has been a year that has been significantly impacted by COVID-19. The purpose of the report was for members to monitor performance of areas within the service that fall within the remit of this committee and to help members identify areas for further scrutiny. The report was presented against the three ambitions in the County Durham Vision 2035 – More and Better Jobs: Long and Independent Lives and Connected Communities.

The report picked up on Leisure Services that falls within the Regeneration and Economic Growth Service Grouping but falls within the remit of this committee. COVID 19 legislation led to closures in the leisure facilities so there will be a loss of income that members may want to scrutinise in further detail when they receive the quarterly finance report. The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager added that in relation to the council's outdoor areas which have remained open and have provided an opportunity for exercise outdoors and confirmed that Leisure centres reopened on 12 April. In relation to environmental cleanliness unfortunately the environmental surveys have not been carried out in the quarter being considered.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager advised that there had been significant rises in relation to fly tipping and this was due to the statutory closure of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC). However, HWRC are now open although some were experiencing long queues, but Neighbourhood Wardens had carried out investigations and issued fixed penalty notices relating to fly tipping. The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager referred members to a chart within the report that showed how Durham County Council compared regionally and nationally using both the amount of fly tipping incidents per 1000 Hectares and per 1000 population, the result was similar for Durham County Council using both methods showing that we are below both the regional and national averages. Members were advised on the work of the Community Action Team in relation to their work at Shildon. In relation to waste there has been an increase in the amount of waste generated by households in terms of residual waste and recycling and this is also reflected nationally. This means that we generated more waste and recycling, but

the content of that recycling has gone down by three percentage points on last year and the amount of recycling from our HWRC has also reduced. Contamination of recycling is high at 34% which is greater than last year when it was 29% but it is reducing however there were financial impacts in that we were required to pay financial penalties to our contractors should contamination levels go too high. However, the amount of glass recycling had surpassed the three-year average with an increase of 22%. As a consequence of the increases in waste nationally the whole industry has been overwhelmed and as a result has had to divert more to landfill and therefore there has been an increase in the amount of waste diverted to landfill.

In terms of carbon emissions, in 19/20 we reduced carbon emissions by 51% (from the 2008 baseline) and are now working towards 70% reduction by 24/25. Although carbon emission figures for 20/21 will not be available until Q2 21/22. We are moving forward with a £8.3 million project to create a solar farm at our Morrison Busty depot in Annfield Plain. The solar farm will power the whole depot, including electric vehicle charge points for our fleet. The project is part of a wider refurbishment to improve energy efficiency including new cladding, windows, doors and LED lights.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager advised that Under the question: Is it easy to travel around the County and in relation to maintenance of our highways the percentage of A roads where maintenance is recommended this has increased to 3.0%, 12 months earlier it was 2.8% and the percentage of C roads where maintenance is recommended has increased to 4.3%, 12 months earlier it was 3.7%.

Councillor Adam referred to page 90 of the report in relation to contaminated waste and waste diverted to landfill and indicated that COVID had an impact in terms of the materials that were recycled and the problems with contamination but also the increase in the amount of recycling produced and the impact in terms of the sector finding it difficult to cope. In terms of people's habits and contaminated material it would be interesting for the council to identify how much contamination was actually from roadside bins and if this waste was transferred to landfill as landfill was costly and not the most effective solution.

The Head of Environment Services confirmed that roadside litter were sent to the energy from waste plant and were not included in the contamination figures. He explained that contamination was also an element of non-target materials such as clothes and hard plastic. He added that the service was planning to carry out more work in relation to education and refresh the campaigns to advise people of what goes into which bin.

Councillor Adam noted that the Council were recycling well, which was positive but in relation to the increase in the waste going to land fill could the reasons for this be identified.

The Head of Environment Services responded that the biggest impact was the closure of the household waste recycling centres and when they reopened other outlets were still closed and the market in terms of the consumption of those resources had dropped. This resulted in items that were normally recycled going to landfill. The market had since picked up but was not fully back to normal and remained fragile.

In response to a question from Councillor Nicholls relating to an update on the highway's figures, the Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager advised that the figures on road maintenance would be updated in Quarter 2 or Quarter 3.

Councillor Elmer then referred to page 93 of the papers and to reference 99, the indicator relating to the reduction of CO₂ emissions and suggested that more information was needed that drilled further down to give a suite of indicators identifying various sources of CO₂ as this would help to target improvements.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager informed members that this information was available on the Durham Insight website that gave a range of information in CO₂ sources including Industry, domestic and transport. Data starts at 1990 and goes through to the latest data in 2018 so this is information that can be provided to members.

Councillor Elmer suggested that in relation to Council operations this should include investment and procurement and asked if the council were considering their emissions in relation to these areas which needed to be factored in.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager responded that the performance indicator was a national indicator that looks at direct local authority actions and did not include third party impacts in relation to investments and procurement. He indicated that he would look to see if this information could be produced.

Resolved: That the overall position and direction of travel in relation to quarter four performance, the impact of COVID-19 on performance and the actions being taken to address areas of underperformance including the significant economic and well-being challenges because of the pandemic be noted.

9 Refresh of the Work Programme

The Committee considered the report of the Interim Corporate Director of Resources that provided members with an updated draft work programme for 2021/22 (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer was in attendance to present the report and highlighted that the work programme identified those agenda items prioritised by the

Chair and Vice Chair to come to formal committee and those items to be delivered via briefing reports throughout the lifecycle of this work programme. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer advised members that there was a need for the work programme to be flexible to accommodate items that may arise throughout the year.

Five meeting dates had been allocated for 2021/22 running from September to May and it was hoped that additional meetings may be an option as the work programme progresses.

A copy of the work programme had been circulated for consideration and members were invited to discuss and consider those areas contained in the programme and to identify any additional priorities for discussion and consideration.

Councillor Adam referred to the Partnership presentation delivered earlier in the meeting and highlighted that the work programme only made reference to the Ecological Emergency and not the other two workstream areas and it was important they were included in the committee's future work programme.

Councillor Elmer advised that the item referenced in the work programme was identified separately to the partnership work and at the time the Chair and Vice Chair were unaware of the partnership work in this area. However, they would consider adding to the work programme and including where appropriate in the programme update reports relating to the other remaining partnership workstreams.

The Chair indicated that consideration would be given as to how they could build the items mentioned into the work programme.

Councillor Adam then referred to the Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project that was included in the work programme as a briefing report and suggested that this item should come to committee. He commented that this particular project was initiated in 2013 with a refresh update in 2015 and a further update report was due to comeback to committee in 2020, but this had not happened. However, at the last meeting of the committee in March 2021, as part of the work programme debate Members had indicated this was an important area for the council to look at as there had been a number of issues with regard to the removal of some street lighting and therefore should be an item debated at formal committee.

Councillor Adam then referred to the allotments policy and how they had heard from the environment climate change partnership who were keen to encourage food growth. He identified that the council has an allotments policy and the committee had previously established a working group to look at this policy in 2018, with this review continuing for two years, encompassing a great amount of work which culminated in him, as Chair of the committee, presenting the report to Cabinet in 2020. The committee's recommendations included some key issues to ensure that allotments were seen as a key part of provision. He asked if this could also be included into the work programme, initially as a briefing report to bring members up

to date in this work programme with a further report coming to committee in the 2022/2023.

The Chair indicated that all the points raised by members would be considered to see how they could be incorporated into the work programme. Councillor Townsend asked if they could also consider including the Stockton and Darlington Bicentenary celebrations into the work programme.

The Chair confirmed that it would be considered.

Mr Bolton supported Councillor Adam on the request for the allotments to be included in the work programme. He then raised two issues for consideration in the work programme the first Seaham Garden Village proposal.

Councillor Elmer commented that at the next meeting they were going to be looking at the Carbon Emergency Response plan and it was important when they look at that plan, they also celebrate successes but also identify the gaps and asked members to think about where the county was not doing so well.

Mr Bolton responded that the committee in the past had received reports on geothermal projects, but these projects had not progressed. His second item was in relation to Brightwater project which was a heritage lottery funded project which was working around river skerne and its attributes. The aim of the project was to bring back land to wetlands and suggested that members could consider visiting the project to see the work. The project is funded by Heritage Lottery funding and commenced in 2018, the project is led by Durham Wildlife and Durham County Council and suggested that members may want to visit the project.

Councillor Elmer advised that he had knowledge of the areas involved as he had worked in those areas.

Councillor Nicholls referred to wild meadows and flowers and what they could learn from other authorities which had successfully transformed areas into wild meadow. Councillor Nicholls then spoke of the need to involve people in communities through civic pride with litter picking schemes and better engage with parish councils and ensure that funding was available and asked if this could be included in the work programme.

Councillor Elmer referred to the ecological emergency that cut across all council services asking how we can make improvements. He then indicated that wildflower meadows were a part of that because of their diversity and that it was important to take people with us on the journey through consultation and interpretation on site location. Sites must be in the right places to create a network of ecological sites and to single out the responsibilities of planning for making decisions reflecting on how land is maintained and managed.

The Overview and Scrutiny officer advised that Civic Pride was included in the work programme under environmental schemes/projects.

The Chair indicated that they had a section on waste management so would look to see if this could be incorporated into that report.

Councillor Nicholls thanked the Chair and added that schemes/ projects such as Civic Pride were appreciated by communities and that the work undertaken in relation to Climate Change was positive.

Councillor Adam referred to the work programme and that there was no mention of site visits. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer advised that currently we were unable to include site visits due to COVID restrictions and when the restrictions were lifted this would be included in consultation with the Chair/Vice-Chair and committee.

The Chair indicated that they would take all the points raised away and look to see if these could be incorporated into the work programme moving forward.

Resolved: (i) That the comments of the committee on the proposed work programme for 2021/22 be noted.

(ii) That the work programme for 2020/21 and the flexibility it offers to respond to emerging issues be agreed.

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**Environment and Sustainable
Communities Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**

8 October 2021



**Climate Emergency Response Plan –
Year 2 Update**

**Report of Alan Patrickson, Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods
and Climate Change**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide.

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on progress of the Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP).
2. To consider future challenges for new iterations of this plan beyond its initial two-year scope so that the plan can adapt, and progress to meet the long term Council and countywide targets.

Executive summary

3. The Climate Emergency Response Plan adopted by Cabinet in February 2020 was a costed, two year plan detailing over 100 projects that the Council and its partners needed to take towards achieving targets of reducing Council CO₂e reductions by 80% by 2030 (2008/09 baseline) and countywide of becoming totally carbon neutral by 2050. It was developed through extensive consultation with Council staff, community groups, residents, schools and other organisations.
4. The Council's carbon emissions during 2020/21 are approximately 44,319 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e), a reduction of 14% compared with last year's 51,787tCO₂e. This represents a significant drop with the annual average since 2009/10 being 7%. It achieves a reduction of 58% against the baseline for Council activities¹.

¹ Detail can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/climatechange

5. Despite the devastating impact Covid -19 has brought, it has undoubtedly had a positive impact on Council emission figures, and its influence was felt within weeks of the CERP being agreed. The “stay at home” lockdowns for many office based staff meant reduced usage of buildings, as well as reduced business and fleet travel. The temporary closure of some services, such as leisure centres, has also reduced building energy consumption, but as these building still need to be maintained, not eliminated emissions entirely.
6. Comparing with the previous year, we see a 22% reduction in electricity from buildings, an 11% reduction in gas for heating and an 8% reduction in fleet and transportation (which might have been more if not for the cold winter). Whilst these reductions are of course very welcome, it is unlikely that these full benefits will be repeated this year, as they are associated with low occupancy of buildings. Going forward however there is opportunity to build on this through, for example, increased levels of working from home, even when normal conditions arise.
7. As we move towards a full re-opening of services and buildings, the continued implementation of the projects within the CERP and newly identified projects, will be crucial if the momentum gained from these short term benefits are to be sustained. A list of ongoing projects from the CERP is contained in Appendix 2. Furthermore, we are now planning the next iteration of the CERP for 2022/24 which will be going before Cabinet in February 2022.
8. The LCE team has been successful during the year with several key funding bids to support its decarbonisation efforts. £494,000 was secured to help decarbonise Abbey Leisure Centre; £492,000 was secured to improve the energy efficiency of Meadowfield Depot; and £114,000 was secured to replace oil heating with an air source heat pump with Solar PV at Woodland School, whilst funding was also secured to ensure that the new visitor centre in Crimdon, Dunes, has a heat Pump and solar PV installed.
9. Projects such as the £8m Annfield Plain Zero Carbon Depot is continuing at pace, with the project due for completion in July 2022
10. Covid-19 will undoubtedly have had an impact on countywide emissions too, but the nationally published figures have a two year time lag, so that the broad impact can only be speculated. Increased home working, coupled with a cold winter, will have increased carbon emissions for domestic heating. Emissions relating to transport and industry will however have reduced, the International Energy Agency estimate that overall there has been a decrease of 5.5% in global energy demand with 6.5% reduction in CO₂ emissions. It is not certain yet if this will be reflected in County Durham figures.

11. In relation to projects that have a Countywide benefit, most schemes have continued to develop. These include:
 - a. SOSCI - electric vehicle charge points
 - b. BEEP – Business energy efficiency
 - c. Housing retrofit schemes
 - d. Seaham Garden Village – Now at Inception Phase.
 - e. Blue Carbon schemes
 - f. Bike Loan scheme
12. Latest data (from 2019) confirm a 54% reduction in emissions from the 1990 baseline.
13. During the last year the Council has received several accolades for its work in combatting climate change, including winning Climate Change Initiative of the Year from the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) and Durham City being identified as UK's Greenest City by the Solar Cities Campaign. We are also a finalist in the LGC awards under the 'best climate initiative' category. These are not a cause for complacency however, as much more work needs to be done in achieving the challenging targets.
14. Whilst projects are continuing the LCE team have been tasked with developing a two year update to the CERP which will take us to 2024. We recognise that there were some omissions in the first CERP, including climate adaptation. The new CERP will be much more overarching and is due to go to Cabinet for approval in February 2022. A presentation to EO&SC will take place following approval.

Recommendation(s)

15. Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:
 - (a) Note the progress made against delivering during the second year of the Climate Change Emergency Response Plan

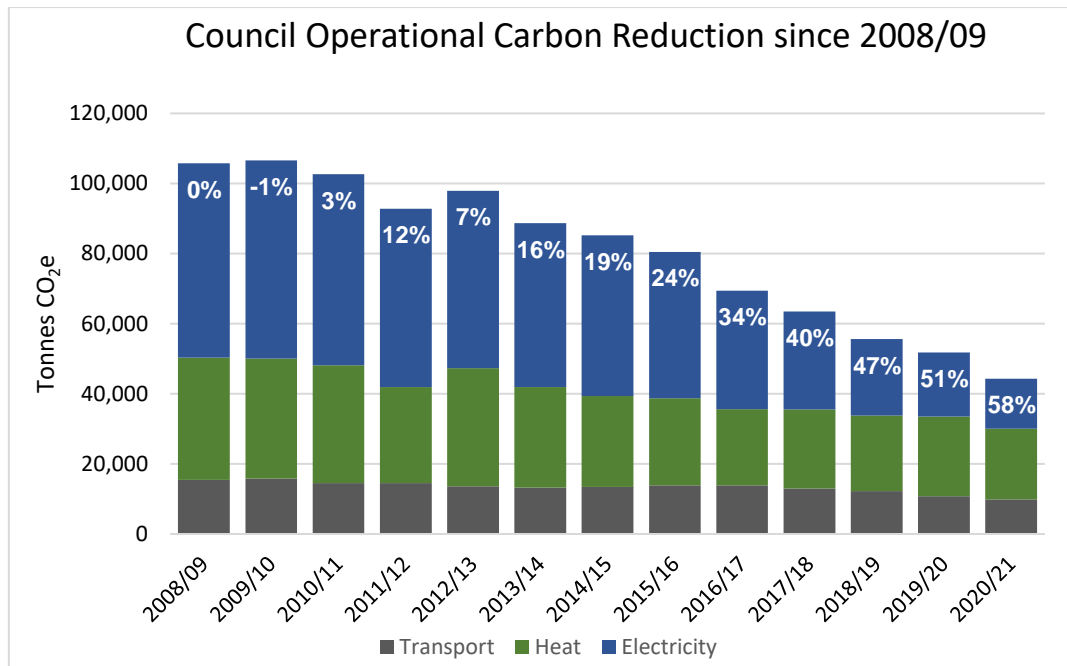
Background

16. On 20 February 2019 the County Council declared a Climate Change Emergency and set ambitious targets to reduce its own carbon emissions by 60% by 2030 (from a 2008/9 baseline) and to investigate what further actions are necessary to make County Durham carbon neutral by 2050 (from a 1990 baseline). In February 2020, given the strong performance to date the Council target was raised to 80% reduction, however a reduction of this scale is extremely challenging.
17. The County Durham Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP) is a two year (2020-22) £66 million action plan adopted by Cabinet in February 2020. It was developed as an inclusive plan from extensive consultation (over 1,000 respondents) and builds on the considerable work to date on energy reduction both from the Council and countywide with partners.
18. Within weeks of Cabinet approving the Plan, the country was in its first national lockdown arising from the Covid -19 pandemic and clearly this has had a dramatic impact, not just on the plan itself, but of course on carbon emissions both from the Council estate and countywide.
19. The CERP had over 100 specific actions over the two years. The remainder of this report summarises not only the progress made against these actions, but also estimates the impact of covid-19. Suggestions are also made as to issues and opportunities that will need to be incorporated into future plans.

Council Progress and Carbon Emissions

20. The Council's carbon emissions during 2020/21 are approximately 44,319 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e), a reduction of 14% compared with last year's 51,787tCO₂e, this is a significant drop with the year average since 2009/10 being 7%. This represents a reduction against the baseline of 58% for Council activities².

² Detail can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/climatechange



21. Some of this performance is attributable to the impact of Covid-19 which closed a number of Council facilities (such as leisure centres during lockdown), reduced occupancy in buildings, especially offices, reduced fleet and transportation, as well as personal business miles on travel.
22. Energy assessments across buildings taken from April to January, show a 22% reduction in electricity use. Gas reductions have also been evidenced, of approximately 11%, and comparisons based around “degree days” temperature methodology reveal this would have been greater if it not had been the relatively cold winter this year compared to the year before. Caution clearly needs to be exercised relating to the extent that these reductions can be sustained, and of course, some of the emissions may have been transferred to a domestic environment for those who worked from home. Nevertheless, opportunity exists in future plans to adopt some of the practices gained from Covid-19 to reduce emissions.
23. The CERP contained Council 28 actions and progress against each is detailed in Appendix 2. The majority of projects and actions have been unaffected and summary, performance is detailed below:

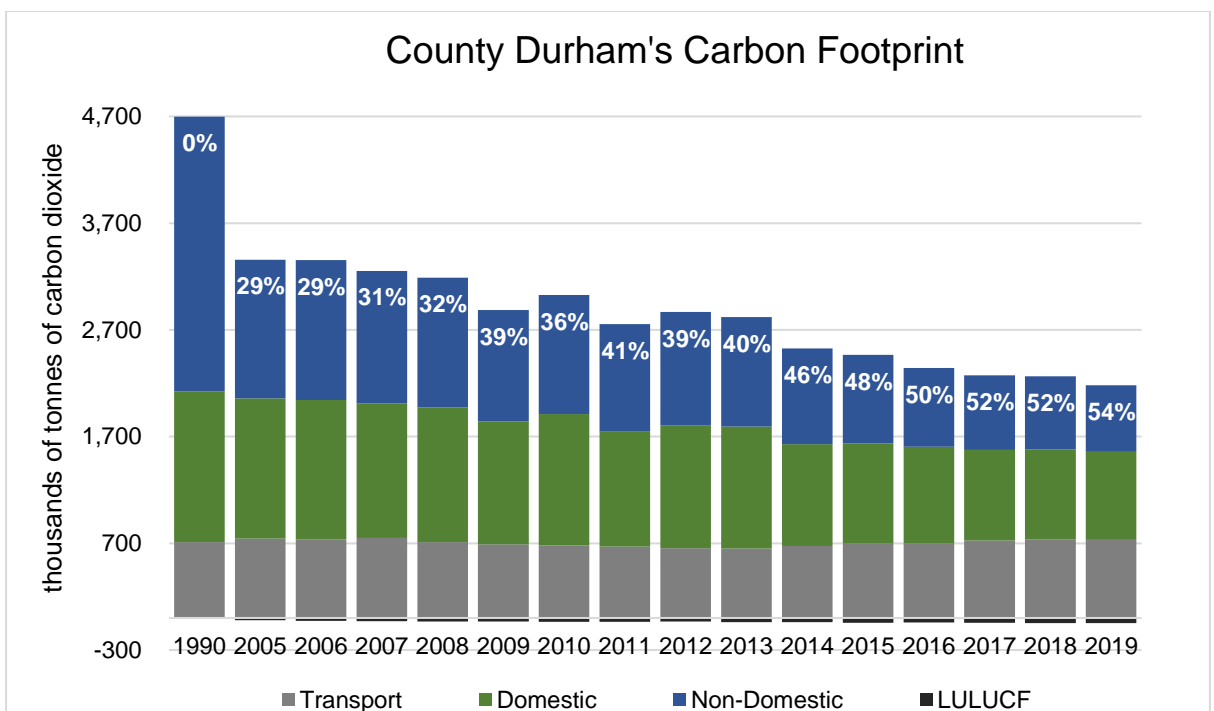
Actions with Delays	5
On Track	18
Complete	4
On Hold	1

24. The delayed projects include the school LED lighting project, which has had to be amended due to SALIX withdrawing the interest free loan, the streetlighting LED scheme related supply chain issues, the pool cars (26 electric vehicles) as the need could not be justified at the time, and the replacement gas boilers programme which slipped due to wider demands on the building and facilities maintenance team. The good news however is that all 5 are being progressed during 2021/22.
25. Progress on actions to reduce emissions from electricity has been generally good. Sites to install further Solar PV have been identified and funding confirmed, whilst the existing solar panels continue to outperform expectations. LED lighting has been installed in over 9 DCC buildings in 2020 and a list of a further 20 buildings have been identified and surveyed as being suitable, with installation starting in Autumn. The ECO2 Smart Schools programme is continuing despite lockdown disruption with a pilot of 'Energy Sparks' data portal with selected schools.
26. Regarding both electricity and heat carbon reductions, the Zero Carbon Depot project at Annfield Plain is progressing onsite with completion expected in July 2022. The £8m ERDF project will include a 3MW solar farm, battery storage, charging posts and energy efficiency upgrades to the Council depot offices. Once operational the solar farm is intended to meet all existing and future energy requirements, including the expanding fleet of electric vehicles. CO₂ savings are projected to be nearly 600t per year.
27. Regarding heat, work on a new strategic building energy management system (BEMS) is continuing, which will mean a significant improvement in the control of energy and reduce the need to travel.
28. Regarding transport, 8 new EV pool cars are now in use (no combustion engine pool cars are now available), with usage being monitored as staff return to work. If more are required, lead in time for further EV pool cars is short. Furthermore, all new vehicles are subject to a business case to explore the replacement with electric vehicles across various Council services and those replaced during 2021/22 will include several electric vehicles. The Council has also purchased a new electric refuse collection vehicle. Finally, business travel has significantly reduced as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and whilst it will increase again when normal conditions arise, there is opportunity to build in the best of the recent practices, that avoid travel unless essential.
29. The CERP has also been flexible and opportunistic, for example making funding bids when opportunity arises. The Council for instance submitted to Highways England £2.28 million which would have

purchased 50 electric vehicles, for business use “try before you buy” but returned to the Council after 2 years. Unfortunately Highways England paused nationally on the scheme. In October 2020 the Government released £1 billion worth of funding to help decarbonise the public sector estate. This was followed by a further £75M in March 2021, and a third round with an unknown limit opens on 6th October 2021. The Low Carbon Economy team, working alongside a cross section of services and external partners, developed a long list of projects which could be submitted for funding. Of these, 4 have been successful in previous rounds. A new shortlist of projects has been created with each project having a full feasibility study carried out in advance of this third round being announced and several of these will have been submitted before this report is received.

Countywide Progress and Emissions

30. The latest figures for Countywide emissions, have a two year delay, consequently the latest figures are for 2019. By the end of 2019 the County’s emissions were 54% lower than in the baseline year of 1990, showing continued progress.



31. Without the figures for 2020 the impact of covid-19 is less clear. Increased home working, coupled with a cold winter, will have increased carbon emissions for heating. Emissions relating to transport and industry will however have reduced, the International Energy Agency estimate that overall a decrease of 5.5% in global energy demand with 6.5% reduction in CO₂ emissions. It is not certain if this will be reflected in County Durham figures, although with both the

industry and transport carbon contribution taking nearly two thirds, it is highly likely that they will be suppressed more than the domestic sector increases.

- 32. If the anticipated reductions in carbon emissions do arise, caution needs to be exercised regarding if they can be sustained. Back in 2008-09, after the global financial crash, carbon emissions rose by 5% as a result of stimulus spending that boosted fossil fuel use. Clearly there is an opportunity for a more sustainable recovery.
- 33. CERP identified 81 actions for the Council and Partners that would benefit Countywide emissions rather than being linked solely to the Council estate. Just as with the Council actions, significant progress has again been made, as illustrated in the summary below, and detailed in Appendix 3.

Actions with Delays	10
On Track	58
Complete	8
On Hold	6
Amended/Closed	1

- 34. The Housing Solutions team have worked with the North East LEP and have had success with multiple LAD bids including £1.8 million for energy efficiency retrofit projects in Chilton and Dean Bank with a further £3.8m for a similar project. Further work is ongoing to install Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs) in off gas communities (43 thus far). Support and advice is also ongoing to residents across the County on Smart Meters and the Managing Money Better Programme
- 35. Exploration of Minewater heat continues Seaham Garden Village being given a national focus, being potentially the first development of it scale in the UK to be heated by minewater. This will make the development carbon neutral for heating and ensure residents and business have low cost affordable low carbon heat.
- 36. Support for community renewable energy schemes is ongoing through and a community loan scheme will be established in 2021/22. Work is ongoing with partners including, Durham University, Northern PowerGrid (NPG) and Energy Catapults, to undertake research and development.

37. The Business Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP) continues to progress despite Covid restrictions and during the last year provided support for 97 businesses, with a total value of 292,000 for projects that emerged, and grant funding of 67,000. The work carried out utilising these grants will save 435 tonnes of CO₂ emissions.
38. Regarding heat, funding from the Department Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), £100,000 has been secured to develop the business case for a town centre (Riverside area) district heating scheme, potentially based on utilising heat from the River Wear or Barkers Haugh Sewerage Treatment works.
39. For transport the first three Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) was be completed in 2021. Further funding is being sought to develop LCWIPs for the remaining 9 main towns. The Park that Bike scheme to deliver 300 stands and 6 secure bike stores commenced in 2021 and will continue through to 2024. Furthermore, a new private e-cargo service is now operating in Durham City in co-operation with the marketplace and various SME's.
40. The Durham City bus station is on track to be delivered, whilst the Real Time Passenger Information system will be replaced in a regional project by December 2021.
41. The roll out of high speed broadband has been a great success with contract 2 SEP of the Superfast programme overachieving on the contractual targets, resulting in c.24k properties in the region obtaining access to Superfast broadband (speeds of at least 30 Megabits per second). Project Gigabite now up and running doubling the funding amounts available to properties in County Durham with speeds of 30Mbps or less.
42. Much of the work in relation to carbon offsetting through improvements to the natural environment has continued unabated. The Councils work on tree planting includes the completion of the Urban Tree Challenge Fund (21,000 trees or whips over 70 sites), continued progress with the Woodland Renewal project (which aims to plant 60 hectares), a partnership with other LA's on a new North East Community Forest.
43. Peatlands are a major carbon sink, and their international loss, represents a serious climate change concern. Working with the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty over 600 hectares of peatland in County Durham was restored this winter, on sites ranging from Kilhope, Eggleston and Holwick moors. CERP Funding has been utilised at Valance Lodge Ridge for restoration, including the reintroduction of sphagnum and cotton grass to seed the restored habitat. Further funding will be supplied in 2021/22.

44. The Council is working with the North Pennines AONB to identify sites and negotiate with landowners to undertake peatland code verification to create opportunities for carbon credit off-setting with businesses. The Raby Estate is undertaking a carbon auditing exercise of its land assets as a result of the discussions in this project so that when a suitable peatland site is made ready, investment will be sought from County Durham businesses wishing to off-set their residual CO₂. Such a project would be the first of its kind in England.
45. A regional Blue Carbon/Marine Habitat Restoration Group has formed. Currently this includes Environment Agency, Natural England, the Tees Rivers Trust and the council, bringing together current activity and sharing knowledge, experience and skills. There are a number of pilot projects underway, including oyster bed and kelp bed creation at a number of sites in the region, including Seaham
46. Schools educational work through Eco2Smart Schools are now progressing, together with a new home energy awareness scheme. Children 4 Climate Change, in collaboration with Durham University and OASES are working with schools across County Durham to understand climate science and provide active citizenship opportunities to raise awareness in communities through interactive website.
47. The development of a specific website and branding for the Climate Emergency in County Durham has been developed. The website will be launched in November to coincide with COP26, whilst the branding has now been rolled out and will be used on all projects with a climate change theme. In addition, there is a programme of communications and engagement activities being developed which will look at internal and external audiences.

Key Post-Covid Influences and New Iterations of the Plan

48. During the last year the Council has received a number of accolades for its work. This includes winning the Climate Change Initiative of the Year through Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) and Durham City being identified as UKs Greenest City by Solar Cities Campaign. We are also finalists in the LGC awards under the 'best climate initiative' category. The Council has also been commended by the national food growing charity Sustain, for having one of the only action plans in the UK that recognised food as a significant contributor to the challenges of carbon reduction. Clearly none of this should be a cause for complacency and there is a continued need to modify and adapt the plan.
49. Covid -19 may have given a short-term benefit for reduction in carbon emissions but there is a clear need to build on this and for sustainability to be built into the recovery. The UK president of COP26 and

Government Business Secretary Alok Sharma MP has called on governments around the world to submit enhanced climate action plans and to put clean technologies at the heart of their post-coronavirus economic recovery strategies. They suggested that more emphasis, and ambition is needed towards the following measures as part of the recovery:

- Green Deals;
- Green transition in industry;
- Investment in clean technologies and innovation;
- Raising ambition on renewable energy;
- Importance of nature-based solutions;
- Adaptation to avoid future shocks.

50. The briefing comes after the UK Committee on Climate Change³ called for low carbon and resilient policies to be put in place to build a green and sustainable recovery. The UK CCC highlighted the following five core measures:

- Investments in low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure;
- Supporting reskilling, retraining and research for a net-zero, well-adapted economy;
- Upgrades to our homes ensuring they are fit for the future;
- Making it easy for people to walk, cycle, and work remotely;
- Tree planting, peatland restoration, green spaces and other green infrastructure.

51. Considering these and other national drivers, as well as local needs the priorities emerging going forward will therefore consider more emphasis on:

- *New Green Deal*; working with the business community in creating new carbon-based jobs market;
- *Adaptation*; Council responses needing more work (community resilience to extreme weather, align to initiatives by Health and Wellbeing board to assist the vulnerable in dealing with Covid);
- *More focus on the concept of achieving a Just Transition*; that climate change activity must support and not hinder people in moving forward in terms of accessing green energy, EV's and wider power sharing;

³ <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/CCC-to-Prime-Minister-Boris-Johnson-Covid-19-recovery-002.pdf>

- Carbon budgeting – exploring use of this to ensure all policy and practices achieve carbon savings through service delivery (making integrating carbon normal practice)
- *Governance*; embedding the mechanisms for stakeholder and community engagement as outlined to Cabinet at its February meeting. This also extends to fostering new partnerships, and continuing the awareness raising and collaborative work with our communities. A copy of that report can be found at appendix 4.

Conclusion

52. Despite Covid, considerable progress has been made on implementation of the Climate Change Emergency Response Plan. Conversely, Covid has had a significant impact on temporarily magnifying the reduction in Council emissions, more than would normally be anticipated, and the same is anticipated for County figures when they become available.
53. There is opportunity now to build on this success and ensure a sustainable recovery, making full use of any national climate change initiatives, and continue to forge innovative partnerships in delivering for the communities of County Durham

Background papers

- Full Council 20 February 2019 Climate Change Emergency Declaration
<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=153&MId=11126&Ver=4>
- Full Council 17 July 2019 Climate Change Emergency Update Report
<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=153&MId=11407&Ver=4>
- Cabinet 12 February 2020 Climate Emergency Response Plan
<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=11270&Ver=4>

Other useful documents

Committee on Climate Change Net Zero: The UKs contribution to stopping global warming <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/net-zero-the-uks-contribution-to-stopping-global-warming/>

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The Climate Change Act 2008 established a UK commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 from 1990 levels and the Paris Agreement (to which the UK is a signatory) which aims to keep the increase in global average temperature to well below 2oC above preindustrial levels; and to limit the increase to 1.5o C to prevent dangerous climate change. On 12 June Government announced plans to legislate to revise the Climate Change Act and adopt a target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050 which is now in law.

Finance

A wide range of projects are described in this report, many with differing funding mechanisms.

Consultation

Consultation on the CERP was undertaken in 2019.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None identified.

Climate Change

This is a key issue addressed throughout the report.

Human Rights

None identified.

Crime and Disorder

None identified.

Staffing

Climate Change is now a key responsibility for all staff as its now included in Job Descriptions.

Accommodation

Considerable progress has been made in introducing renewable energy (solar panels) across Council buildings and depots as well as making offices more energy efficient.

Risk

The delivery of the CERP is the subject of a corporate risk assessment.

Procurement

There are major opportunities through procurement to influence carbon reductions. This may be in public transport contracts or purchase of fleet and equipment. The role of procurement is detailed in the Appendix 2 report.

Appendix 2: Council Actions Progress Table

Priority Area	Project Description	Project Cost (Thousand £)	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO ₂ e)	Funding Secure? (Source)	Progress So Far
Electricity	Solar PV Install solar panel arrays on suitable council buildings.	£1,200	43	Pending (Invest to Save)	10 sites identified for solar pv installations
Electricity	LED Lighting Replacements Installing LEDs in nine council owned buildings. (second phase of project)	£400	200	Yes (Invest to Save)	Complete - More buildings have been identified
Electricity	LED Lighting Replacements (third phase of project)			Yes (Invest to Save)	10 sites being completed in Autumn. Further buildings due for surveys
Electricity	Enlighten Installing LED lighting in schools.	£0	120	Yes (Invest to Save)	Two schools complete, however SALIX stopped interest free loan. Developing new arrangement with Schools finance for schools loan to support installations
Electricity	Gala Theatre Theatrical LED Lighting Installing LED stage lights.	£133	20	Yes (Invest to Save)	Complete
Electricity	LED Street Lighting Continuing the replacement of old inefficient street lights with LEDs. (Two years of the next phase of the project, which should take three years in total.)	£6,000	1,100	Pending (Invest to Save)	Project delayed due to supply chain disruption due to Covid-19 pandemic.
Electricity	LED Lighting Replacements Continued Where invest to save cannot be used, other funds will be used to provide LED lighting.	£50	50	Pending (Other Council Fund)	One building complete. One further building identified.
Electricity	Electric Bin Hoists Install electric motors on 6 bin lorries so that engines do not need to run while bins are being lifted.	£8	TBC	Yes	Electric bin hoists installed on new RCVs
Electricity	Depot Renewable Generation Our depots use a lot of electricity and this will increase with the addition of electric vehicle charging points. Investigations are underway to find suitable places for renewable electricity generation and storage at our depots.	TBC	TBC	Pending (Invest to Save)	Depots are part of the solar PV installation project.

Electricity	Electricity Grid Decarbonisation National effort to reduce the carbon footprint of the electricity grid.	£-	3,500	N/A	The grid factor of the National Grid continues to fall as more renewable electricity sources are added. The annual carbon saving is an estimate based on the last five years.
Electricity	ECO2 Smart Schools Programme of engagement in schools as well as assistance with energy monitoring.	£80	354	Yes	Project continues despite lockdown disruption. New for 2020-21: pilot of Energy Sparks data portal, virtual support for schools from OASES Team.
Electricity	Freemans Quay Leisure Installation of solar PV array on the roof alongside some improvements to insulation.	£140	20	Pending (Salix)	New Project to install solar PV and upgrade major plant at FQ
Electricity	Durham Sixth Form Installation of solar PV array on the roof alongside better glazing.	£600	15	Pending (Salix)	New Project solar PV, window upgrade and LED retrofit
Electricity, Heat, & Transport	Zero Carbon Depot Transform the whole site at Morrison Busty Depot to be zero carbon, including all buildings and vehicles.	£4,000	590	Pending (ERDF)	Stage 3 design complete, ERDF full application complete, Planning application in, procurement for main contractor to begin
Electricity & Heat	Louisa Centre Mine water heat pump to provide low carbon heat with solar PV to generate the necessary electricity. Also other energy efficiency measures in the building.	£3,500	503	Unknown	Funding is being sought to allow this project to continue. Other essential work at the Louisa Centre will continue without the minewater element.
Electricity & Heat	New Headquarters We are leaving the old County Hall and moving to a much lower carbon building in the City Centre. The building will be very well insulated and includes low carbon lighting and ventilation, as well as rooftop solar panel generation (subject to planning).	TBC	TBC	Yes	The New HQ is under construction. The rooftop solar PV has been installed. Future occupancy of the building is under review.
Electricity & Heat	Crimdon Coastal Hub Installation of a heat pump and solar PV array to ensure new building is low carbon.		N/A	Agreed (Salix)	New Project Funding is agreed and project is almost complete.
Electricity & Heat	Building Energy Management Systems Install BEMS in appropriate council buildings to better control heating and lighting, and reduce need to travel.	£200	20	Partial (Other Council Fund)	A feasibility study has been commissioned to find the best way forward for the whole estate.
Electricity & Heat	Abbey Leisure Heat Pump Install a heat pump at Abbey Leisure Centre, along with renewable electricity generation including solar PV panels.	£300	45	Agreed (Salix)	New Project to install a heat pump and solar PV alongside leisure transformation projects. Project progressing but at a much greater cost.
Heat	Depot Heat Pump Removal of fossil fuel boiler to be replaced with an air source heat pump at Annfield Plain Waste Transfer Station.	£18	30	Yes (Invest to Save)	Complete Monitoring ongoing to optimise compliance, efficiency & reliability.

Heat	Away from Oil Replacing oil boilers with low carbon heating alternatives. Investigations are underway to complete this at some rural schools that have no access to the gas network, and some council depots.	£250	68	Agreed (Salix)	Hybrid concepts at two schools being developed that should reduce oil by around 70-80%. Other schools to follow once models and process refined.
Heat	Improving Gas Use Replacing older gas boilers with more efficient models.	£250	20	Pending (Other Council Fund)	Investigations underway at a number of buildings.
Heat	Comeleon Heaters Replace outdated gas heaters with low carbon heat source in Comeleon Warehouse	TBC	TBC	Pending (Salix)	New Project Fesibility underway to find the best way to heat the building.
Heat	Teesdale Leisure refurbishment Extension of solar PV array, upgrade of glazing throughout the centre	£100	8	Pending (Salix)	New Project
Transport	Low Carbon Fleet Installation of necessary infrastructure to begin transition to electric fleet vehicles in the first two years. Evaluate options for refuse lorries to be fuelled by biogas.	£150	N/A	Pending (Other Council Fund)	27 charge points installed at strategic sights across the county to facilitate fleet transition
Transport	Electric Refuse Lorries Trial use of electric refuse collection vehicles and implement them where possible.	£900	36	Agreed (Other Council Fund)	New Project to procure 2 electric RCVs
Transport	Reduce Business Miles Encourage remote meetings and working at most appropriate location by working with the Inspire programme and internal management.	£-	120	N/A	Business travel has significantly reduced as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Efforts will be made to ensure this continues.
Transport	Pool Cars Transition to electric vehicles for our staff pool cars and the chair of the council's vehicle. Aiming to have 26 electric pool cars and 40 electric vans in this period.	TBC	TBC	TBC	Progress re-starting with the installation of new electric pool cars in time for staff returning to work.
TOTAL	At least 6861 tonnes saved of 8012 tonnes of CO2e required to be saved by March 2023.				Work is progressing.

Appendix 3: Countywide Progress Table

Description	Cost	Funding confirmed?	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments (June 2021)
RENEWABLE ENERGY				
RE1: Develop and safeguard a portfolio of Council owned land suitable for renewable energy developments.	n/a	n/a	none directly	One key site has emerged as showing potential and being looked at as a potential project (RE5). a) Micro wind turbine investigations ongoing b) Portfolio of sites for next phase of PV development established (RE7) c) Processes being developed to incorporate PV into roof repair schemes.
RE2: Establish a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to enable DCC to install renewable energy technologies on partners' land and buildings and become a green electricity provider	£40,000	No	none directly	No further progress
RE3: Promote and support community renewable energy schemes through the Neighbourhood Planning process, partnership working, repowering and	n/a	Yes	none directly	Officer employed to assist communities

any other mechanisms.				
NT1: Set up joint research and business development with Durham University, NETPark, Energy Catapults and local businesses to develop and exploit new energy technologies	n/a	n/a	none directly	Ongoing research and partnership work through the Climate Emergency Strategic Partnership Board
NT2: With partners explore sites and new technologies for electricity generation, storage and management across different end uses (EVs, heat, industry, hydrogen, etc.)	n/a	n/a	none directly	Ongoing, working with potential planning applicants to explore various Renewable Energy Options
NT3: Install electric power points in 3 main market places to replace diesel generators	£30,000	Yes	Approx 3kg CO2 for each litre of diesel burned in a typical generator.	Complete - 2 points installed. Monitoring of usage will be established and a review of further points needed will follow.
NT4: Solar Car Ports (with batteries) on car parks including park and ride and other public car parks to power electric buses and vehicles	£5 million	No	500	Funding bid successful for feasibility support

Description	Cost	Funding confirmed?	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments (June 2021)
BUILDINGS AND HEAT				
BS1: Projects to support SMEs to reduce their energy use including Business Energy Efficiency Project	ERDF funded	Yes	877	177 SMEs supported since Oct 2019, 800 tCO2e saved and grants awarded totalling £200,000+ Project extension to end March 2023 approved
BS2: Network of larger businesses to support SMEs with energy efficiency	n/a	n/a	tbc	ON HOLD
BS3: Shared business clustering - Bishop Auckland	£200,000	Yes	10	ON HOLD
BS4. Increase in the proportion of local food grown and sold in the County. A thriving local agricultural sector supplying food to local markets	n/a	n/a	tbc	Local Food strategy in development. Funding yet to be found for CERP projects by partnership. DCA having a restructure.
BS5. Work with BEIS and other partners to help develop a national process to support SMEs on energy efficiency. BASEE Project	£20,000	Yes	n/a	BASEE project completion end July 2021. Awaiting summative assessment
BS6. Pilot research to explore changes to application of Business Rates to remove disincentives to installation of	£40,000	Yes	tbc	Complete

renewable energy or efficiency measures				
ST1. Develop a project to support energy efficiency in smaller tourism and food related businesses, learning from international best practice through SME Power and support the work of the Durham Food group	n/a	part funded through Interreg Europe	tbc	SME Power has started looking at Good Practice from other partners and one has delivered a hospitality project which we will investigate. Lack of direction from national Government on Shared Prosperity Fund or other support mechanisms will delay any scoping and implementation.
D1. Advice - currently provided through DCC's DCC - Durham County Council Managing Money Better service to private sector tenants and owners.	£60,000	Yes (Warm Homes Fund and DCC funding)	n/a	Ongoing
D2. Solid wall insulation scheme (250 homes)	£500,000	No (ERDF bid)	300 tonnes	On Hold
D3. HEET project (Energy friends)	£22,000	No (Interreg bid)	tbc	On Hold - Heet Bid unsuccessful
D4. Domestic Retrofit Measures	£2,765M (estimated)	No	381,900	BEIS LAD1, 2 bids have secured £10M of retrofit investment for 1000 homes
D5. Work with landlords to improve building quality / energy efficiency / higher standards and	£100,000	Yes	tbc	LAD 1 b successful as above

improve enforcement actions				
D6. Supporting low carbon heating in off gas homes	£2M	Yes (Warm Homes Fund)	100	This project is complete further funding will be applied for from WHF
D7. Home energy efficiency loan scheme	£150,000 (pilot)	In part?	tbc	Loan scheme in development launch in November 21. All funds committed
G1. Further develop a district heating scheme for Durham City including Freemans Reach, Passport Office,	£150,000	No	1,500	Consultant Appointed. Business Case developing
G2. Support and enable a deep geothermal district heat scheme for Bishop Auckland	£4,810M	£2,886,000 ERDF application submitted	1,032	TAP have secured funding to move the development phase of the project another step forward with further scheme design, modelling, de-risking, and Business Case refinement. TAP continues to seek capital funding for drilling and construction.
G3. Undertake research to identify opportunities for mine-water and other sustainable heat (and cooling) schemes across County Durham – includes heat storage	HeatHub (£15,000) Durham university joint post, (£50,000) Earth Sciences students free except for staff time	In part. Durham Uni contributed £15,000	n/a	Regional Minewater Paper completed by the NELEP, which identifies potential opportunities
G4. Support a mine-water district heating scheme for Seaham Garden Village	£3M	Yes (HNIP confirmed)	1,474	Ongoing. Delivery model being developed

G5. Assessment for use of pumped mine-water heat in Horden	£25,000	Yes	n/a	Feasibility ongoing
TRANSPORT				
AF1. Work with partners to research new technologies for vehicle fuel such as hydrogen, bio gas, etc.	staff time	n/a	tbc	On Hold
C1. Completion of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans for 12 main towns (LCWIPs)	£280,000	Yes	Propensity to cycle tool builds in savings	3 LCWIPs completed. SMT/CMT approved. Cabinet in Septemeber for approval. Awaiting confirmation of Capability Fund to progress 9 other LCWIPs.
C2. Park that Bike (2 years cost)	£65,000	Yes	TBC	New contract (£64k) in place for 2021-24.
C3. Construction of priority routes identified in LCWIPs and associated infrastructure	£500,000	No	tbc	Funding sought - ongoing Bid submitted for additional support to develop outline design - awaiting outcome.
C4. Complete construction of Great North Cycleway (NCN 725)	£500,000	No	tbc	Construction continues in phases
C5. Construct Cycling Super Routes linking key settlements within 5 miles of Durham City	£500,000	No	tbc	LCWIP Lite to be included in LCWIP works, delivered through Capability Funded project (awaiting funding confirmation)
C6. Support the use of e-bikes and e-cargo bikes especially for last mile deliveries	?	n/a	tbc	Support ongoing. New service on offer in Durham City working with various small businesses.
PT1. Comprehensively redesign / develop Durham City's bus station as the County's main bus interchange	£10.4M	Yes	tbc	Construction well underway. Completion expected to be by the end of 2022.

PT2. Extend real time information, journey planning software and interactive mapping information	3.2M	? (Transforming Cities Fund bid)	tbc	Existing County Durham Interactive Public Transport map to be retendered during 2021 with new contract starting April 2022. Existing North East Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) system to be replaced as part of regional project by December 2022 as part of a further TCF project bid. If unsuccessful, it is hope that this will be part of the EP & BSIP process
PT3. Identify and introduce bus priority measures in areas of need	£349,000	Yes £198K DfT Funding	tbc	Final Business Case to be complete in January 2022. Works on site in early 2022, with completion by Autumn 2022.
PT4. Continue the commitment to underwrite a comprehensive bus network for the County	£2.5M	Yes	tbc	Covid emergency continues to be a major threat to viability of services due to the slow return of passengers. The National Bus Strategy has sets the requirement for an Enhanced Partnership and Bus Service Improvement Plan for the NEJTC to access funding. The support, aspirations and ambitions will determined and dependent upon the success of a regional bid. In June, NEJTC published its intention to enter into and Enhanced Partnership with operators. A BSIP must be published by October 2021 with the Enhanced Partnership to be operation from April 2022.
PT5. increased P&R provision	£4.5M	? (Part of TCF bid - one additional site)	tbc	Final Business Case to be complete in January 2022. Works on site in early 2022, with completion by Autumn 2022.

PT6. Bring in electric buses for the Durham City park and ride routes (cost per bus)	£250,000 per bus	?	500 per annum	CMT (July 2021) approved to go out to tender for an electric fleet. Tender to run from October 2021 to early 2022. Providing tender returns match financial model (presented to CMT), then orders will be placed to get the fleet in place for Autumn. EOI for DfT monies for the electric conversion also approved by the DfT. FBC to be submitted at the end of 2021. This to pay for 75% difference between diesel and electric buses, and also 75% of charging/power infrastructure.
PT7. Support a transition to ultra-low emission buses across the County (cost per bus)	£25,000 per bus	?	tbc	A bid for electric buses on P&R has been submitted through the ZEBRA project via the region. Further funding streams are unknown at this time but vehicle standard may be included in the developing Enhanced Partnership and Bus Service Improvement Plan.
TB1. Support a programme of sustainable travel awareness campaigns across all sectors and geographies in the county	staff time	No	tbc	Campaign calendar developed for council staff. Measure delivered to promote & encourage sustainable travel choices where resources allow.
TB2. Run a campaign to raise awareness of and prevent the pollution resulting from vehicle engines left idling (e.g. taxis, buses, school pick up etc)	staff time	No	tbc	We have liaised with local campaign groups about this but Covid has prevented any progress towards a wider campaign. In the interim we have established that DCC drivers are expected to turn their engines off when idling.
TB3. Explore opportunities for an increase in car clubs	staff time	No	tbc	Continue to explore the potential for a model to develop additional car clubs with community groups across the county
TB4. Support sustainable transport research projects with partners such as Decarbonate, etc.	staff time	n/a	tbc	We have supported urban foresight on an EV project in the North east. We are providing old EVCP units to Durham university.

B1. Reduce the need to travel through IT including increased roll out of high-speed broadband connectivity, especially in rural areas	£8.54M	Yes	tbc	Contract 2 SEP of the Superfast programme has overachieved on the contractual targets, resulting in c.24k properties in the region obtaining access to Superfast broadband (speeds of at least 30 Megabits per second). Deployment has now been fulfilled and the contract will now work towards closure.
ELECTRIC VEHICLES				
EV1. Install at least 100 community backed EV charge points in more rural areas of County Durham within 5 minutes' walk of properties without off-street parking (SOSCI Project)	£1.25M	Yes	43-130,000	Batch 1A is installed (37 EVCPs). Batch1B and 3 will be completed by end of August. Batches 2,4,5,6 and potential 7 are all mapped out. batches 2 and 6 are building electric connections. Funding from SOSCI looks like 155 EVCPs will be installed by end of project. Project is due to end 31st January 2022.
EV2. Community EV infrastructure in more urban areas of the County (complements SOSCI)	£200,000	No	tbc	Procurement exercise for both WEVA and DOCs are complete. WEVA S50 licences are in application with street wise team. Work is expected to commence on WEVA early September, with DOCs currently being finalised.
EV3.Facilitate the provision of ultra-rapid EV charging and EV filling stations where appropriate	staff time	n/a	tbc	Rapid EV charger equipment is in factory unit awaiting to be installed. Delay on Nevilles cross due to making it Disabled accesible. Works expected to start in September. MER applied for new power connection to NPG.
EV4. Encourage and incentivise commercial organisations to switch to EVs – especially taxis, fleet and delivery firms	staff time	n/a	tbc	Batch 3 installs will support a cleaning company to change their fleet to electric. There has been a rapid charger fitted in the Chester le street Hub to support taxi electric vehicles. A further potential EVCP is going to be installed under DOCs to support business in Seaham, Hobson etc.

EV5. Explore two-way EV charging infrastructure as the technology develops (V2Street project)	£4,500	Yes	tbc	No further development with V2G, the vehicle adaption is a slow intake.
EV6. Investigate gaps in the network and opportunities for additional installations, including tourism hotspots	staff time	n/a	tbc	SOSCI continues to receive potential sites recommendations. The town Mayer of Barnard Castle has contacted us requesting EVCPs including one In Bowes Museum. We continue to receive calls and look into supporting EVCP request where we can.
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT				
Pol1.Explore the implementation of a Carbon Offsetting Fund for use by developers, businesses and their carbon and choose to support the programme of carbon storage schemes below	£40,000	Yes	tbc	Colleagues within the Council's Low carbon economy and Woodlands team have been working closely with the North Pennines AONB partnership and Forest Carbon to investigate whether it is possible to set up a Carbon Offsetting Fund which will offer businesses the opportunity to offset their carbon emissions through a contribution to local tree planting and peatland restoration projects. Following the investigation into this, the Council is more aware of the complexities and verification requirements involved in establishing such a fund and several of County Durham's businesses and land owners are more aware of carbon credits and how offsetting opportunities may benefit them.
Peat1. Enhance the rate of peatland restoration through the Peatland Programme with the AONB Partnership.	£50,000	Yes (£50,000)	1 hectare of peat stores approximately 1,781 tonnes of carbon	Complete - However further areas will be restored

<p>BC1. Blue carbon: off- shore oyster / mussel bed creation and kelp eco-system development (stores three times as much carbon as tree planting but Durham’s seabed has been badly damaged)</p>	<p>£40,000</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Organic deposition - 4,000 tonnes pa. Inorganic deposition - 300 tonnes pa</p>	<p>Marine habitats have the ability to sequester up to 6 times more carbon than terrestrial habitats such as woodland. Some studies claim 17 times. We have been working with two separate marine habitat types and their use for restoration. 1. Oyster and other bivalves and associated habitat – working with the Wild Oyster Project 2. Kelp – working with Newcastle University Significant progress has been made in the past financial year with collaborations in place for oysters and kelp. Oyster nurseries have been installed and a programme of habitat restoration is now being developed. Initial research and site selection work on kelp progresses with on site installation of pilot sites anticipated this year. Considerable associated investment is taking place that the work to date underpins.</p>
<p>TP1. Major tree planting and habitat creation schemes across the County to maximise carbon storage, working with partners, communities, AAPs, schools and landowners. (Durham Woodland Creation Programme)</p>	<p>£300,000</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1 hectare = approx 400 tonnes</p>	<p>Preparing grant applications for 20 ha of planting this winter. Consultation and planting plans underway. Second batch of sites are with CPaL to check site constraints.</p>
<p>TP2. Support the Durham Woodland Revival project to manage and plant woodlands with partners, landowners and communities</p>	<p>£820,000 (4 years)</p>	<p>Yes</p>		<p>1.2 km hedgerow, 3.39 ha new woodland and 5 trees outsideof woodland planted 2020/21. Potential sites on private land currently being assessed for coming winter. 6ha of ancient woodland improved. Focus now on privately owned ancient woodland adjoining DCC sites. Wets Cornforth 10ha site planed up by Woodland Trust, Frankland (16ha) due to be planted this winter.</p>

				Advice and specialist support incl management plans and training events continuing.
TP3. Durham Hedgerow Partnership	£20,000/pa	Yes		Over winter 2020/21, 787 m of new hedge was planted plus 1815 laid - a total of 2602 m of hedges. Site visits and assessments are on going for the coming winter's projects.
TP4. Managing DCC woodland estate . 2000ha of DCC woodland under management, with Forestry Commission approved plans	n/a	n/a		1800ha of the woodland estate is included in a Woodland Improvement Grant application which is due in to the Forestry Commission at the end of August. This will provide a 5 yr, fully funded programme of works across the estate.
TP5. Tree Week grants for small projects in community and landowners	£6,000/pa	Yes		2191 trees were planted last winter. The application form is going on line for this winter.
TP6. Urban Tree Challenge Fund, to plant larger specimen trees in towns and villages	£1M	Yes		1139 large trees planted and maintained along with 3529 whips from round 1. 7700 whips went in under Round 2. A Round 3 application has now been submitted for 799 large trees for planting over this winter and next.
LM1. With Durham University and other partners undertake a programme of research into the effectiveness of different natural carbon storage systems	staff time	n/a	n/a	Currently working with the AONB and a carbon offsetting company to research effectiveness of developing a specific County Durham Carbon Offsetting programme

LM2. Promote existing guidance for land managers across the County on maximising carbon storage (includes large land owners, T&P Councils, allotment holders, tourist destinations, etc)	staff time	n/a	n/a	Ongoing
LM3. Implement an urban street tree replacement scheme including urban fruit trees	?	No	tbc	Ongoing through the Urban Street Tree Planting scheme
LM4. Promote green infrastructure and green wall schemes alongside reduced mowing regimes and managed urban rewilding through the Planning process	funded through S106	n/a	tbc	Delivery for 2021 agreed with Clean and Green. Approx 5ha of interventions agreed. Planning for 2022 is on going.
AGR1. Consider how soil conservation, soil regenerative farming, and agro-ecology can be promoted with farmers and landowners	staff time	n/a	tbc	Project being considered at a regional scale with NECCCo
WASTE & RECYCLING				
WM1. Consider the introduction of a food waste collection scheme to households across County Durham.	?	No	tbc	The DEFRA Resources and Waste Strategy consultations were announced on April 19th, 2021 for the following areas: Extended Producer Responsibility & Deposit Return Scheme. DCC responded to these consultations prior to the deadline of 6th June, 2021. The DEFRA consultation regarding Consistency in Household and Business Recycling in England was announced on 7th May, 2021. This consultation included the proposal to introduce separate weekly food waste collections to households in England from 2023 (with a

				proposed implementation timeline up until 2030 depending upon contract arrangements). DCC responded to this consultation in advance of the deadline of 4th July, 2021. All consultation responses were produced in liaison with the national waste network groups and reported to the Neighbourhoods and Climate Change Management Team in advance of submission to Government.
WM2. Promote and encourage home composting with carbon management guidance.	?	Yes	tbc	DCC actively promote and encourage residents to purchase subsidised home compost bins. See: http://www.durham.gov.uk/composting
WM3. Promote the uptake of garden waste collections to households across County Durham.	?	No	tbc	The 2021 garden waste scheme commenced on 31st March. There are currently 66,732 subscriptions to the service to date (£35 per bin subscription). DCC in-housed the operation and processing of the garden waste last season at the Joint Stocks site at Coxhoe. The garden waste service is operating well and is well received by customers.
WM4. Provide information and advice to residents, schools, businesses and community groups in order to facilitate awareness and behavioural change towards sustainable waste management practices	?	No	tbc	Face to face education in relation to sustainable waste management practices was put on hold from March 2020 due to the pandemic. Covid-19 restrictions continue to impact but there has been recent gradual recommencement of stage work & door knocking and more recently, roadshow events. Community educational talks continue to be online via Teams/Zoom. Communications to the public during the pandemic/lockdowns have been via social media and press and include: general what goes where/recycling matters messages, Easter recycling, Reusable Nappy Week, Compost Awareness Week, Stop Food Waste Day, Earth Day,

				<p>World Refill Day, the Euro football (recycling glass in kerbside box & info on how to request a box), small WEEE/battery recycling and recycling of clean textiles. Strategic Waste Management's recycling assistants carried out educational door knocks to students living out in Durham City for Green Move Out in June 2021. They also carried out patrols of the city to ensure the streets were tidy, reporting any issues and monitoring the purple reuse bags being left out for collection by charity CDFHS. In addition, Recycling Assistants delivered Covid-19 leaflets across the city centre on behalf of the Public Health Team during this time. The official launch of the Small Electrical Recycling Project at Blackhall Community Centre took place in June 2021. The launch was delayed due to the pandemic. The externally funded project provides free drop off points for residents for small electrical & battery operated items and has approx 50 collection points across the county located in community buildings and schools. Approx 3 tonnes of SWEEE has been collected so far.</p>
<p>Plas1. Continue to promote sign ups to the Single Use Plastics Pledge across Durham in order to encourage the reduction of, and seek alternatives to, the use of single use plastics</p>	?	No	tbc	<p>The dedicated task group continues to promote the reduction of SUPs across DCC and County Durham. To date there are just under 300 pledge sign ups from schools, community groups, businesses and individuals from across County Durham. There are 271 sign ups across County Durham to the Northumbrian Water Refill Scheme. A dedicated action plan is available for this area of work which links into the County Durham Climate Emergency Response Strategy. For further detail see: https://www.durham.gov.uk/singleuseplastics</p>

Proc1. Sustainable procurement – research and produce guidance on carbon reduction in procurement across all sectors	staff time	n/a	none?	Ongoing
AWARENESS RAISING				
Sch1. Continue and grow schools work through OASES to include home energy awareness	£20,000 per annum	?	n/a	Contract delivery disrupted in 2020 due to pandemic. School energy reports and engagement with school leads delivered, and in-school engagement continued on line and in school as far as possible. Plans to deliver additional engagement in 2021 as part of build up to COP 26 with a significant international event. https://eco2smartschools.org.uk/e-co2-cop-virtual-event/ Homes advice project, Eco2Smart Homes is being delivered (April 21-March 22). https://eco2smartschools.org.uk/e-co2smart-homes/
Sch2. Children 4 Climate Change. In collaboration with Durham University OASES are working with schools across County Durham to understand climate science and provide active citizenship opportunities to raise raise awareness in communities through interactive website	?	?	tbc	OASES has worked with 9 primary schools across County Durham. Funded through Durham University, classes have learnt about climate change and used greenscreen technology to create videos which cover a climate change issue of their choice. In addition, Northumbrian Water funding has enabled classes to make a difference on-the-ground, undertaking conservation activities such as tree planting, working towards each child's John Muir Discovery Award. Going forward the programme will work with a further 14 classes across the County. Visit C4CC.org.uk for more information.

Com1. Set up a revolving loan scheme to support carbon reduction projects across the community	£500,000	No	tbc	Additional staff resource employed to develop community projects
Com2. Large scale programme of awareness, involvement, to support behavioural change, and promote community grants/opportunities. Working with AAPs, Town and Parish Councils and other community organisations	£100,000	?	tbc	Ongoing discussions with partners and public on Climate Emergency themes. New website to be launched in November, alongside Environment and Climate Change Partnership Climate Change event in November
Com3. Set up and manage an online interactive website for the climate emergency	staff time	n/a	tbc	Complete
Com4. What you can do section for Website	staff time	n/a	tbc	Complete
Com5. Engage with local, technical expert organisations in order to align research, development and investment priorities	staff time	n/a	tbc	Complete

Com6. Work in partnership with public health bodies on shared goals such as active travel and wellbeing	staff time	n/a	tbc	Complete
Com7. Promote the Environment Awards, in particular the Innovation and Climate Change categories	staff time	n/a	tbc	Ongoing
RES1. Engage in multiple joint research projects with Durham University and Energy Institute to actively engage students on our work and add extra research capacity to our work.	staff time	n/a	tbc	Ongoing
RES2. Work across the region with Local Authority partners and the NELEP in order to develop regional projects and to learn from regional best practice.	staff time	n/a	tbc	Work continues to progress. Best practice being shared amongst local authorities, facilitated with help via the NELEP

Cabinet**10 February 2021****A Corporate Environmental Statement,
Management System and Governance****Ordinary Decision****Report of Corporate Management Team****Alan Patrickson, Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and
Climate Change****Councillor Brian Stephens, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for
Neighbourhoods and Local Partnerships****Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To set out a statement of environmental ambitions for the County Council.
- 2 To approve the adoption of a nationally recognised environmental management system and accreditation through Investors in the Environment to ensure robust processes and performance management discipline are integrated into driving improvements.
- 3 To consider strategic governance arrangements, that will help lead in the corporate coordination of environmental activity in fulfilment of these ambitions, especially those linked to climate change.

Executive summary

- 4 The County Council has a wide variety of plans and strategies related to the environment, for example Climate Change Emergency Action Plan, Single Use Plastics, Cycling and Walking Strategy, Sustainable Procurement, as well as commitments made in the Local Plan and County Durham Vision. It is now timely to consider how these plans work together and to set out a summary statement of it the Council's environmental aspirations, encompassing existing and future plans, within which initiatives, targets and benefits can be identified and addressed.

- 5 This report provides for consideration an overarching environmental statement that fulfils this. It is set out in a few pages and the ambitions contained in it will be reflected in the Council's values and its relationships, both internally and externally. The statement is set out in Appendix 2.
- 6 It is important to recognise that the development of a variety of important environmental plans, some of which are nationally recognised as developing best practice, has continued at pace. The introduction of an overarching statement will provide immediate and long-lasting benefit by reinforcing an overall and unifying commitment.
- 7 An effective environmental policy is dependent on a clear and practical delivery mechanism and an Environmental Management System (EMS) is an established process for achieving this.
- 8 The nationally recognised Investors in the Environment (IiE) management system has been developed to record, monitor and improve all environmental aspects of organisational operations leading to an auditable, externally verified accreditation. By adopting this system, the Council will achieve and measurable demonstration of environmental performance.
- 9 It is recognised that the Council's greatest environmental challenge is that of reducing its carbon emissions, and through a partnership approach fostering a reduction in emissions across the County. The report to Cabinet in February 2019 detailed an ambitious Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP). Significant progress has already been made against this plan and an annual progress report will shortly be published. There is an opportunity to align the work of the CERP with the EMS through a common governance framework.
- 10 Overseeing the implementation of the EMS and the CERP will be the responsibility of a senior-officer level Net Zero Carbon Board under the leadership of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change. This board will be supported by operational and policy workstreams from across the organisation to ensure delivery is achieved.
- 11 The board will also play a pivotal role in relating corporate activity to externally based initiatives that are being developed through the recently re-established Environment and Climate Change Partnership. This comprises county-wide external stakeholders working with the Council to achieve environmental outcomes and operates under the auspices of the County Durham Strategic Partnership.

Recommendations

12 Cabinet is requested to:

- (a) endorse a new corporate Environmental Statement and agree to implement it across all Council services (Appendix 2);
- (b) agree to the introduction of an Environmental Management System to manage and record progress, and accreditation through the national Investors in the Environment (IiE) accreditation scheme;
- (c) support the establishment of a cross-service mechanism to drive the delivery of the Environmental Statement along with the existing Climate Emergency Response Plan and other key environmental commitments through the introduction of a corporate Net Zero Carbon Board.

Background

- 13 The County Council's work and reputation in tackling environmental issues is excellent, with national recognition in its work for example ranging from carbon reduction, fly tipping, environmental cleanliness waste management and horticulture.
- 14 Much of the success has arisen from bespoke policies, and action plans in delivering a plethora of projects and initiatives. These plans might range from example Climate Change Emergency Action Plan, Single Use Plastics, Cycling and Walking Strategy, Sustainable Procurement. Part of the Local Plan and County Durham Vision also express aspects of the Council Vision.
- 15 The establishment of a single overarching policy statement regarding the environment will provide recognition and co-ordination of initiatives as being inter-connected and part of an overall environmental purpose.
- 16 Increasingly it is recognised, that delivering environmental objectives is a corporate responsibility. Nowhere is this more evident than in the delivery of the Climate Change Emergency Response Plan approved by Cabinet in February 2019 and involving all service groupings across the County. There is a need to enshrine this corporate working in our internal governance arrangements and additionally have mechanisms in place to monitor and review performance, benchmarking against others where necessary.
- 17 This report therefore sets out:
 - i) an over-arching environmental statement which sets out Council ambition;
 - ii) an outline of an environmental management system proposed to be adopted as a tool for assessing and improving environmental performance.
 - iii) an outline of internal governance intended to deliver on the foremost challenge of carbon reductions;

Environmental Statement

- 18 To date environmental management and reporting has developed across a number of separate fronts. Bringing these together into a single management system will provide for a more holistic view of progress. As a result, a new policy and delivery document has been produced to embed environmental performance and improvement activities it into existing strategic management and decision-making processes.

19 The new statement encompasses key emerging issues including the climate emergency, single use plastics and critical declines in biodiversity. It will enable issues to be prioritised, focussing on aspects of activity where the council can have the greatest impact whilst being broad enough to capture the range of environmental impacts and issues that the Council is facing.

20 The key ambitions are that:

Durham County Council recognises the importance of striving for and maintaining a high-quality environment and our responsibility towards it as being an integral part of our organisational duties and core values. It therefore commits to:

- *Take opportunities to improve environmental outcomes;*
- *Reduce the environmental impact of our operating methods and consumption of resources;*
- *Regularly monitor and continually improve our environmental performance;*
- *Ensure environmental impacts are understood within our decision-making processes and practices;*
- *Take a lead role on critical issues such as climate change, single-use plastic reduction, declines in biodiversity;*
- *Raise awareness of and encourage environmentally positive behaviours and best practice;*
- *Work with and support others to protect and improve our natural environment.*

21 A copy of the full environmental statement, including sections detailing responsibilities and principles is included in Appendix 2.

Environmental Management System (EMS)

22 An effective environmental policy is dependent on a clear and practical delivery mechanism and an Environmental Management System (EMS) is an established process for achieving this. Investors in Environment (IiE) is one such system, nationally recognised accreditation scheme providing independent audit and advice which is utilised by Business, Industry and Local Authorities alike.

23 A specialist independent assessor has carried out an audit of council activities and plans for the environment against a nationally recognised environmental standard; 'Investors in the Environment'.

- 24 The audit, which involved interviews with 35 strategic managers, assessment of a variety of existing plans and strategies, also made a series of recommendations which are being utilised for improvement plans. Whilst this is the most important aspect of the work, their assessment has also revealed that we are currently at a Silver (middle standard: (Bronze low, Silver progressing, Green achieved highest standard). This can perhaps be taken as good news, recognising that the Council is already achieving a lot, but also highlighting that there is scope for further improvement.
- 25 Based on the value and benefits of this one-off audit, it is suggested that the system be adopted, and consistent with policy there is a strive for further improvement. Managing the implementation of the EMS will be the responsibility of a cross-service environmental management workstream of technical leads reporting to the Net Zero Carbon Board.

Governance

- 26 Overseeing the implementation of the new policy will be the responsibility of a senior-officer level Net Zero Carbon Board under the leadership of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change. It will be supported by operational workstreams of internal technical leads, including an environmental management workstream, to ensure delivery is achieved.
- 27 The board will also play a pivotal role in relating corporate activity to externally based initiatives that are to come forward from the recently established Environment and Climate Change Partnership. This comprises county-wide external stakeholders working with the Council to achieve environmental outcomes and operates under the auspices of the County Durham Strategic Partnership.
- 28 The Net Zero Carbon Board will not have decision making powers, but will be instrumental in fulfilling Council vision, policy and plans in this area, with reports to Cabinet, Council and Scrutiny Boards as appropriate.

Conclusion

- 29 This report seeks to provide a single overarching environmental policy statement, which links together both existing and future plans and strategies, expressing the Councils broad commitment to this important issue.
- 30 It outlines new internal governance arrangements to further drive and coordinate a corporate approach to reducing carbon emissions and introduces an environmental management system (Investors in

Environment) as an important tool to ensure systems are in place to deliver on the ambitions.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

It will improve our compliance on environmental issues.

Finance

£6,000 revenue budget allocation for liE registration fees going forward on an annual basis.

Consultation

35 interviews have taken place with key internal services and managers have been engaged throughout the process. The resultant environmental statement, support for a management system, and initial plans are all in furtherance of this statement.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

No issues. In the unlikely event that individual actions will have issues, they will be addressed as part of the project.

Climate Change

The policy and liE will complement our work on climate change and will reduce climate impacts that are outside the scope of our carbon management plan. For example, reduced resource use and improved waste disposal will lower carbon emissions produced in raw material extraction but are outside the formal scope of our carbon management plan.

Human Rights

No Issues.

Crime and Disorder

No Issues.

Staffing

There will be some staff time required from across the Authority to deliver the work, notably with Low Carbon Economy and Service Performance management teams.

Accommodation

No Issues.

Risk

The proposal reduces risk of environmental consequences.

Procurement

The Procurement team has been involved and will continue to be engaged with the project.

Appendix 2: Environmental Statement

Durham County Council's Environmental Statement

Durham County Council recognises the importance of striving for and maintaining a high-quality environment and our responsibility towards it as being an integral part of our organisational duties and core values. We will therefore:

- Actively identify and take opportunities to improve environmental quality and outcomes throughout our activities;
- Reduce the environmental impact of our activities, operating methods and production and consumption of resources;
- Regularly monitor and report on environmental indicators and continually improve our environmental performance;
- Ensure environmental impacts and sustainability are understood and embedded within our decision-making processes, policies, strategies, projects and working practices;
- Comply with and endeavour to exceed all relevant certification standards, accreditations and regulatory requirements;
- Take a lead role on critical issues such as climate change, single-use plastic reduction, declines in biodiversity and ensuring a green, inclusive and resilient Covid 19 recovery;
- Contribute to tackling other global challenges we face as defined by the UN Sustainable Development Goals;
- Raise awareness of and encourage environmentally positive behaviours and best practice among employees, members, partners, those we commission work to, residents and our communities; and
- Work with and support others to protect, improve and connect County Durham's natural environment and natural capital.

Responsibility

Durham County Council's Cabinet and Corporate Management Team have overall, collective responsibility for the Council's Environmental Statement. The Net Zero Carbon Board will oversee and review its implementation. All employees, including those that work within schools and arm's length organisations are to abide by its principles, including when determining any locally specific environmental guidelines and when working with partners.

Key Principles:

Climate Emergency

All service areas and staff are responsible for responding to the climate emergency in their area of work in order to meet or exceed emission reduction targets, raise awareness of the climate emergency and ensure that we are best able to respond and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Sustainable Procurement

The Council's commissioning and procurement activity will be undertaken in an economically, environmentally and socially responsible manner, taking into account whole life impacts and benefits of the contract along with the environmental and ethical credentials of suppliers.

Resources

The Council will proactively seek to avoid and minimise unnecessary resource consumption as a key part of its decision making and operational practices. Where resources, such as energy, water, minerals etc are required, these will be managed sustainably and will be kept in use for as long as possible, abiding by 'circular economy' principles.

Waste

The Council will avoid and minimise waste by encouraging employees, members suppliers, businesses and our residents to reduce, reuse, recycle and compost.

Sustainable Design and Construction

The Council will adhere to sustainability principles to ensure that the location, orientation, construction methods and materials, ongoing maintenance, refurbishment, operation and demolition of its buildings and infrastructure minimises impact on the natural and built environment and maximises resource efficiency. All new buildings will need to meet the requirements of the County Durham Plan and comply with the standards set out in all other relevant internal policy and guidance. The Council will seek to achieve the same standards for major refurbishment projects where viable.

Natural Capital

The council will seek to protect and enhance natural capital, across its estate, highways, woodlands, green and blue spaces and within decision making, ensuring that net gains in biodiversity are achieved, the most environmentally beneficial management regimes are adopted and pollution is prevented.

Transport and Air Quality

The council will work to reduce the environmental impacts of staff travel and seek innovative, sustainable solutions to travel and travel avoidance around the county, including the adoption of smarter working practices. Where travel is necessary, we will work to reduce the impacts from our own vehicle fleet and the use of officers' cars for business travel, including supporting the uptake of electric vehicles, bikes and roll out of Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle charging

infrastructure. The Council will also seek to embed walking, cycling and public transport use into County Durham's everyday travel culture and will pay particular attention to the implementation of measures within Air Quality Management Areas.

Festivals and Events

The council will be leaders in festival and event environmental responsibility, ensuring that we, organisers, traders and attendees comply with standards relating to marketing and promotion, waste reduction, reuse and recycling, sources of power, travel, food, pollution prevention and protection of public amenity and biodiversity.

Culture

The council will involve staff and members in the implementation of this policy for greater environmental accountability and improved performance. Staff and members will be provided with relevant environmental training and will be engaged through regular communication, sharing of performance information and activity. We will also work with suppliers, contractors, sub-contractors and our partners to encourage their environmental performance and will actively engage with our residents and communities to encourage and facilitate environmentally positive behaviour. This policy will be reviewed at least once annually in consultation with staff and other stakeholders where necessary.



Durham County Council - Cabinet

Durham County Council – Corporate Management Team

Appendix 3: Indicators

Council Wide Indicators

Tracking impacts across the whole of the authority:

- Mileage/Transport
- Carbon emissions
- Water consumption
- Renewable energy generated
- Procurement impacts, initially looking at spend on consumables but working on key contracts as they come up for renewal.

Building specific indicators

Looking at impacts from key buildings-County Hall, Crook, Green Lane, and Spectrum 8:

- Waste generated-general, recycling, other
- Electricity use
- Gas use/heat generation
- Water use

Natural Capital

The Council owns and/or manages a variety of land including, for example, woodlands, parks, nature reserves, amenity open space, highways verges, grazing land, playing fields etc. Whilst not currently available, this EMS will identify actions to better understand:

- The natural capital assets, benefits and services provided by our estate; and
- How our estate in its entirety and its management currently benefit biodiversity and how this can be enhanced.

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Climate Emergency Response

Rosalind Farrow
Carbon and Energy Analyst



CERP Progress Update

Contents

- Council
 - Emissions and Targets
 - Actions
 - Priority areas
 - CERP Update
- County
 - Emissions and Targets
 - Actions
 - Priority areas
 - CERP Update

Background

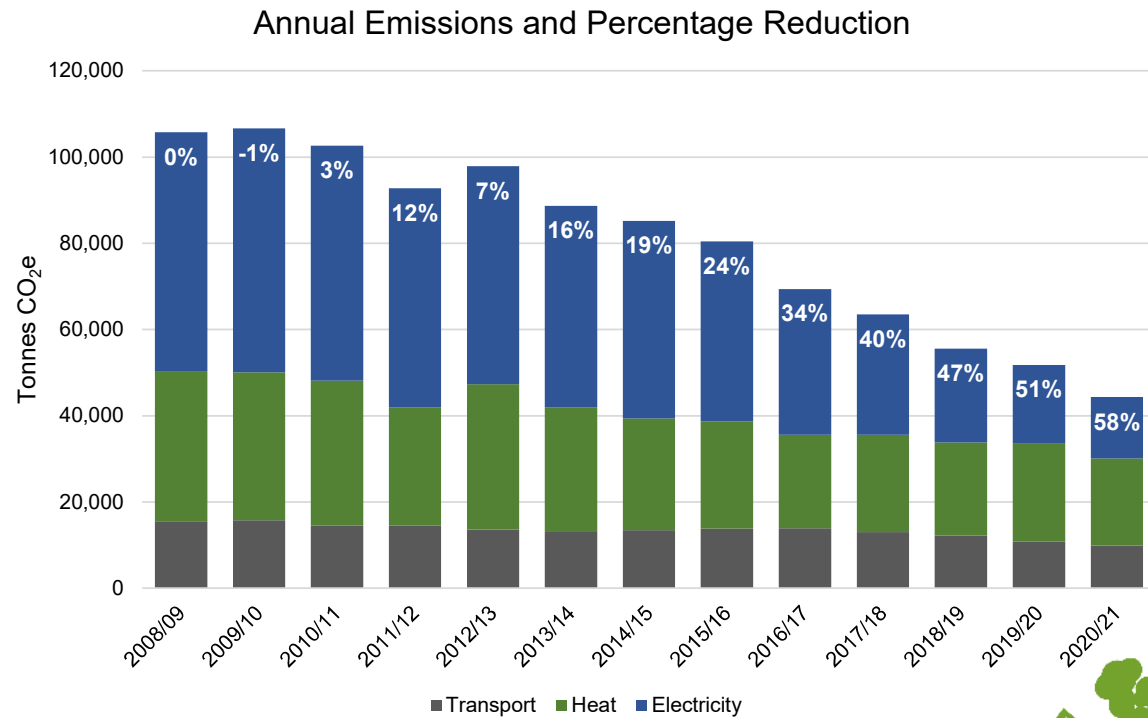
- Carbon Management plan since 2009/10
- Climate Emergency declared February 2019



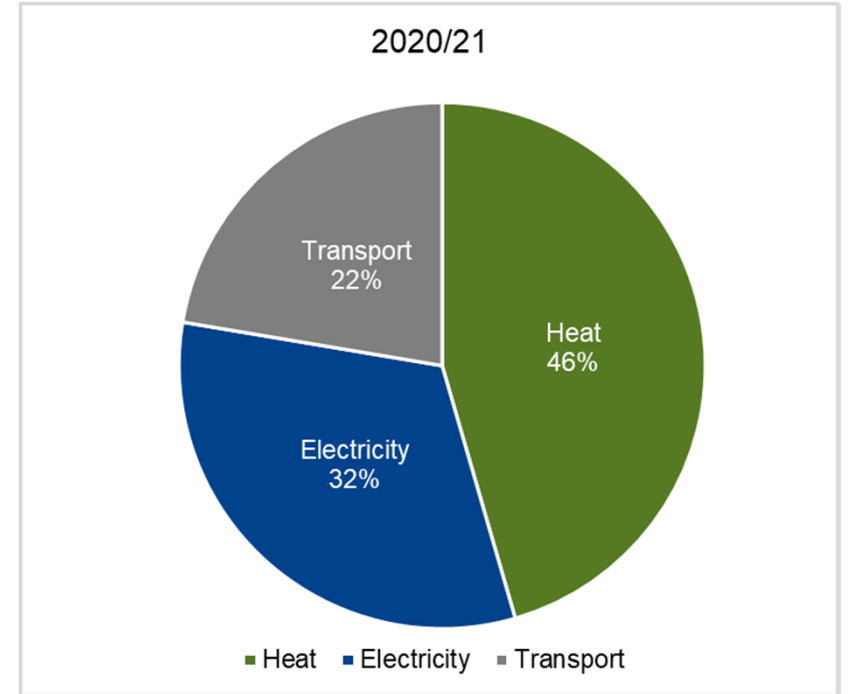
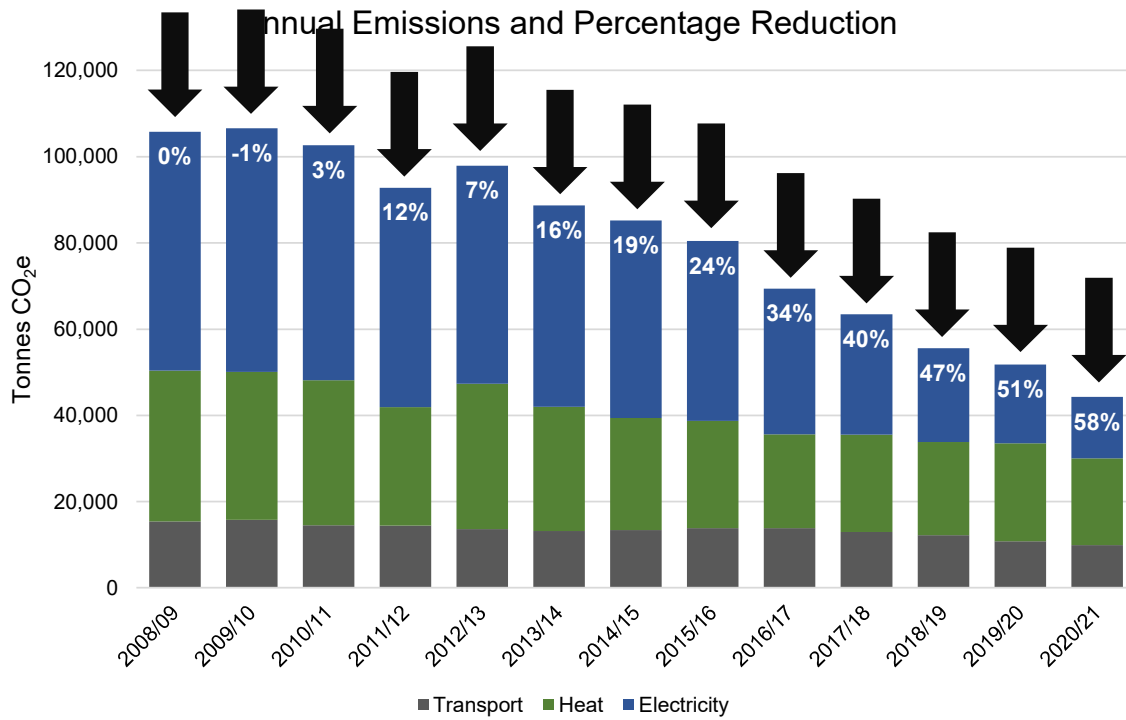
Council Emissions and Targets

How are we doing?

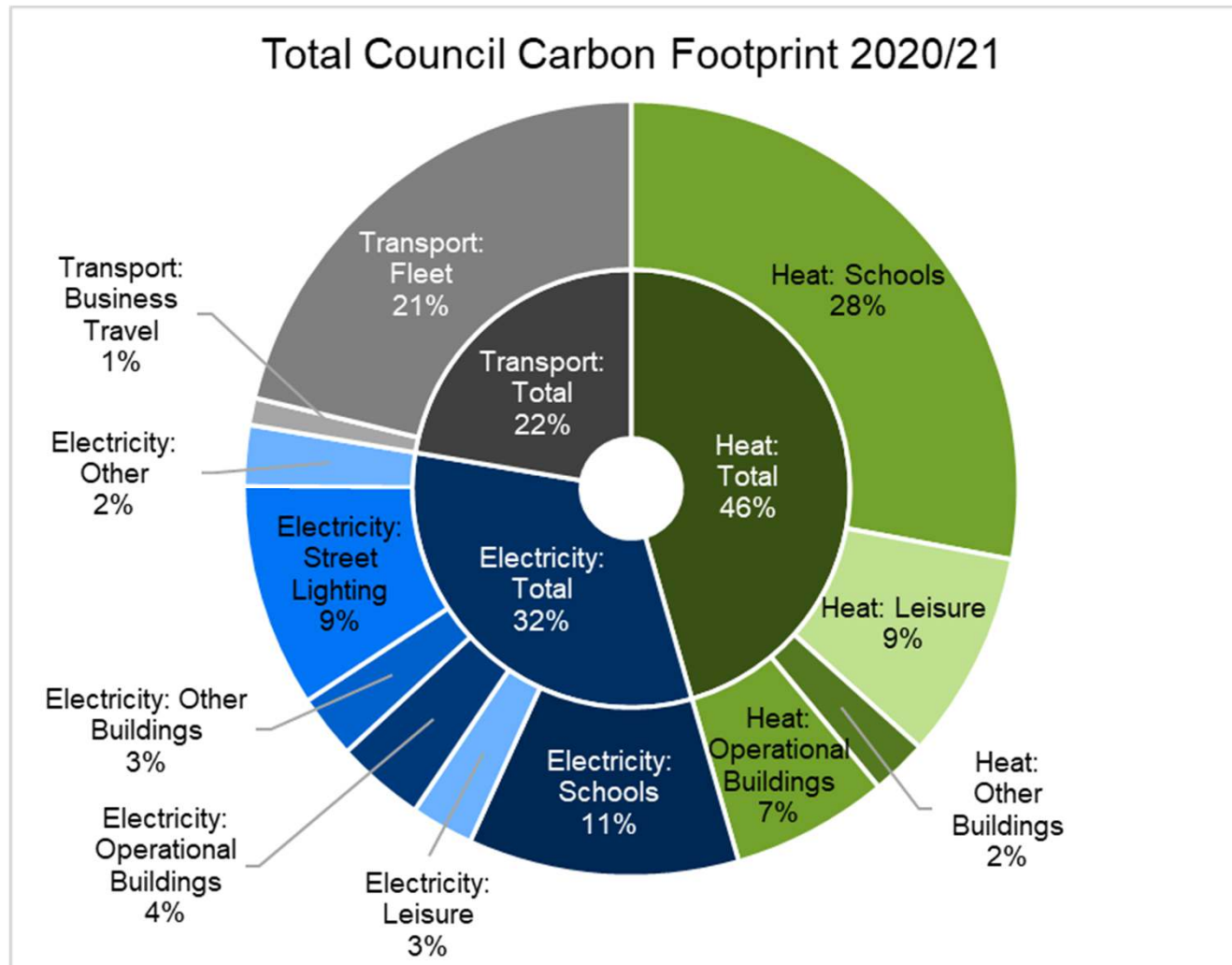
- This year compared with earlier years
- Current Emissions Breakdown
- Budget and Targets
 - Costs



Council – Compared with previous years



Council – This Year’s Breakdown



Council Carbon Targets

Climate Emergency

- 80% Reduction by 2030
- Carbon Neutral by 2050

Year	Actual Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Target Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Reduction Target (%)	Carbon Management Plans
2019/20	51,787 (51%)	58,173	45%	2015-2020
2020/21	44,319 (58%)	46,608	56%	2020-2025
2021/22		40,330	62%	
2022/23		36,701	65%	
2023/24		33,764	68%	
2024/25		31,401	70%	
2025/26		28,889	73%	2025-2030
2026/27		26,867	75%	
2027/28		24,986	76%	
2028/29		23,237	78%	
2029/30		21,200	80%	



Council – Projected Costs

Funds available

- Climate Emergency Fund
 - £3M over two years
 - Council capital funding
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme
 - Government grants shared by the whole public sector
 - £1bn in 2020, £75M in March 2021 and an unknown amount in October 2021
 - Future rounds expected but not guaranteed.

Costs Expected to 2030

- Heat
 - Boiler replacements: ~£100M by 2030
 - BEMS: £variable per building
- Transport
 - Fleet renewals: ~£10M by 2030
 - Avoiding travel: £negligible
- Electricity
 - Invest to save



Council – Areas of Priority

Heat (46% or 20,174 tonnes)

- Using gas in our boilers currently emits almost as much CO₂e as our total 2030 target.
- To reach 2030 target we must stop using gas to heat many of our buildings.

Electricity (32% or 14,238 tonnes)

- Reduction so far has been two thirds due to the decarbonisation of the national grid and one third due to our efficiency and generation works.
- Electricity is expensive – renewable generation saves money which can support other projects.
- Renewable generation adds resilience.

Transport (22% or 9,907 tonnes)

- Business travel down during pandemic.
- Electrifying fleet.
- Maintain remote meetings to avoid unnecessary travel.

Schools (39% or 17,395 tonnes)

- Electricity use reduced during pandemic.
- Cross-border MATs
- Supporting school budgets



CERP Actions

Council Actions

- Table of progress
- 79% of projects are either on track or complete.

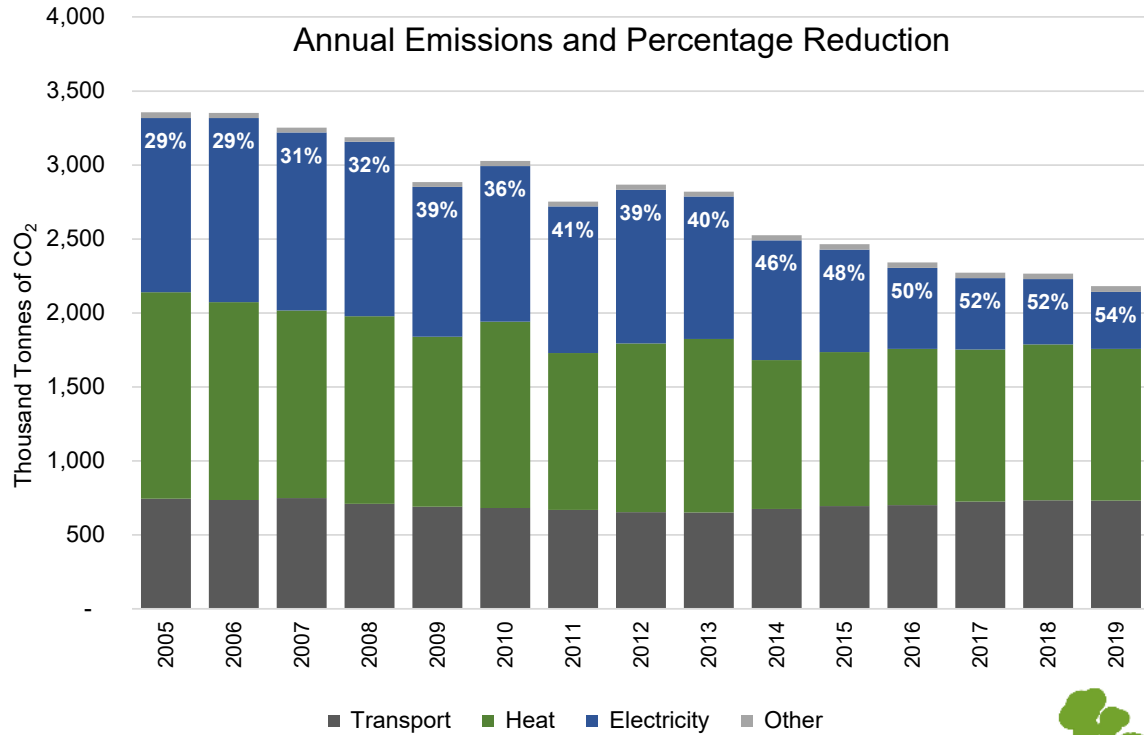
Actions with Delays	5
On Track	18
Complete	4
On Hold	1
Total	28



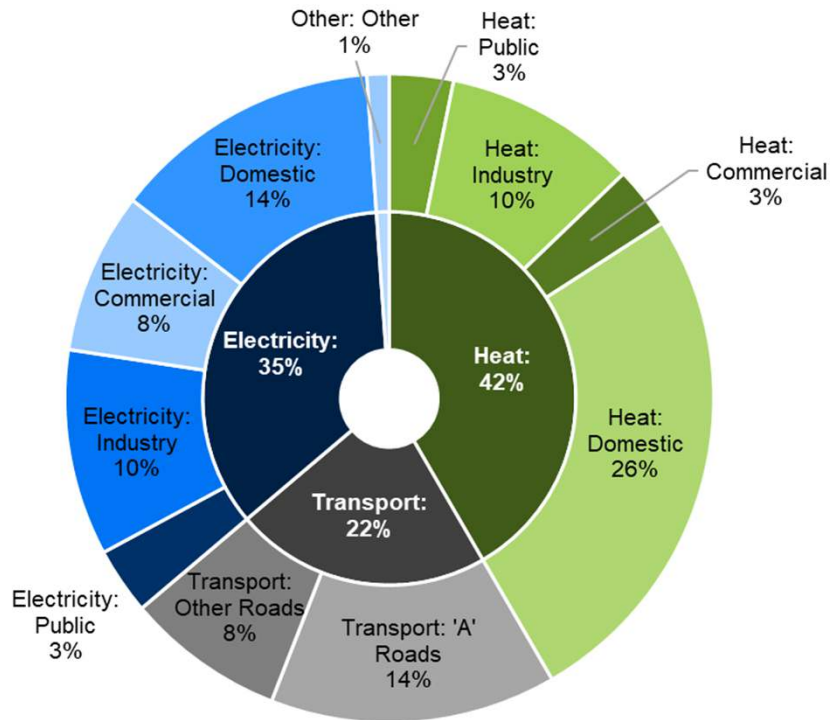
Countywide Emissions and Targets

Contents

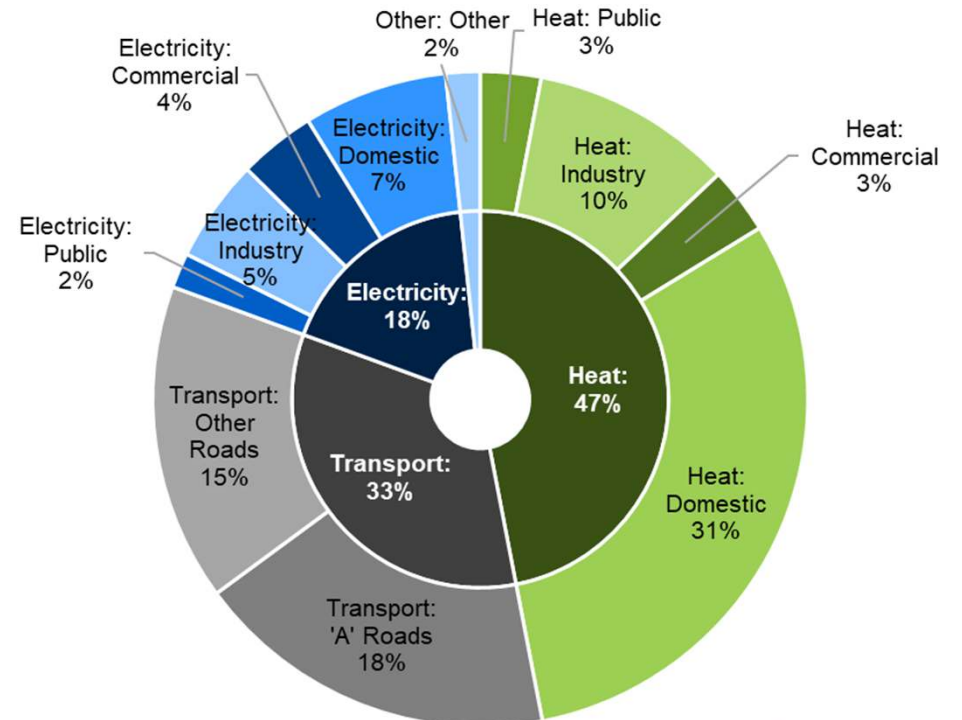
- This year compared with earlier years
- Current Emissions Breakdown
- Areas of Priority
 - Heat
 - Transport
 - Electricity
- Budget and Targets



2005 compared with 2019



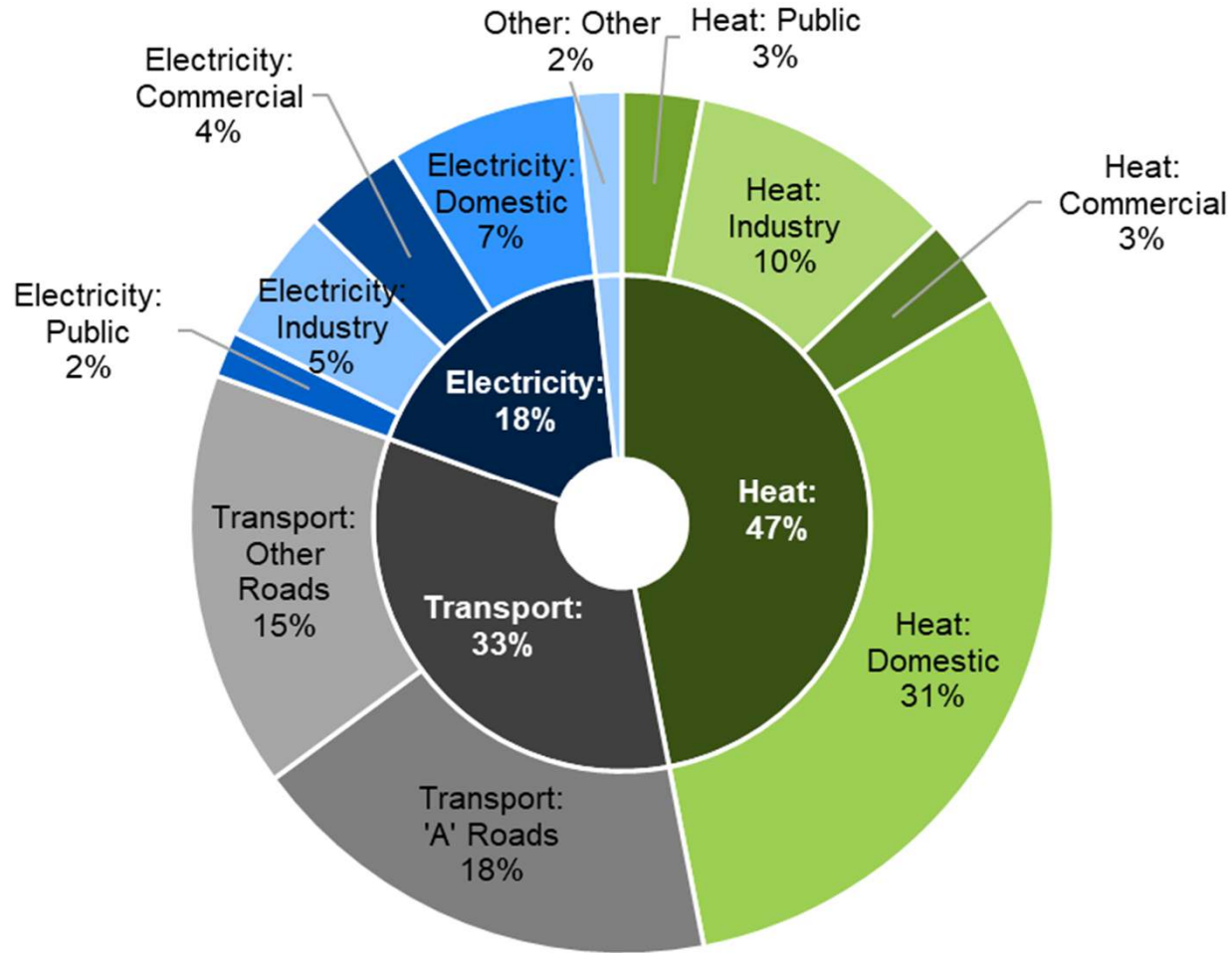
2005



2019

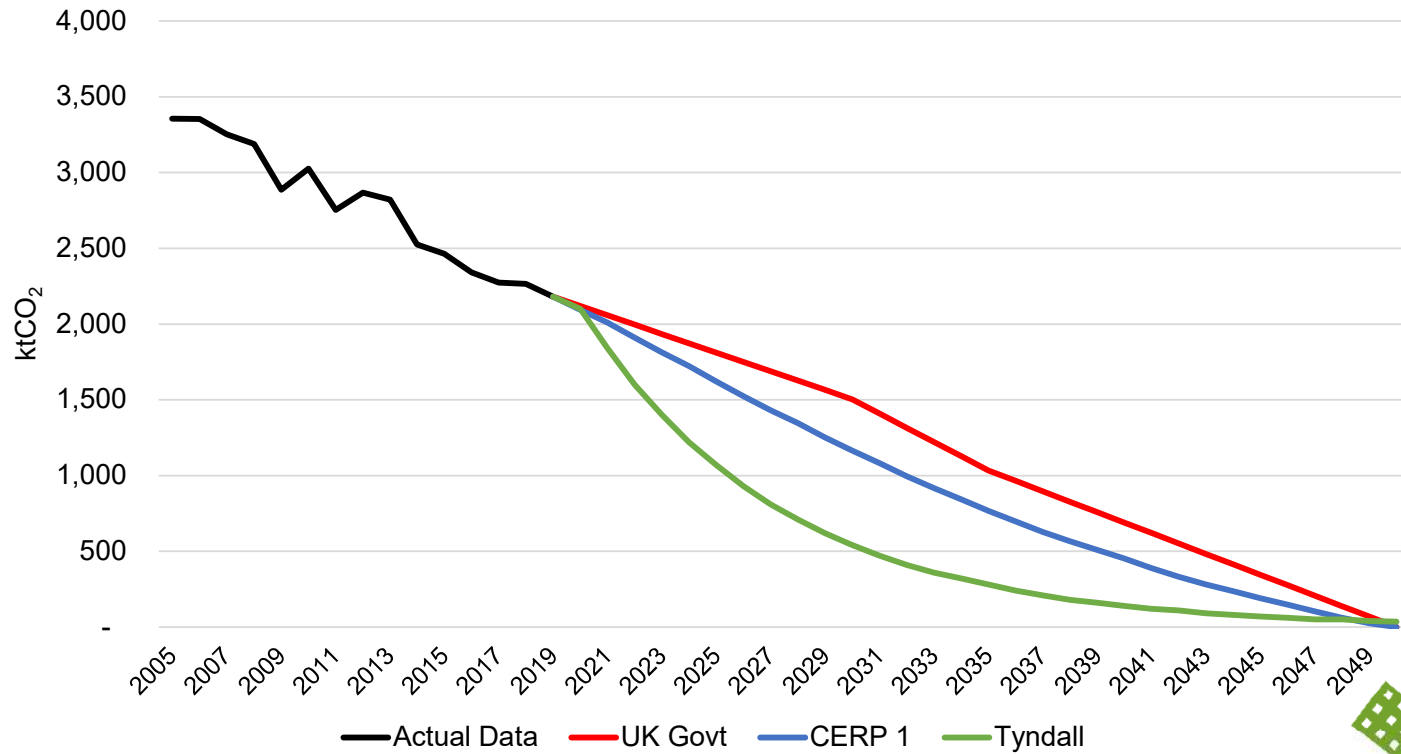


Countywide Emissions Breakdown 2019



County Carbon Budget

Graph of Historic Carbon Footprint Data and Three Possible Carbon Budgets



Budget to 2050:

- UK Govt
35,444 kt CO₂
- CERP 1
29,283 kt CO₂
- Tyndall
18,496 kt CO₂



County – Areas of Priority

Heat (47%, or 1,024 thousand tonnes)

- Domestic heating is the biggest single source at 670kt or 31% of the total.
- 236,000 households in Durham

Electricity (18% or 387 thousand tonnes)

- Reduction largely due to grid factor
- Support reducing grid factor through renewable generation

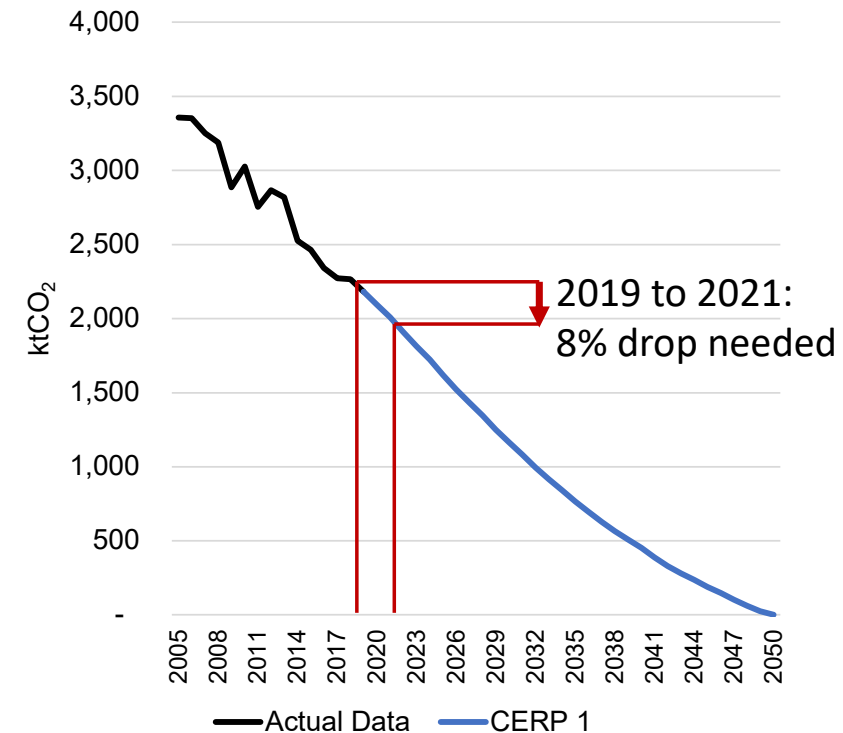
Transport (34% or 733 thousand tonnes)

- Road traffic only
- 292,000 road vehicles registered in Durham

Natural Environment & Offsetting (-48 thousand tonnes)

- LULUCF
 - How we use our land and how much forestry we have
- Renewables
 - separate report – not included in the 47kt figure.

Graph of Historic Carbon Footprint Data and CERP 1 Carbon Budget



CERP Actions

County Actions

- Table of progress
- 82% of projects are either on track or complete

Actions with Delays	7
On Track	52
Complete	11
On Hold	7
Total	77



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**Environment and Sustainable
Communities Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**

8 October 2021



**Climate Emergency Response Plan –
Renewable Energy Generation and New
Projects**

**Report of Alan Patrickson, Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods
and Climate Change**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide.

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on Renewable Energy Generation in County Durham
2. To provide an update on new projects contributing to the Climate Emergency Response Plan

Executive Summary

3. The Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) releases data on renewable energy capacity and generation on an annual basis which is two years in arrears.
4. Although wind makes a significant proportion of capacity and generation there has also been a steady rise in solar energy which makes an important contribution.
5. Services and Teams continue to develop projects during 2021 some of the most recent schemes include:

DCC Projects

- Woodland Primary School
- Meadowfield Depot
- New/additional Solar PV schemes on buildings and land
- Solar car ports in car parks

- Wind turbine exploration
- Durham City district heat network development
- Lumley school integrated solar

Countywide Projects

- Seaham Garden Village
- Domestic heating retrofits
- Electric van – try before you buy scheme
- Community electric vehicle charging network
- Borrow a bike scheme
- Project Gigabit Broadband Voucher scheme
- Marine Carbon
- South Stanley SUDS Accelerator Project

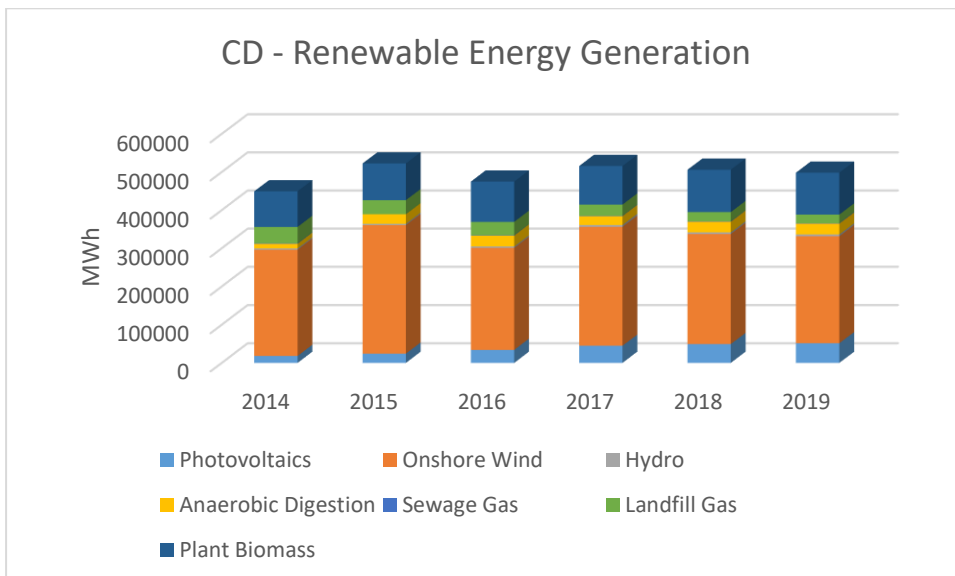
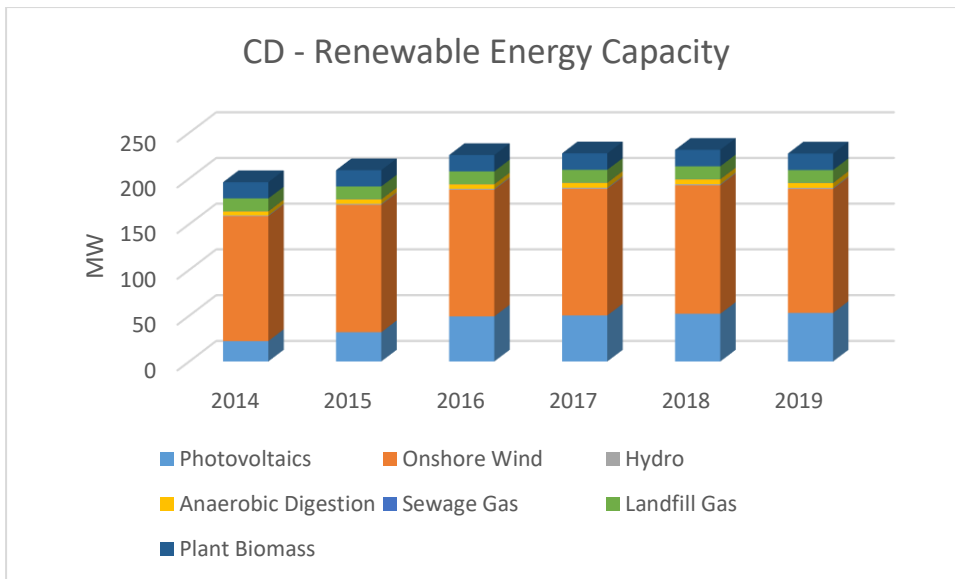
Recommendation(s)

6. Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:
 - (a) Note the renewable Energy Data and progress made on new projects in 2021

Renewable Energy generation

7. Data from BEIS on renewable energy capacity and generation is released on a yearly basis¹ and is two years in arrears. We are currently awaiting data for 2020. The graphs below show capacity and generation in years 2014 – 2019.
8. Capacity reduced from 2018 to 2019 by 4MW, due to a reduction in onshore wind capacity. This is presumably from a number of turbines being removed. Generation also reduced during this period by 7000MWh.
9. Wind still makes up the most significant proportion of capacity and generation, however solar has been steadily rising since records began and also makes an important contribution.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics>



New Projects – DCC (Developed during 2021)

10. The Low Carbon Economy Team have continued to develop projects this year the following represents some of the more recent schemes.
11. Woodland Primary School is a small rural school built in the 1950s of traditional construction and at 560square metres is equivalent in area to around three large detached houses. It is heated with Kerosene and not connected to the gas network. A bid to Round 2 of the PSDS was submitted in April 2021 which was successful to replace the boiler with air source heat pumps together with solar PV and other energy efficiency works. Work is ongoing at present and will cost a total £119,733 (all grant funding) and will save approximately £6000 in fuel costs (April 2021 prices) and 4.9t of CO2.

12. **Meadowfield Depot** - Following a grant of £491k, work has begun on a number of interventions at Meadowfield Depot, including: Replacing some of the gas fired workshop heaters with electric equivalents; Replacing the air handling unit for office areas with a new, high efficiency, heat recovery unit; An extension of roof mounted solar PV; Automatic speed gates and LED lighting
13. **New / additional Solar PV schemes on buildings and land** - We are aiming to add to the 32 sites already with Solar PV by funding more solar arrays to new sites and adding to ones already existing. These include leisure centres, depots and crematoria
14. **Solar Car Ports in car parks** - We have been investigating the use of solar PV in car parks for a number of years, but due to higher capital costs it has never been possible. We have recently been awarded funding from a successful EU Cities Fund bid (the only UK project to get funding - 221 bids received across Europe. 65 approved). We will get 60,000 euros to appoint a consultant to develop a commercial, investable business case to install solar car ports, along with batteries, EV charging, etc and green infrastructure on larger car parks. The partners are DCC (Transport involved), Durham University and Co Durham and Darlington NHS Trust
15. **Wind Turbine exploration** - We have been exploring the potential for new micro/small scale wind installations across the County that could help power Council assets. It is hoped that a number of sites may prove to be viable.
16. **Durham City District Heat Network Development** - We have been investigating the potential for district heating in Durham City for a number of years. Following a Energy Masterplanning study in 2017, the Riverside area was regarded as a potential viable opportunity. We have recently been successful in a funding application to BEIS to support the development of a detailed business case to explore in detail viability. Consultants are about to be appointed and will report back findings in March/April 2022
17. **Lumley School integrated solar** - The need for a new roof was identified at Lumley Junior School. Construction Consultancy Services (CCS) approached the LCE team to ask if there was the possibility to develop an integrated solar scheme. Designs were developed and a funding package put in place, with a small grant from the LCE Climate Change Fund and a loan which the school took out with Schools finance. The project will pay back within 10 years and we are actively looking at other re-roofing schemes where we could implement a similar model.

New Projects - Countywide

18. **Seaham GV** – Work ongoing with the Coal Authority and development partners to supply heat from Dawdon Pumping station (mine water) to supply 1500 homes and commercial buildings proposed at Seaham Garden Village with low carbon energy. The Council are in the process of negotiating the value and purchase of the land. Planning consent for the Energy Centre was given in March 2021. Following the completion of the financial model, it is proposed that the delivery model will be through a Concession contract. Soft market testing is now complete, and a number of different utility/energy companies have expressed an interest in becoming involved in the project.
19. **Domestic Housing Retrofits** – Housing Regeneration have been highly successful in gaining funding for a number of housing retrofit schemes over 2020/21 and have more applications in for 2021/22. LAD1 bid successful for £1.8m retrofit project in Chilton and Dean Bank. LAD1b bid successful for further £3.8m. 43 Renewable Air Source Heat pumps and first time central heating systems have been installed in off gas grid homes across the County. LAD3 bid submitted for further 500 domestic retrofits. Awaiting outcome.
20. The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) requires Energy Supply Companies to supply grants to install energy efficiency measures i.e. central heating boilers and insulation measures in the homes of fuel poor households. Currently ECO phase 3 (ECO3) provides £640 million per annum and ends in March 2022. ECO phase 4 (ECO4) will commence in April 2022 when ECO3 ends. This will increase national funding for fuel poverty grants from the Energy Supply Companies to £1 billion per annum from 2022-2026.
21. In the latest figures (April 2021) released by the Department of Business and Energy Efficiency (BEIS), Durham County Council has the 4th highest uptake of ECO3 fuel poverty grants nationally, up from 6th nationally in 2020. Between April 2020 and August 2021, a total of 1,724 fuel poor households have been assisted and received an ECO3 grant for energy efficiency measures equating to over £2.9m of external funding drawn down into the county.
22. **Electric Van, Try Before you Buy Scheme** - Four EV vans have been purchased - two for delivery early autumn 2021, others no fixed delivery date yet, to be loaned to SME's considering moving towards EV's. Two year project with vehicles being retained by fleet services after project.
23. **Community EV Charging Network** – SOSCI delivering 200 charge points (£4m project £2.97 from Innovate UK). New applications successful in 2021 include WEVA – (Weardale electric Vehicle

Accelerator), which is a national demonstrator project and plans to fit 10 EV charging points across the front of Stanhope, over 8 sites all within a 5 minute walk of each other. Research told us that that is what residents were willing to walk between each charge point and DOCs (Durham Other Charge points) – This was an application for 50 EV charging points in support of the parish councils to have a charge point of their own. This will support site not covered through the SOSCI project

24. **REV UP** - The REV UP project (Regional electric vehicle unified plan) is a research project with a key output to develop a standardized (and integrated) process (a guide or template) for various local authorities (e.g. LA7 and also possibly TeesValley CA), plus regional organisations and groups (e.g. NE Energy Hub, Emergency Services) to work together to be able to submit large-scale applications for blocks of OZEV funding to install hundreds/thousands of EVCPs across the region. The project will also look at a new concept of EV charging where the local authority does the underground DNO work prior to going out for an installer.
25. **Borrow a Bike Scheme** - Pilot scheme a success in Shildon. The scheme enables residents who do not have access to a bike the opportunity to try cycling as a means of travel. Launch of second site in Durham (Abbey Sports Centre) in August 2021, with Stanley (Louisa Centre) to follow (date tbc). Access for 2 other sites tbc.
26. **Project Gigabit Broadband Voucher scheme** - DCC committed £500k top-up to the scheme in September 2020, effectively doubling the funding amounts available to properties in County Durham with speeds of 30Mbps or less. Digital Durham has undertaken a co-ordinated approach to the GBVS, working to link up GBVS registered suppliers and communities. This has led to a higher interest in the scheme than initially anticipated resulting in the initial £500k DCC top-up funding was fully committed to projects in April 2021. Sign off for an additional £1m top-up was agreed in May 2021 to enable more projects to progress. A deadline of 24 September for the approval of new projects and voucher claims by suppliers, has been imposed by DCMS ahead of a regional procurement to contract for additional gigabit-capable broadband coverage. The GBVS is set to reopen once a supplier has been awarded the contract (estimated Q1 22/23)
27. **Marine Carbon** - Significant progress has been made in the past financial year with collaborations in place for oyster seeding and kelp growing. Oyster nurseries have been installed and a programme of habitat restoration is now being developed. Initial research and site selection work on kelp progresses with on site installation of pilot sites anticipated this year.

28. **South Stanley SUDS Accelerator Project** - Is a multi-partner project, led by Durham County Council, exploring how SuDS can be used as a mechanisms to create more resilient, greener urban spaces which are shaped by their residents. This six-year project, with a value of £6M, is one of 25 projects across England sponsored by DEFRA funded through the new Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme. This Programme fulfils a key commitment of the government's policy statement on flood and coastal erosion and the Environment Agency's National Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy to develop and test new approaches to tackle the threat of flooding and coastal change.

Conclusion

29. Members will be aware of the work undertaken and the range of projects currently being developed.

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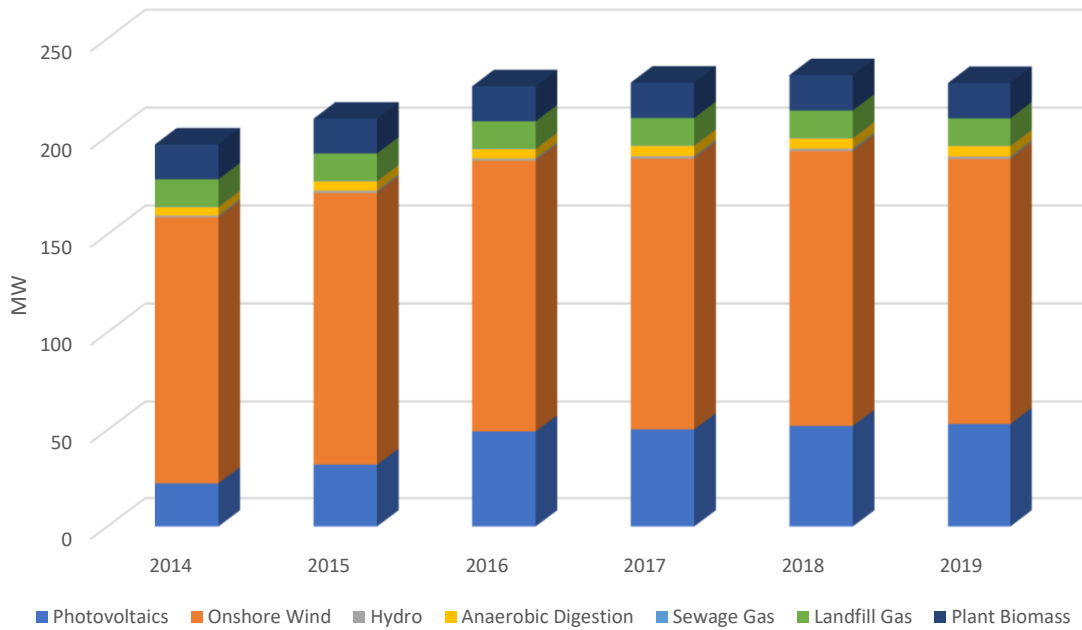
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Climate
Emergency
Response -
Renewable
Energy Capacity
and New Projects



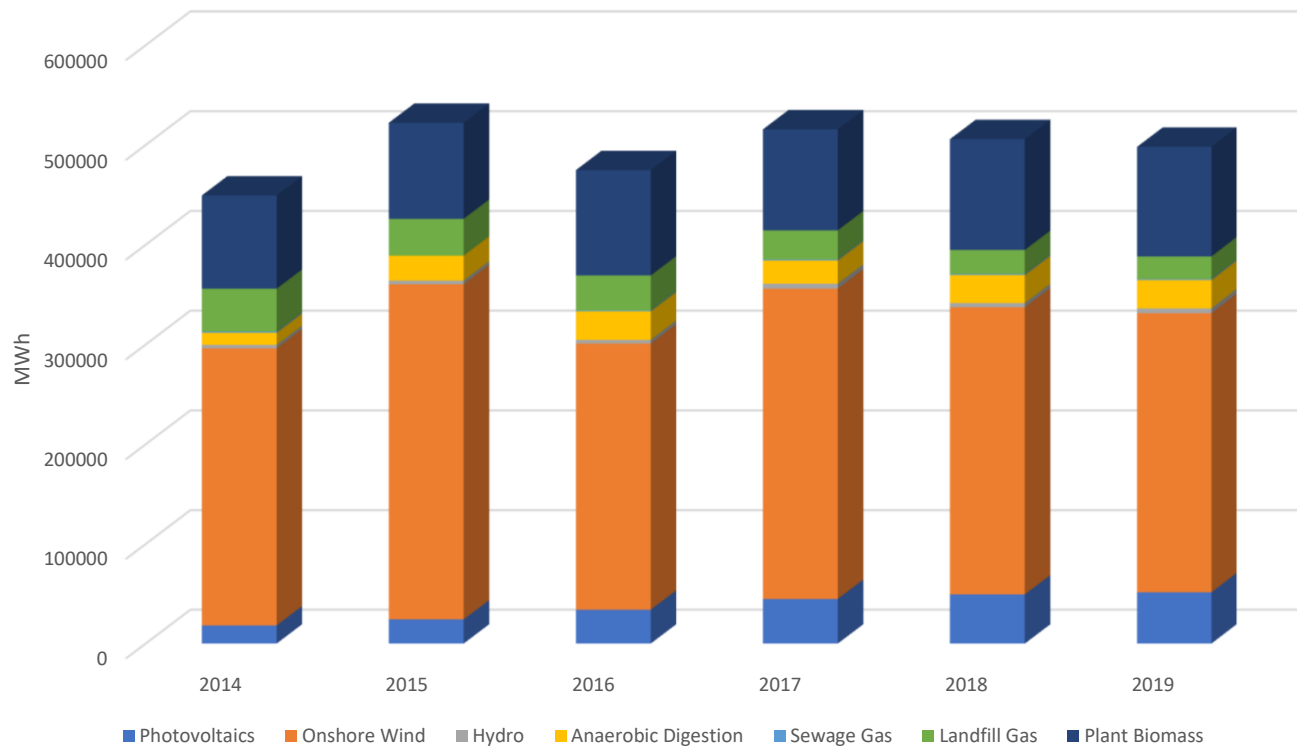
Renewable Energy Capacity in County Durham

CD - Renewable Energy Capacity



Council Emissions and Targets

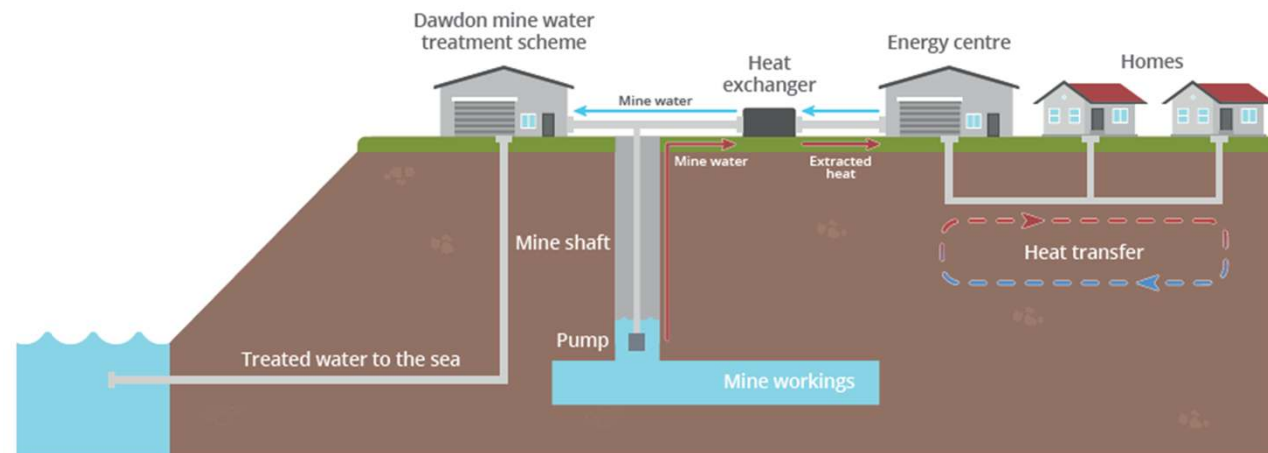
CD - Renewable Energy Generation



New Projects Countywide

Seaham Garden Village

- 1500 homes and commercial buildings heated through Minewater
- Energy Centre will be built adjacent to the Coal Authority Pumping station
- Following the completion of the financial model, it is proposed that the delivery model will be through a Concession contract.
- Soft market testing is now complete, and a number of different utility/energy companies have expressed an interest in becoming involved in the project.



New Projects Countywide

Domestic Housing Retrofits

- LAD1a bid successful for £1.8m for External Wall Insulation in Chilton & Dean Bank
- LAD1b bid successful for further £3.8m.
- LAD3 bid submitted for further 500 domestic retrofits. Awaiting outcome.
- £2.9m of funding drawn into the County through ECO3 funding for fuel poor households



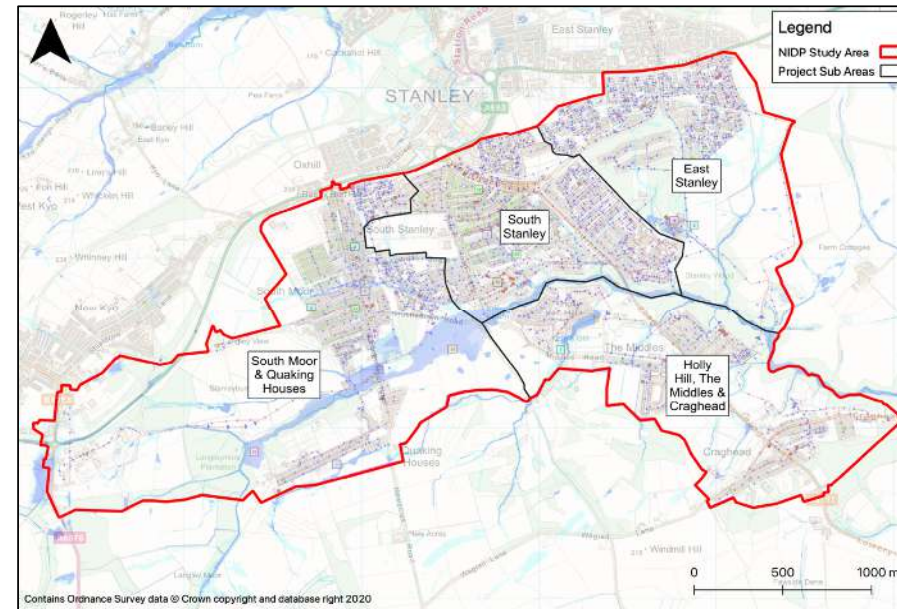
New Projects Countywide

Other Projects

- Electric Vans – Try before you Buy
- Community EV Charging Network
 - SOSCI; WEVA; DOCS; REV UP
- Borrow a Bike Scheme
- Project Gigabit Broadband
- Marine Carbon
- South Stanley SUDS Accelerator

Low Carbon Team / Fleet
Low Carbon Team

Transport
Digital Durham
Heritage Coast
Drainage Team / EA



New Projects DCC

Heat Decarbonisation

- Woodland Primary School
- New Solar PV sites
- Solar Car Ports
- Micro wind exploration
- Durham City District Heat Network Business Case
- Lumley School – Integrated Solar



What next?

CERP2 - 2022-24

- **A Countywide Response Plan**
- **Adaptation & Resilience**
- **A Just Transition**

- **Governance**
 - **Net Zero Board**
 - **Environment Partnership**

Cabinet

February 2022



**Environment & Sustainable Communities
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

8 October 2021

**Neighbourhoods & Climate Change –
Quarter 4: Revenue and Capital Outturn
2020/21**



Report of Corporate Directors

Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources (Interim)

**Alan Patrickson, Corporate Director Neighbourhoods & Climate
Change**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide details of the outturn position for this service area highlighting major variances in comparison with the budget as at 31 March 2021.

Executive Summary

2. This report provides an overview of the final outturn position as at 31 March 2021. It provides an analysis of the budgets and forecast outturn for the service areas falling under the remit of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee and complements the reports considered and agreed by Cabinet on a quarterly basis.
3. The final position shows an underspend of £1.144 million, against a revised budget of £111.681 million.
4. The revised service capital budget is £43.714 million with expenditure of £35.417 million.
5. The service required funding of £7.125 million to support budgets where income is lower or costs higher as a result of the impact of COVID. This is the net position after taking account of savings as a result of the impact of COVID.

6. Details of the reasons for under and overspending against relevant budget heads are disclosed in the report.

Recommendation(s)

7. Environment & Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to note the contents of this report.

Background

- 8 County Council approved the Revenue and Capital budgets for 2020/21 at its meeting on 26 February 2020. These budgets have since been revised to account for grant (additions/reductions), budget transfers, and budget re-profiling between years (in terms of capital) as well as corporately recognised budget pressures). This report covers the financial position for the following budgets of the services within the scope of this committee;
- (a) Revenue Budget - £111.681 million (original £108.640 million)
 - (b) Capital Programme – £43.714 million (original £43.270 million).

Revenue

- 9 The original revenue budget of £108.640 million has been revised to incorporate a number of budget adjustments and the final revised budget for the service is £111.681 million.
- 10 The service is reporting a cash limit underspend of £1.144 million against the revised budget of £111.681 million.
- 11 The table below compares the forecast outturn with the budget by Head of Service. A further table is shown at Appendix 2 analysing the position by Subjective Analysis (i.e. type of expense).

Analysis by Head of Service £'000s

NCC							
Service Analysis	Annual Budget	Outturn Position	Variance	Earmarked Reserves	Net Covid Adj	Outside Cash Limit	Cash Limit Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Environmental Services	51,677	58,937	7,260	(72)	(4,252)	(3,103)	(23)
Technical Services	14,707	6,538	(8,169)	(250)	(1,120)	8,014	(1,025)
Community Protection	4,532	3,801	(731)	(685)	(50)	(7)	(103)
Partnerships & Community Engagement	7,598	9,864	2,266	(1,555)	(1,703)	(2,180)	(62)
Central Costs	33,167	12,279	(20,888)	(715)		20,242	69
NET EXPENDITURE	111,681	91,419	(20,262)	(3,277)	(7,125)	22,966	(1,144)

12. The cash limit underspend of £1.144 million takes into account adjustments for sums outside the cash limit such as redundancy costs that are met from corporate reserves and use of / contributions to earmarked reserves.
13. The main reasons accounting for the outturn position are as follows:
 - (a) Environmental Services underspent by £23,000. There were overspends relating to pay re-gradings for Refuse Collection drivers of £0.206 million and Neighbourhood Wardens of £0.188 million, while income at the Joint Stocks landfill site underachieved by £0.350 million for power generation. These overspends were offset by savings resulting from delays in implementing two new refuse collection rounds (£0.330 million), and delays in appointing new Neighbourhood Wardens (£0.126 million). The service received full year budget growth in 2020/21 for the new refuse rounds and the additional Neighbourhood Wardens, meaning that the delays in implementation have produced one-off underspends in 2020/21.
 - (b) Technical Services underspent by £1.025 million. The main reasons for this were: employee savings of £0.245 million due to vacancies, a £0.275 million underspend on electricity due to lower than expected prices, and additional income of £0.573 million in relation to Traffic & Street Works, and Highways Permits. There was also an overspend of £0.541 million on Winter Maintenance due to additional activity since Q3, however this was treated as outside the cash limit at year end as there was insufficient funding in the Winter Maintenance earmarked reserve to offset the in-year position.
 - (c) Community Protection underspent by £0.103 million. There are a number of vacant posts that are producing an underspend of £0.283 million, however, this was partially offset by an overspend on staff re-gradings, and under-achieved income (£0.180 million).
 - (d) Partnerships & Community Engagement underspent by £62,000. This was mainly due to a managed underspend in Supplies and Services, that will be utilised in 2021/22 for a delayed MTFP saving.
14. The forecast outturn position has been adjusted by £26.243 million relating to contributions to and from reserves, and sums outside the cash limit and it also includes a net COVID adjustment of £7.125 million.

15. The Cash Limit Reserve carried forward for Neighbourhoods & Climate Change is £1.294 million after taking the latest outturn position into account.
16. In summary, the service grouping managed to successfully maintain spending within its cash limit.

Capital Programme

17. The Neighbourhoods & Climate Change original capital programme was revised for budget re-phased from 2019/20. This increased the 2020/21 original budget to a level of £43.270 million. Since then, reports to the MOWG have detailed further revisions, for grant additions/reductions, budget transfers and budget re-profiling into later years. The revised budget now stands at **£43.713 million**.
18. Summary financial performance for 2020/21 is shown below.

Service	Revised Annual Budget 2020/21 £000	Actual Spend to 31 March £000	Remaining Budget 2020/21 £000
Community Protection	31	15	(16)
Environmental Services	4,267	3,613	(654)
Technical Services	34,692	30,239	(4,453)
Partnerships & Community Engagement	4,723	1,549	(3,174)
Total	43,713	35,416	(8,297)

19. Actual spend for 2020/21 amounts to **£35.416 million**. **Appendix 3** provides a more detailed breakdown of spend.
20. The key areas of spend during the year were on Highways & Bridges Schemes (£30.239 million), and Environmental Design Schemes (£2.946 million).

Background papers

- Cabinet Report (7 July 2021) –Revenue and Capital Outturn 2020/21 – Period to 31 March 2021.

Contact:

Phil Curran – Finance Manager Tel: 03000 261 967

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The consideration of regular budgetary control reports is a key component of the Council's Corporate and Financial Governance arrangements. This report shows the spend against budgets agreed by the Council in February 2020 in relation to the 2020/21 financial year.

Finance

Financial implications are detailed throughout the report which provides an analysis of the revenue and capital outturn position.

Consultation

Not applicable.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Not applicable.

Climate Change

Not applicable.

Human Rights

Not applicable.

Crime and Disorder

Not applicable.

Staffing

Not applicable.

Accommodation

Not applicable.

Risk

The consideration of regular budgetary control reports is a key component of the Councils Corporate and Financial Governance arrangements.

Procurement

The outcome of procurement activity is factored into the financial projections included in the report.

Appendix 2: NEIGHBOURHOODS & CLIMATE CHANGE Outturn 2020-21 – Subjective Analysis

NCC Subjective Analysis	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance	Items Outside Cash Limit	Earmarked Reserves	Net COVID adjustment	NCC Cash Limit Variance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Employees	59,491	61,053	1,562	(1,655)	(4)	(962)	(1,059)
Premises	7,474	8,331	857	(1,124)	(175)	(2)	(444)
Transport	19,025	20,267	1,242	(28)	18	10	1,242
Supplies & Services	23,313	19,300	(4,013)	(193)	1,904	16	(2,286)
Third Party Payments	45,627	47,862	2,235	(14)	151	(2,192)	180
Transfer Payments	2,139	3,237	1,098	0	446	(1,661)	(117)
Capital	29,102	2,833	(26,269)	26,269	0	0	0
Central Costs	10,744	10,090	(654)	1,807	(143)	0	1,010
DRF	2,532	3,271	739	0	0	0	739
Other	0	162	162	0	0	0	162
Gross Expenditure	199,447	176,406	(23,041)	25,062	2,197	(4,791)	(573)
Grant	(2,899)	(10,087)	(7,188)	0	1,462	0	(5,726)
Contributions	(991)	(448)	543	0	99	0	642
Sales	(632)	(331)	301	0	0	(206)	95
Charges	(13,276)	(13,503)	(227)	(15)	44	(810)	(1,008)
Rents	(77)	(90)	(13)	0	0	(21)	(34)
Recharges	(68,560)	(58,716)	9,844	(2,081)	14	(1,309)	6,468
Other Income	(1,331)	(1,812)	(481)	0	(539)	12	(1,008)
Gross Income	(87,766)	(84,987)	2,779	(2,096)	1,080	(2,334)	(571)
Total	111,681	91,419	(20,262)	22,966	3,277	(7,125)	(1,144)

Appendix 3: Neighbourhoods & Climate Change Capital Programme 2020/21

NCC	Revised Annual Budget 31/3/2021 £000	Profiled Budget 31/3/2021 £000	Actual Spend 31/03/21 £000	Remaining Budget £000
Community Protection				
Community Protection	24	24	8	16
AAP Schemes-Community Protection	7	7	7	-
Community Protection Total	31	31	15	16
Environmental Services				
AAP Schemes - Environmental Services	134	134	111	23
Building Services	-	-	-	-
Street Scene	257	257	89	168
Vehicle and Plant	145	145	108	37
Crematorium	-	-	(44)	44
Environment & Design	3,306	3,306	2,946	360
Waste Infrastructure Capital	426	426	404	22
Environmental Services Total	4,268	4,268	3,614	654
Technical Services				
Highway Operations	1	1	1	-
Strategic Highways	26,361	26,361	23,243	3,118
Strategic Highways Bridges	8,330	8,330	6,995	1,335
Technical Services Total	34,692	34,692	30,239	4,453
Members Neighbourhood Fund				
Members Neighbourhood Fund	3,792	3,792	1,103	2,689
Members Neighbourhood Fund Total	3,792	3,792	1,103	2,689
Community Buildings				
Community Buildings	206	206	-	206
Community Buildings Total	206	206	-	206
AAP Capital Budgets				
AAP Capital Budgets	618	618	334	284
AAP Capital Budgets Total	618	618	334	284
AAP Initiatives				
AAP Initiatives Other	10	10	2	8
Stanley Regeneration Works	-	-	-	-
Dipton Project Fund	1	1	-	1
Nevilles Cross Community Centre New Build	-	-	-	-
Witton Park Memorial Garden	36	36	18	18
AAP Initiatives Total	47	47	20	27
Sherburn Hill Community Centre				
Sherburn Hill Community Centre (DVR)	46	46	92	(46)
Sherburn Hill Community Centre Total	46	46	92	(46)
Consett Comm Facilities				
Consett Comm Facilities	14	14	-	14
Consett Comm Facilities Total	14	14	-	14
NCC Total	43,714	43,714	35,417	8,297

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8 October 2021

**Neighbourhoods & Climate Change –
Quarter 1: Forecast of Revenue and
Capital Outturn 2021/22**

Report of Corporate Directors

Pau Darby, Corporate Director of Resources (Iterm)

**Alan Patrickson, Corporate Director Neighbourhoods & Climate
Change**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide details of the forecast outturn budget for this service area highlighting major variances in comparison with the budget, based on the position to the end of quarter 1 (30 June 2021).

Executive summary

- 2 This report provides an overview of the updated forecast of outturn, based on the position at Quarter 1 for 2021/22. It provides an analysis of the budgets and forecast outturn for the service areas falling under the remit of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee and complements the reports considered and agreed by Cabinet on a quarterly basis.
- 3 The updated position is that there is a forecast cash limit underspend of £0.114 million, against a revised budget of £105.175 million.
- 4 The service is forecast to require funding of £3.560 million to support budgets where income is lower or costs higher as a result of the impact of COVID. This is the net position after taking account of savings as a result of the impact of COVID.

- 5 The revised service capital budget is £56.942 million with expenditure to 30 June of £7.101 million.
- 6 Details of the reasons for under and overspending against relevant budget heads are disclosed in the report.

Recommendation(s)

- 7 Environment & Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to note the contents of this report.

Background

- 8 County Council approved the Revenue and Capital budgets for 2021/22 at its meeting on 24 February 2021. These budgets have subsequently been revised to account for changes in grant (additions/reductions), budget transfers between service groupings and budget re-profiling between years (in terms of capital). This report covers the financial position for the following budgets of the services within the scope of this committee;
 - (a) Revenue Budget - £105.175 million (original £105.731 million)
 - (b) Capital Programme – £56.942 million (original £58.740 million)
- 9 The summary financial statements contained in the report cover the financial year 2021/22 and show: -
 - (a) The approved annual budget;
 - (b) The forecast income and expenditure as recorded in the Council's financial management system;
 - (c) The variance between the annual budget and the forecast outturn;
 - (d) For the revenue budget, adjustments for items outside of the cash limit (outside of the Service's control) to take into account such items as capital charges and use of / or contributions to earmarked reserves.

Forecast Revenue Outturn 2021/22

- 10 The service is reporting a cash limit underspend of **£0.114 million** against a revised budget of **£105.175 million**.

- 11 The table below compares the forecast outturn with the budget by Head of Service. A further table is shown at Appendix 2 analysing the position by Subjective Analysis (i.e. type of expense).

Analysis by Head of Service £'000

Head of Service	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance	Items Outside Cash Limit	Earmarked Reserves	Net COVID adjustment	Cash Limit Variance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Environmental Services	52,431	57,389	4,958	0	(936)	(3,518)	504
Technical Services	15,322	15,343	21	0	(400)	(23)	(402)
Community Protection	4,786	4,577	(209)	0	0	(19)	(228)
Partnerships & Comm Engagement	3,014	5,265	2,251	0	(2,240)	0	11
NCC Central Costs	29,622	29,622	0	0	0	0	0
Total	105,175	112,197	7,022	0	(3,576)	(3,560)	(114)

- 12 The cash limit underspend of £0.114 million takes into account adjustments for sums outside the cash limit such as redundancy costs that are met from corporate reserves and use of / contributions to earmarked reserves.
- 13 The main reasons accounting for the outturn position are as follows:
- (a) Environmental Services is forecast to be £0.504 million overspent. This is mainly resulting from overspends on the recycling contract which has had to be renegotiated with the contractor due to the reducing value of recyclable material of £0.581 million, and also £0.144 million underachieved income on soil imports at Joint Stocks where the site is almost fully capped and can't take much more soil importation. These overspends have been offset by savings associated with continuing delays in implementing the two new refuse collection rounds resulting in an underspend of £65,000, staffing underspends in Neighbourhood Wardens where staff are not on the top of the grade, resulting in further savings of £97,000 and £59,000 increased income for commercial waste at the waste transfer stations,

- (b) Technical Services is forecast to be underspent by £0.402 million, relating to additional income of £0.384 million from the street works permit scheme, and a £42,000 underspend on electricity charges,
 - (c) Consumer Protection is forecast to underspend by £0.228 million. The main reasons for this are a saving on employees of £0.167 million due to vacant posts, and transport savings of £54,000. The outturn for this service also includes planned expenditure of £1.353 million on COVID-19 Outbreak Management activities, which is offset by specific government grant,
 - (d) Partnerships & Community Engagement is forecast to overspend by £11,000, mainly due to being unable to meet the staff turnover savings. The outturn for this service also includes planned expenditure of £2.263 million on COVID-19 Outbreak Management funded activities. The budgets in this area have been augmented with £2.240 million of funding drawn down from the Towns & Villages Reserve to increase Members' budgets by £1.26 million, and AAP budgets by £0.980 million. This year there also an additional £1.400 million being provided to AAPs for Community Recovery that is being funded from the Local Council Tax Support Grant.
- 14 The forecast outturn position has been adjusted by £3.576 million relating to contributions to and from reserves and £3.560 million net COVID adjustment.
- 15 The forecast Cash Limit Reserve position at 31 March 2022 is £1.008 million after taking the latest outturn position into account.

Capital Programme

- 16 The Neighbourhoods & Climate Change capital programme was revised at year-end for budget re-phased from 2020/21. This increased the 2021/22 original budget to a level of £58.740 million. Since then, reports to the MOWG have detailed further revisions, for grant additions/reductions, budget transfers and budget re-profiling into later years. The revised budget now stands at £56.942 million.
- 17 Summary financial performance for 2021/22 is shown below.

Service	Revised Annual Budget 2021/22 £000	Actual Spend to 30 June £000	Remaining Budget 2021/22 £000
Community Protection	212	0	212
Environmental Services	12,228	730	11,498
Technical Services	39,330	5,815	33,515
Partnerships & Community Engagement	5,172	556	4,616
Total	56,942	7,102	49,841

18 Officers continue to carefully monitor capital expenditure on a monthly basis. Actual spend for the first 3 months amounts to **£7.102 million**. **Appendix 3** provides a more detailed breakdown of spend across the major projects contained within the capital programme.

19 The key areas of spend during the year to date are on Highways and Bridges (£5.815 million). Other areas of the programme are profiled to be implemented during the remainder of the year and at year end the actual outturn performance will be compared against the revised budgets and service and project managers will need to account for any budget variance.

Background papers

- Cabinet Report (15 September 2021) – Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2021/22 – Period to 30 June 2021.

Contact: Phil Curran

Tel: 03000 261967

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The consideration of regular budgetary control reports is a key component of the Council's Corporate and Financial Governance arrangements. This report shows the forecast spend against budgets agreed by the Council in February 2021 in relation to the 2021/22 financial year.

Finance

Financial implications are detailed throughout the report which provides an analysis of the revenue and capital outturn position alongside details of balance sheet items such as earmarked reserves held by the service grouping to support its priorities.

Consultation

Not applicable.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Not applicable.

Climate Change

Not applicable.

Human Rights

Not applicable.

Crime and Disorder

Not applicable.

Staffing

Not applicable.

Accommodation

Not applicable.

Risk

The consideration of regular budgetary control reports is a key component of the Councils Corporate and Financial Governance arrangements.

Procurement

The outcome of procurement activity is factored into the financial projections included in the report

**Appendix 2: NEIGHBOURHOODS & CLIMATE CHANGE Forecast
Outturn at Q1 – Subjective Analysis**

NCC Subjective Analysis	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance	Items Outside Cash Limit	Earmarked Reserves	Net COVID adjustment	NCC Cash Limit Variance
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Employees	60,650	61,065	415	0	(71)	(547)	(203)
Premises	7,884	7,853	(31)	0	0	(12)	(43)
Transport	18,373	18,981	608	0	(22)	(602)	(16)
Supplies & Services	22,751	25,460	2,709	0	(677)	14	2,046
Third Party Payments	46,829	46,975	146	0	0	(2,238)	(2,092)
Transfer Payments	6,832	6,964	132	0	(2,240)	0	(2,108)
Capital	21,404	21,404	0	0	0	0	0
Central Costs	10,469	10,531	62	0	0	0	62
DRF	2,500	2,900	400	0	(400)	0	0
Gross Expenditure	197,692	202,133	4,441	0	(3,410)	(3,385)	(2,354)
Grant	(6,947)	(7,002)	(55)	0	0	0	(55)
Contributions	(4,487)	(830)	3,657	0	(166)	0	3,491
Sales	(632)	(629)	3	0	0	0	3
Charges	(12,660)	(12,545)	115	0	0	(66)	49
Rents	(91)	(93)	(2)	0	0	0	(2)
Recharges	(66,477)	(66,102)	375	0	0	(109)	266
Other Income	(1,223)	(2,735)	(1,512)	0	0	0	(1,512)
Gross Income	(92,517)	(89,936)	2,581	0	(166)	(175)	2,240
Total	105,175	112,197	7,022	0	(3,576)	(3,560)	(114)

Appendix 3: Neighbourhoods & Climate Change Capital 2021/22

NCC	Revised Annual Budget 2021/22 £000	Profiled Budget 2021/22 £000	Actual Spend 30/06/21 £000	Remaining Budget £000
Community Protection				
Community Protection	158	16	-	158
AAP Schemes-Community Protection	54	5	-	54
Community Protection Total	212	21	-	212
Environmental Services				
AAP Schemes -Environmental Services	303	30	4	299
Street Scene	1,488	82	229	1,259
Vehicle and Plant	3,150	42	54	3,096
Crematorium	144	14	39	105
Environment & Design	6,387	464	257	6,130
Waste Infrastructure Capital	756	-	147	609
Environmental Services Total	12,228	632	730	11,498
Technical Services				
Highway Operations	199	-	-	199
Strategic Highways	32,210	4,671	4,055	28,155
Strategic Highways Bridges	6,921	1,762	1,760	5,161
Technical Services Total	39,330	6,433	5,815	33,515
Members Neighbourhood Fund				
Members Neighbourhood Fund	3,407	80	470	2,937
Members Neighbourhood Fund Total	3,407	80	470	2,937
Community Buildings				
Community Buildings	956	-	-	956
Community Buildings Total	956	-	-	956
AAP Capital Budgets				
AAP Capital Budgets	603	60	69	534
AAP Capital Budgets Total	603	60	69	534
AAP Initiatives				
AAP Initiatives Other	14	1	-	14
Dipton Project Fund	1	-	-	1
Nevilles Cross Community Centre New Build	83	-	-	83
Witton Park Memorial Garden	18	-	17	1
AAP Initiatives Total	116	1	17	99
Consett Comm Facilities				
Consett Comm Facilities	90	-	-	90
Consett Comm Facilities Total	90	-	-	90
NCC Total	56,942	7,227	7,101	49,841

**Environment and Sustainable Communities
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

8 October 2021

Quarter One, 2021/22

Performance Management Report



Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources (Interim)

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To present an overview of progress towards achieving the key outcomes of the council's corporate performance framework and highlight key messages to inform strategic priorities and work programmes.
- 2 The report covers performance in and to the end of quarter one, April to June, 2021.

Performance Reporting

- 3 The performance report is structured around the three components.
 - (a) High level state of the County indicators to highlight areas of strategic significance. These are structured around the [County Durham Vision 2035](#).
 - (b) Council initiatives of note against the ambitions contained within the vision alongside a fourth 'excellent council' theme contained within our [Council Plan](#)¹.
 - (c) A long list of key performance indicators against the themes of the Council Plan.
- 4 It also includes an overview of the continuing impact of COVID-19 on council services, our staff, and residents.

More and Better Jobs

- 5 The impact of COVID-19 on the visitor economy has been significant. Visitor numbers, revenue generated from visits, and jobs supported are all half of pre-COVID levels. However, we are continuing to assist this sector, by attaining almost £2 million in grants to support the return of festivals and events and to develop a five-year programme of activities and exhibitions linked to our new History Centre, having renovated our

¹ approved by full council October 2020

cultural venues and through bidding for UK City of Culture status for 2025.

Connected Communities

- 6 Environmental cleanliness is showing a slight deterioration against last year in the categories of litter and detritus (based on a sample survey), and the number of reported fly-tips has started to return to pre-COVID levels, having decreased during the height of the pandemic.
- 7 One consequence of the pandemic has been the generation of additional tonnages of household waste due to people spending more time in their homes. An additional 12,000 tonnes of household waste was collected in 2020/21, however, contamination of kerbside recycling bins remains high.

The impact of COVID-19

- 8 The COVID-19 pandemic has caused an unprecedented health emergency across the globe. [Restrictions](#) to contain the virus, minimise deaths and prevent health and social care systems being overwhelmed remain in place, and are continuing to impact our everyday lives, our health and the economy.
- 9 However, roll-out of the UK's vaccination programme, which has reduced both hospital admissions and deaths, has allowed the government to implement plans for a [gradual and phased route out of lockdown](#).
- 10 Working with government organisations and within the context of national developments, we continue to protect our communities, support those affected by the pandemic, and develop plans for future recovery.
- 11 The COVID-19 surveillance dashboard can be accessed [here](#).

Risk Management

- 12 Effective risk management is a vital component of the council's agenda. The council's risk management process sits alongside our change programme and is incorporated into all significant change and improvement projects. The latest report can be found [here](#).

Recommendation

- 13 That Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the overall position and direction of travel in relation to quarter one performance, the impact of COVID-19 on performance, and the actions being taken to address areas of underperformance including the significant economic and well-being challenges because of the pandemic.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Not applicable.

Finance

Latest performance information is being used to inform corporate, service and financial planning.

Consultation

Not applicable.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Equality measures are monitored as part of the performance monitoring process.

Climate Change

We have declared a climate change emergency and consider the implications of climate change in our reports and decision-making.

Human Rights

Not applicable.

Crime and Disorder

A number of performance indicators and key actions relating to crime and disorder are continually monitored in partnership with Durham Constabulary.

Staffing

Performance against a number of relevant corporate health indicators has been included to monitor staffing issues.

Accommodation

Not applicable.

Risk

Reporting of significant risks and their interaction with performance is integrated into the quarterly performance management report.

Procurement

Not applicable.



Durham County Council Performance Management Report

Quarter One, 2021/22



More and Better Jobs

- 1 The ambition of More and Better Jobs is linked to the following objectives:
 - (a) A broader experience for residents and visitors to the county.

National, Regional and Local Picture

- 2 The impact of the pandemic on the visitor economy in 2020 has been significant. Visitor numbers fell by 43.4% compared to 2019, impacting on both 'day' and 'staying' visitor numbers. Consequently, the amount generated by the visitor economy also fell, decreasing by 48.3%. The number of jobs supported (both direct and indirect) by the visitor economy dropped by 44%.

Visitor Economy		
	2020	Compared to last year
Visitors to County Durham (millions)	11.39	- 43% ↓
Jobs supported by visitor economy (FTEs)	6,794	- 44% ↓
£ generated by visitor economy (£'millions)	£506.75	- 48% ↓

- 3 Across the county the greatest impact was seen in Durham City in relation to staying visitor expenditure, with the least impacted area being the Durham Coast in relation to day visitors to this area. As over 50% of visitors to County Durham are day visitors from the North East, the impact of the pandemic has not been as sizeable as other areas of the country which are more reliant on overnight stays and overseas travel.
- 4 The most recent COVID impact survey by Visit County Durham shows a more positive picture with most businesses being able to open as restrictions are lifted, the majority reporting they had lots of enquiries and bookings and 18% predicting their occupancy between June and August will be higher than pre-COVID levels. However, there were still concerns about further national lockdowns or further restrictions and the majority reported that customers were booking less than a month in advance.

Council Services

A broader experience for residents and visitors to the county

- 6 We have been awarded £724,000 of Culture Recovery Fund Grant by Arts Council England, which will support the return of festivals and events that were impacted by the pandemic.
- 7 In preparation for Lumiere 2021, the creative commissioning scheme BRILLIANT was launched in January. Following a record number of applications being received, six winners have been commissioned to create a new piece of light art for the event. This was the first time the competition was opened up to people outside of the north east and received 272 applications, an increase of over 250% on 2019. A fifth of applicants identified as having a disability or being from black, Asian and minority ethnic groups supporting the scheme's mission to broaden the diversity of those working in the medium of light art.
- 8 During the quarter, the decision was taken to postpone the Durham BRASS event which was due to take place from 14 to 18 July. The festival had been planned with COVID safety measures in mind, with a largely outdoor programme and social distancing arrangements, however due to uncertainty regarding national announcements on restrictions and the publication of safety guidance on large scale events, we have decided to postpone the event until 2022.
- 9 The council has secured a £1.2 million grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver a five-year programme of countywide activities and temporary exhibitions linked to the county's new History Centre. The funding will also support an innovative digital offer:
 - including a new dedicated History Centre website;
 - an online platform for people to search the collections, comment on heritage items and share their own stories;
 - and the digitisation and cataloguing of thousands of photographs, objects, maps and other historic documents.
- 10 This will allow people all over the world to connect with the county's historic collections and archives in unique ways. The History Centre is expected to attract up to 70,000 visitors a year, but the engagement programme will extend the centre's reach further still with more than 40% of the activities planned to take place offsite in schools and community venues
- 11 With the lifting of restrictions, we have been able to open a number of our cultural venues which have seen extensive renovation work carried out over the last year:

- Empire Theatre, Consett - £823,000 refurbishment of the auditorium, toilets, and front of house area, as well as a new stage and technical equipment;
 - Gala Theatre, Durham - £600,000 refurbishment, fitted with new flooring and seating in the auditorium, as well as a new-look box office, display screens, signage and furniture;
 - Bishop Auckland Town Hall - opened in May with a touring exhibition, 'Gladiators: A Cemetery of Secrets', following its major refurbishment in 2020. The renovated town hall offers a newly refurbished contemporary gallery space, a brand-new café and menu using high-quality, locally sourced produce and a fully digitised cinema.
 - Durham Town Hall - partially re-opened to visitors to enable the ongoing structural repair and restoration programme.
- 12 Killhope Museum re-opened to visitors in May with a planned programme of outdoor events and guided tours, alongside the exhibitions, play park, gift shop and new café. The waterwheel and jigger house however remain closed following delays in essential maintenance due to the pandemic. Binchester Roman Fort re-opened on 1 July, although there will be no organised events this year, visitors are once again able to see the two restored Roman baths and one of the most well preserved Roman heating systems in the country.
- 13 On 19 July, we submitted an expression of interest for UK City of Culture status for 2025 on behalf of Culture Durham, a partnership including Beamish Museum, Durham Cathedral and Durham University.
- 14 Durham hopes to secure the title for both the city and the county, following the announcement that, for the first time, groups of towns are able to work together to submit joint bids. Schemes will include the opening of a new dedicated history centre, a programme of events around the display of the Lindisfarne Gospels in the north east and a celebration of the 200th anniversary in 2025 of the first passenger railway. Following the deadline for bids, a panel will draw up a shortlist of six locations, with successful applicants being announced in September; they will then have until January 2022 to submit their full bids with the winner revealed in May 2022.

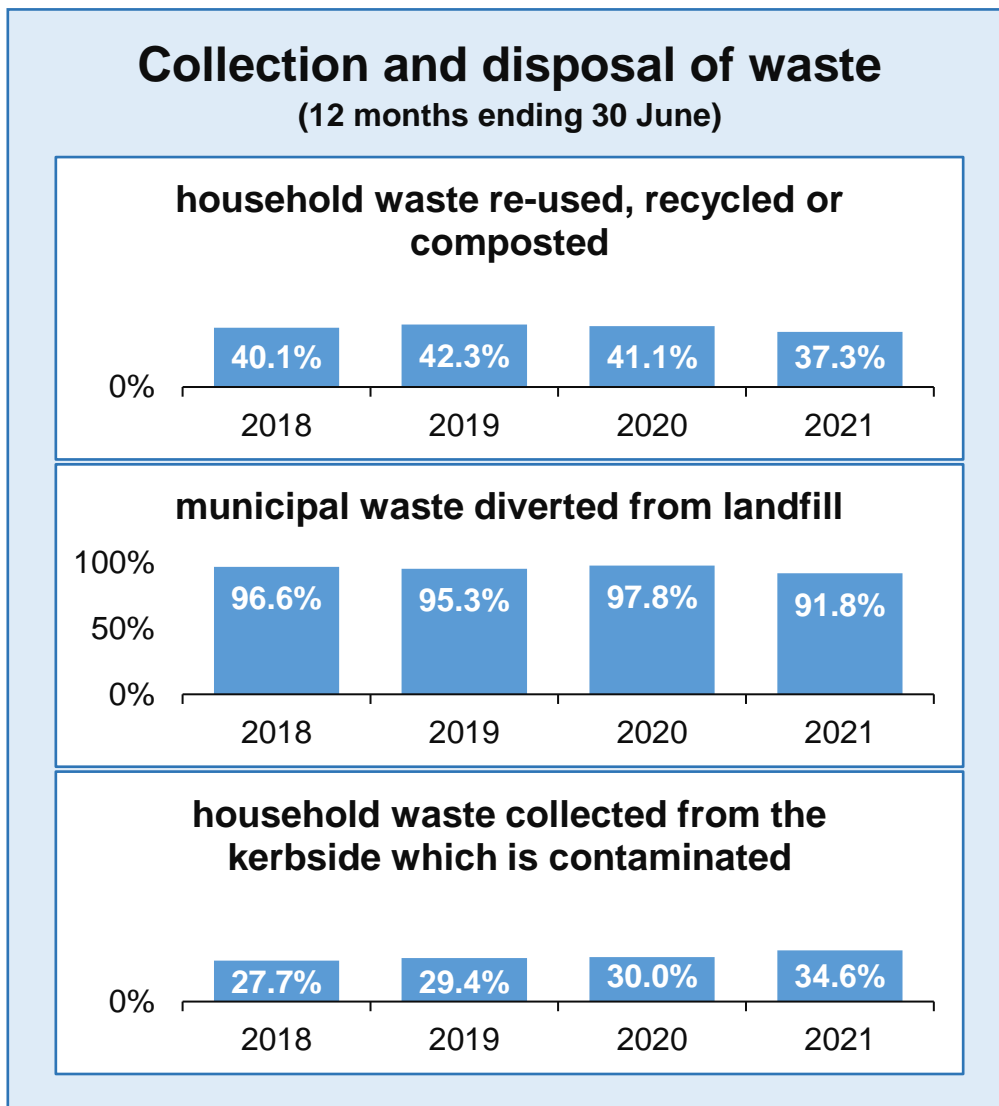
Long and Independent Lives

- 15 The ambition of Long and Independent Lives is linked to the following key objective:
- (a) County Durham will have a physical environment that will contribute to good health.

Council Services

Physical environment that will contribute to good health

- 16 Throughout the pandemic, due to people spending more time in their homes, we have been collecting increased tonnages of waste. During 2020/21 243,493 tonnes of waste was collected from households an increase of 5.3% on the previous year or just over 12,000 tonnes.



- 17 Contamination of kerbside recycling bins remains high. Data for 2020/21 shows a 6.5pp increase on the three-year average. Tonnages of glass sent for recycling continues to surpass the three-year average with the latest data for January to March 2021 showing a 27% increase and for 2020/21 a 32% increase.
- 18 For 2020/21 the HWRC's landfill diversion rate was 78% against the three-year average of 89%. However, improvements to the diversion rate can be seen in the most recent data for January to March 2021 which is 83%, the three-year average for the period is 88%.

- 19 The Small Electrical Recycling Project has been launched providing free drop-off points for small electrical and battery-operated items, there are currently 29 collection points across the County.

Connected Communities

- 20 The ambition of Connected Communities is linked to the following key objectives:
- (a) Our towns and villages will be vibrant, well-used, clean, attractive and safe;
 - (b) Communities will come together and support each other.

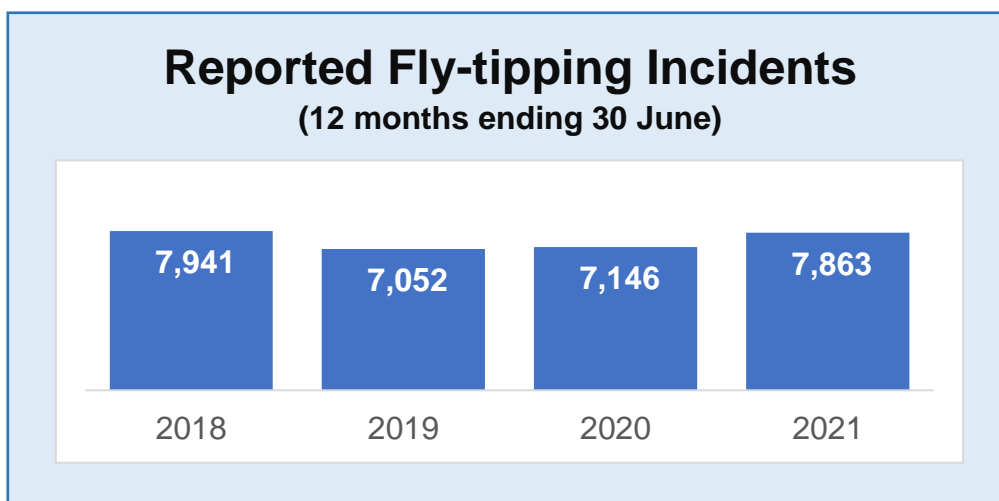
National, Regional and Local Picture

- 21 During the 12 months ending June 2021, reported fly-tipping incidents increased by 10%. However, incidents are now starting to return to pre-COVID levels, during quarter one, the number of incidents was 24% less than the same period last year.

Council Services

Communities will come together to support each other

- 22 To help deter fly-tipping, during the last quarter, our neighbourhood wardens carried out 636 further investigations, deployed cameras at eight locations with 22 incidents caught on camera, undertook 12 stop and search operations, issued 11 producers, instigated six prosecutions and issued 28 Fixed Penalty Notices.



- 23 Our Find and Fix programme, which focuses on issues raised by residents, communities and elected members, has been running for over six months now and has completed more than 240 tasks across the county. Work has included

clearing drainage channels on public walkways, removing graffiti, planting trees, clearing and renovating public art installations, scraping and edging paths and installing new street furniture such as bins and benches.

- 24 Our Community Action Team recently focused on reviewing three previously targeted areas at Crook, Eldon and Ferryhill Station, rubbish accumulations, dog fouling and fly-tipping were the main concerns. Whilst improvements had been made since previous visits more cases were logged for attention. The team will move on to South Moor in July.
- 25 The latest environmental cleanliness surveys, undertaken between April and July 2021, show a slight deterioration against the average for last year in the litter and detritus categories with 5.96% and 12.14%, respectively. However there has been an improvement in the dog fouling results to 0.79%.

An Excellent Council

- 26 The ambition of an excellent council is structured around the following key objective:

(a) Our resources will be managed effectively.

Our resources will be managed effectively

- 27 We are moving forward with an £8.1 million project to create a solar farm at our Morrison Busty depot, in Annfield Plain. The solar farm will power the whole depot, including electric vehicle charge points for our fleet. The project is part of a wider refurbishment to improve energy efficiency including new cladding, windows and doors and LED lights. Works have commenced on site and are due for completion in summer 2022.
- 28 An additional 200 electric charging points are to be provided in car parks and on street locations across the county to provide residents with fast charging (22kwh) facilities. We are also testing rapid charging points. All installations are expected to be completed by October 2021.
- 29 Delivery of the Climate Change Emergency Plan continues with a number of projects underway. Works include additional solar PV installations, heating and lighting replacements, and the planning of an additional solar farm and wind turbine.
- 30 We continue to work with small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through the Business Energy Efficiency Programme (BEEP). Grant offers this quarter were for installations such as LED lighting and heating systems with an estimated total of 117.6 tonnes of CO₂e saved this quarter.

Key Performance Indicators – Data Tables

There are two types of performance indicators throughout this document:

- (a) Key target indicators – targets are set as improvements can be measured regularly and can be actively influenced by the council and its partners; and
- (b) Key tracker indicators – performance is tracked but no targets are set as they are long-term and/or can only be partially influenced by the council and its partners.

A guide is available which provides full details of indicator definitions and data sources for the 2020/21 corporate indicator set. This is available to view either internally from the intranet or can be requested from the Strategy Team at performance@durham.gov.uk

KEY TO SYMBOLS

	Direction of travel	Benchmarking	Performance against target
GREEN	Same or better than comparable period	Same or better than comparable group	Meeting or exceeding target
AMBER	Worse than comparable period (within 2% tolerance)	Worse than comparable group (within 2% tolerance)	Performance within 2% of target
RED	Worse than comparable period (greater than 2%)	Worse than comparable group (greater than 2%)	Performance >2% behind target

National Benchmarking

We compare our performance to all English authorities. The number of authorities varies according to the performance indicator and functions of councils, for example educational attainment is compared to county and unitary councils however waste disposal is compared to district and unitary councils.

North East Benchmarking

The North East figure is the average performance from the authorities within the North East region, i.e., County Durham, Darlington, Gateshead, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-On-Tees, South Tyneside, Sunderland.

More detail is available from the Strategy Team at performance@durham.gov.uk

MORE AND BETTER JOBS

How well do tourism and cultural events contribute to our local economy?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
11	No. visitors to County Durham (million)	11.39	2020	Tracker	20.13 (red)					Yes
12	No. jobs supported by the visitor economy	6,794	2020	Tracker	12,133 (red)					Yes
13	Amount (£ million) generated by the visitor economy	506.75	2020	Tracker	980.72 (red)					Yes

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES – SUSTAINABILITY

How clean and tidy is my local environment?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
95	% of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of litter that fall below an acceptable level	5.96	Apr-Jul 2021	Tracker	N/a					Yes
96	% of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level	12.14	Apr-Jul 2021	Tracker	N/a					Yes
97	% of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of dog fouling that fall below an acceptable level	0.79	Apr-Jul 2021	Tracker	N/a					Yes
98	Number of fly-tipping incidents	7,863	Jul 20 – Jun 21	Tracker	7,146 (red)					Yes

Are we reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change?

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Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
99	% reduction in CO ₂ emissions in County Durham (carbon neutral by 2050)	55.2	2018	Tracker	54 (green)					No
100	% reduction in CO ₂ emissions from local authority operations compared to the 2008/09 baseline, 70% by 2025	51	2019/20	Tracker	47 (green)					No

How effective and sustainable is our collection and disposal of waste?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
101	% of municipal waste diverted from landfill	91.8	2020/21	95 (red)	97.8 (red)	91.5 (green)	94.4 (red)		2019/20	Yes
102	% of household waste that is re-used, recycled or composted	37.3	2020/21	Tracker	41.1 (red)	43.8 (red)	35.5 (green)		2019/20	Yes

Other additional relevant indicators

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES – SUSTAINABILITY

Is it easy to travel around the county?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
110	% of A roads where maintenance is recommended	3.0	2019	Tracker	2.6 (red)	3.38 (green)	1.92 (red)		2019	No
111	% of B roads where maintenance is recommended	3.3	2019	Tracker	4.7 (green)	4.57 (green)	2.83 (red)		2019	No
112	% of C roads where maintenance is recommended	4.3	2019	Tracker	3.7 (red)	4.57 (green)	2.83 (red)		2019	No
113	% of unclassified roads where maintenance is recommended	21.3	2019	Tracker	21.0 (amber)	15.08 (red)	16.25 (red)		2019	No