



Cabinet

Date **Wednesday 15 June 2022**
Time **9.30 am**
Venue **Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham**

Business

Part A

Items which are open to the public and press

1. Public Questions
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2022 (Pages 3 - 4)
3. Declarations of interest, if any

Key Decisions:

4. Climate Emergency Response Plan 2022-24 - Report of Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change (Key Decision: NCC/01/22) (Pages 5 - 146)
5. Levelling Up Fund: Round 2 - Report of Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth (Key Decision: REG/05/22) (Pages 147 - 176)

Ordinary Decisions:

6. County Durham Partnership Update - Report of Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change (Pages 177 - 204)
7. Quarter Four, 2021/22 Performance Management Report - Report of Corporate Director of Resources (Pages 205 - 298)
8. Cyber Security Strategy - Report of Corporate Director of Resources (Pages 299 - 334)
9. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chair of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration
10. Any resolution relating to the exclusion of the public during the discussion of items containing exempt information

Part B

Items during which it is considered the meeting will not be open to the public (consideration of exempt or confidential information)

11. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chair of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Helen Lynch

Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
7 June 2022

To: **The Members of the Cabinet**

Councillors A Hopgood and R Bell (Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council) together with Councillors T Henderson, S McDonnell, J Rowlandson, E Scott, P Sexton, A Shield, J Shuttleworth and M Wilkes

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DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 18 May 2022 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor A Hopgood (Leader of the Council) in the Chair

Cabinet Members:

Councillors R Bell (Deputy Leader of the Council), T Henderson, S McDonnell, J Rowlandson, P Sexton, A Shield and M Wilkes

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Scott and J Shuttleworth

Also Present:

Councillors J Blakey, L Holmes, C Hood, G Hutchinson

1 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 6 and 27 April 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Annual Enforcement Programme Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991 and Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change which reviewed enforcement activities under the Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991, the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003, and the Licensing Act 2003 for the

period April 2021 to March 2022 and sought approval of a new enforcement programme for 2022/23 (for copy of report see file of minutes).

Councillors Wilkes and Shield in referencing the work undertaken during the pandemic welcomed the new enforcement programme.

Resolved:

That the recommendations in the report be approved.

5 Health Protection Assurance Annual Report

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Corporate Director of Adults and Health Services and the Director of Public Health which provided an update on health protection assurance arrangements in County Durham and health protection activities over the course of the year (for copy of report see file of minutes).

Councillors Sexton, Shield and Bell in supporting the recommendations in the report advised that this work relies on the excellent collaboration with partners and gave updates on the programmes in place. They commended the extensive work that had been undertaken and the assurances provided on the health protection agenda, and how this had been undertaken while also dealing with the unprecedented demands of the pandemic. Members were pleased to note that despite the pandemic the programme had remained on track as well as it had. Thanks were made to the Corporate Director, the Director of Public Health, primary care staff and all staff involved for their hard work.

Resolved:

The recommendations in the report be approved.

Cabinet

15 June 2022

**Climate Emergency Response Plan
2022-24**



Key Decision NCC/01/22

Report of Corporate Management Team

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

**Councillor Mark Wilkes, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for
Neighbourhoods and Climate Change**

Electoral division(s) affected:

All

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide the second and final annual update on progress of the Council's first Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP1).
- 2 To present to Cabinet the subsequent second Climate Emergency Response Plan for the period 2022-24 (CERP2) and seek agreement for its adoption.
- 3 To give formal consideration to the introduction of new targets in CERP2, net zero.
 - (a) achieve net zero by 2030 by retaining the CERP1 80% actual carbon reduction target for Council emissions by 2030 whilst offsetting or further reducing remaining emissions;
 - (b) net zero by 2045 for countywide emissions (improved from 2050).

Executive summary

- 4 Following the declaration of a climate emergency, Cabinet required the production of a Climate Emergency Response Plan, which was adopted in February 2020. Also referred to as CERP1, this was a costed two year plan which set out over 100 projects that the Council, with partners, would need to take towards achieving ambitious targets of

reducing Council CO₂ reductions of 80% by 2030 (2008/9 baseline) and for meeting the countywide target of being totally carbon neutral by 2050. It was developed from extensive consultation across Council staff, stakeholders, community groups, residents, and schools.

- 5 The declaration and subsequent Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP1) required a report to be produced every year detailing the actions that are being undertaken to achieve our targets and setting at its expiry a further two-year programme of action.
- 6 Whilst the Covid pandemic had a key influence during the CERP1, significant progress was nevertheless made for instance with low carbon solutions to Abbey Leisure Centre and £8m Annfield Plain Zero Carbon Depot project commenced. Furthermore, countywide work with partners continued, for instance, the planting of 44,000 trees during 2021/22 and On Street Charging Initiative (SOSCI) project has installed 153 EV charge points sockets. Projects such as these have contributed to 58% Council reduction in tCO₂e from 2008/9 and countywide a 54% reduction (2019) in tCO₂e from 1990 levels.
- 7 This second Action Plan, CERP2, is proposed for adoption by this report. The CERP 2 action plan for the period 2022-2024 is fully costed and funding identified for the agreed programmes of work, including external sources, where appropriate. MTFP12 made provision for investment in the Low Carbon Team, mainstreaming the funding of the team and significant capital investments in low carbon schemes. This, allied with earmarked reserves held, is sufficient to cover initiatives or provide match funding set out in the CERP2 Plan up to 2024.
- 8 To achieve the climate change targets set out in CERP2 in their entirety, it will require a combination of access to external funding and also advances in technology in some areas. Without these the Council will not be able to achieve its targets.
- 9 It is recognised that the actions outside of those contained in the CERP2 action plan and actions / interventions beyond 2024 will be heavily dependent on access to funding. Given national strategies aimed at achieving net zero by 2050, this is a reasonable assumption, however it cannot be guaranteed, especially from the perspective of the current financial climate.
- 10 In this climate of tight resources, it is essential that our work at both a Council level and as a countywide influencer, is targeted to those areas where the biggest impact can be had. Future work and investment to achieve our ambitions in this area will therefore be built in to established Council processes including the annual MTFP planning cycle where capital and revenue expenditure will be considered alongside the needs

of other service projects and programmes. Resources will be allocated to maximise the benefits from the those available. Additionally, external funding will be sought wherever possible to supplement Council budgets. These opportunities will need to be subject to financial assessment, including the development of the appropriate business cases and affordability tests.

Recommendation(s)

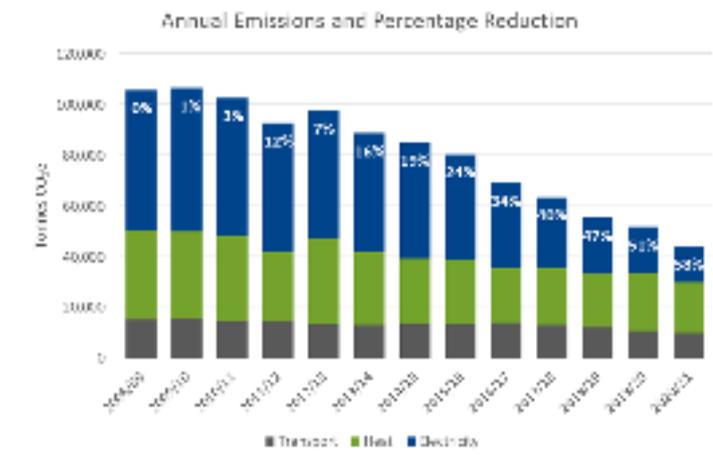
11 Cabinet is recommended to:

- (a) note progress against CERP1 projects which have helped to achieving 58% Council reduction in tCO₂e from 2008/9 and countywide a 54% reduction (2019) in tCO₂e from 1990 levels;
- (b) agree to the adoption of CERP2 and assist with the delivery of targets as set out in the report;
- (c) to give formal consideration to the introduction of new targets in CERP2, net zero:
 - (i) achieve net zero by 2030 (against 2008/09 levels) by retaining the CERP1 80% actual carbon reduction target for Council emissions by 2030 whilst offsetting or further reducing remaining emissions;
 - (ii) net zero by 2045 (against 1990 levels) for countywide emissions (improved from 2050).
- (d) note that the CERP2 targets will require access to funding from external areas and advances in technology in some areas in order to be fully delivered;
- (e) note that any resources required to achieve the climate change targets outside of those costed plans included in the CERP2 action plan will be considered in future MTFP planning cycles with a value for money outcome-based focus alongside other projects and programmes.

BACKGROUND

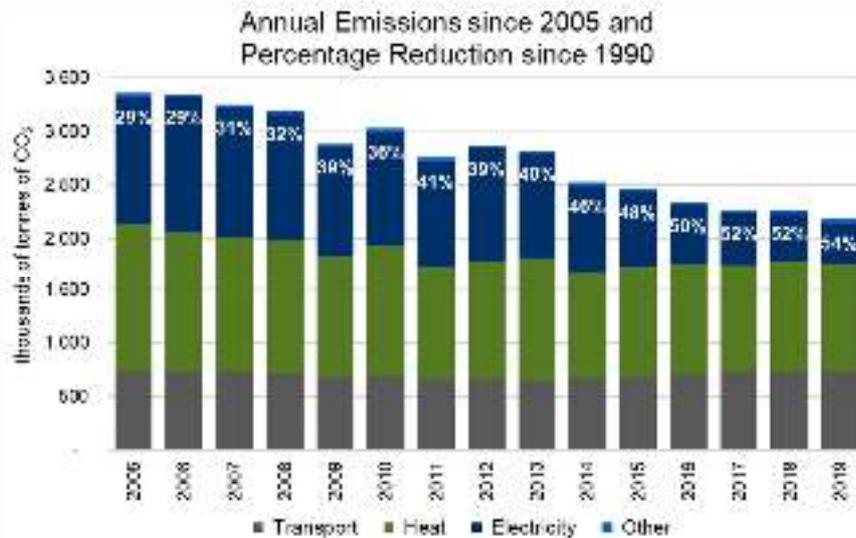
CERP1 Update

- 12 The Council's carbon emissions during 2020/21 were 44,319 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e), marking a reduction of 58% compared with the baseline year of 2008/9. The graph below shows this as a year-on-year progression with the figures for each year being separated into the priority areas of electricity, heat, and transport.



Graph 1: Council Emissions for Period 2009 - 2021

- 13 In the baseline year of 2008/09, most of the Council's carbon emissions were from electricity use, shown in blue in the graph above. More recently, the biggest portion of the footprint is from heat, shown in green. The Council has made significant progress in reducing the amount of electricity that is consumed from the national grid over recent years and, at the same time, electricity has become less carbon intensive as the UK moves away from coal and toward more renewable electricity generation. The Council continues to report Scope 1 & 2 emissions (Direct emissions from using gas, oil or petrol and indirect emissions from electricity). Some Scope 3 emissions we also calculate, like business travel, but much of this is beyond the control of the Local Authority. Further information can be found on the Council's website and in the first CERP, however we are actively investigating ways in which to more proactively measure Scope 3 emissions, through procurement and software.
- 14 In relation to countywide emissions, the latest available carbon footprint figures are for the year 2019. The baseline year for these emissions is 1990, in keeping with the Government's measurement period for national targets. The chart below shows how the county's carbon footprint has been in decline since 2005 and gives the reduction in each year as a percentage from the 1990 baseline.



Graph 2: Countywide Emissions for period 2005 – 2019

- 15 In 2019, 47% of the county’s carbon footprint came from heat, 33% from transport, and 18% from electricity. The carbon footprint of the county as a whole is much larger than that of the Council as it incorporates everything that happens within the county with the exception of traffic passing through on the A1 motorway, trains on the East Coast Mainline and large industrial sites.
- 16 As we proceed towards a re-opening of services and buildings, after Covid, the continued implementation of the projects within the next iteration of the CERP and its newly identified projects, will be crucial if the momentum gained is to be sustained.
- 17 Initial estimates for 2021/22 suggest that energy use within Council buildings have increased over those in 2020/21. Data shows a 57% reduction in emissions in 2021/22 compared to 58% in 2020/21 (from 2008/09 levels). This 1% increase is in relation to a higher than usual reduction due to the national lockdown in 2020/21 and increased energy use in 2021/22 due to ventilation requirements. We are aiming for a 65% reduction by the 2022/23.
- 18 Because 2021 was a less windy year and because a number of nuclear power stations went offline, there is likely to be an increase in the carbon factor for national grid supplied electricity, which may slow improvement.
- 19 Some particular highlights against Council actions in CERP1 include:
 - (a) decarbonisation scheme at Abbey Leisure Centre with replacement of gas with air source heat pumps and solar panels, funded in part through government grant;

- (b) £492,000 secured to improve the energy efficiency of Meadowfield Depot;
- (c) £114,000 secured to replace oil heating with an air source heat pump aligned to solar power at Woodland School, Teesdale;
- (d) the £8 million Annfield Plain Zero Carbon Depot project is continuing at pace, and is due for completion in July 2022;
- (e) the procurement team is leading the way in embedding social value and wider environmental concerns into major procurements.

20 Some particular highlights against countywide targets include:

- (a) the Scaling On Street Charging Initiative (SOSCI) project has installed 153 EV charge points sockets, 10 of which are rapid charge, the other 143 being 7-22 kWh fast charging, in towns, libraries, leisure centres and community centres;
- (b) the County Durham fuel poverty partnership has enabled residents in County Durham to have the 4th highest uptake of energy efficiency grants nationally, working with landlords to improve quality and energy efficiency of buildings and supporting low carbon retrofit for off-gas homes;
- (c) Seaham Garden Village development proposals for using minewater heating are now being worked up at an inception phase.
- (d) the Low;Carbon Economy Team has supported over 400 SMEs with energy efficiency advice and grants since 2016 and continues to do so through its Business Energy Efficiency (BEEP) project;
- (e) the County Durham Food Partnership (Food Durham) has achieved national recognition with a bronze Sustainable Food Places award;
- (f) 16,000 hectares of blanket bog have been restored in County Durham, avoiding 192,000 tonnes of carbon from being emitted each year.

21 In 2020 the CERP1 won the national Association for Public Sector Excellence (APSE) award in its Best Climate Initiative category. It was also commended by the national sustainable food charity, SUSTAIN, for the inclusion of actions relating to food and agriculture and was a finalist in the 2021 LGC awards.

- 22 Whilst the actions in the CERP have provided real and substantial carbon reductions, public concern and pressure for climate action has increased against the background of extreme weather events and the UK presidency of COP26 in Glasgow in November focussed even more attention on climate change.
- 23 As part of its local contribution to the COP 26 event, the Council convened a County Durham meeting of Partners, held on 1 November and attended by nearly 70 chief execs and senior decision makers. Over 40 partner organisations signed a Partnership Agreement (below) with further signatories added since then. The Agreement aims to develop a stronger, cross sectoral net zero partnership for the County over the coming years. It states:
- ‘We agree to work together as a partnership of organisations across County Durham to tackle climate change.’***
- 24 The County Durham Environment and Climate Change Partnership is also assisting with the delivery of the CERP and has a Climate Emergency sub group which helps to focus on strategic issues and projects across partners.

CERP2 and Climate Change Strategy

- 25 As the successor to the original CERP, CERP2 has further developed both Council and community-based actions to take forward the carbon reduction commitments over the period of 2022-25, including the production of a high-level strategy containing overarching themes in which to frame the actions. CERP2 reviews the progress made since 2020 and highlights current emissions against our stated targets. The emphasis is on actions that we, as a partnership of organisations, communities, and business, need to take going forward as presented under ten thematic areas within four overarching principles.
- 26 The four principles are:
- A Fair and Just Transition;
 - Achieving a Green Recovery;
 - Being Community and People Centred;
 - Applying Nature Based Solutions.
- 27 In relation to ‘Nature Based Solutions’, it is recognised that the county’s natural environment has a vital role to play in tackling climate change and key measures to help address the ecological emergency are included within the Natural Environment chapter.

28 The ten chapter themes of the document are:

- Heat Decarbonisation;
- New Development;
- Transport and Connectivity;
- Electricity;
- Business and Skills;
- Procurement and Waste;
- Land and Sustainable Food Production;
- Natural Environment;
- Adaptation;
- Engagement, Education and Behavioural Change.

29 Each chapter contains a summary page, which details the actions that the Council and other partners are planning or carrying out to help the county become carbon neutral by 2045. The chapters then include a section on how the Council is taking the issue forward, an Actions and Partnerships section which describes the actions and collaborations that are planned for this CERP period (2022 – 2024), and finally an ‘Ask of Government’ section, which summarises the actions that we need the government to drive forward. The document also includes a table of actions across all the themes.

30 The investment associated with the 127 climate change related actions, across the CERP2 period and with partners are estimated to be over £121 million. There is significant uncertainty in this figure as many of the projects are in design stage and some may not be developed. Full carbon emission reductions associated with actions are still being calculated and will be added into the CERP when known.

31 Some projects included within CERP2 (not in CERP1) include:

- (a) Heat Decarbonisation of DCC Buildings - £5 million over 2 years supported by significant bids for government grants;
- (b) NetPark Phase 3 – Design includes no connection to gas network and consideration of solar PV farm;

- (c) new DCC Council Housing – Being delivered to Future Homes Standard;
- (d) improvement of EV infrastructure at Park and Ride sites and further roll out of EV charging County-wide;
- (e) development of a business case for solar car ports across the public sector estate;
- (f) embed sustainability into major procurement exercises through the Themes, Outcomes and Measures (TOMS) methodology;
- (g) explore the impact of school food waste, including those that have collections and those that don't. Through auditing, connect with the 'Lets Go Zero' 2030 campaign through existing school programmes;
- (h) elimination of peat-based tree/shrub compost through use of recycled soil conditioner, contributing towards reducing emissions from the destruction of peatlands;
- (i) the Community Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) Innovation Accelerator is a multi-partner project, led by Durham County Council, exploring how SuDS can be used as a mechanism to create more resilient, greener urban spaces which are shaped by their residents;
- (j) work with BEIS, Northern PowerGrid and the Regional Energy Hub on Heat Zoning and Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP). A LAEP can provide sound foundations for effective and sustained local action to cut carbon emissions. The resulting plan can potentially underpin specific proposals to upgrade local energy networks to enable decarbonisation plans, including for example increased EV charging, district heating or to accelerate the move away from gas/oil heating;
- (k) introduction of Climate Change training for all Council staff;
- (l) investigating the extension of minewater heating to Horden and other suitable locations;
- (m) work to integrate the newly declared Ecological Emergency into the CERP.

32 Although climate change mitigation is detailed throughout the CERP, adaptation to a changing climate is a new topic area in the Plan. Successful partnerships already exist in relation to flood mitigation and it is anticipated that these would continue and grow. The importance of

ensuring resilient communities and infrastructure is vital, especially in the aftermath of Storm Arwen, when rural communities lost power for weeks.

- 33 Projects relating to both Council and countywide actions require significant resource investment across the Council, especially those dealing with heat decarbonisation. There is now a growing acknowledgement that it is in everyone's interests and responsibility to achieve the agreed targets. Increased funding for teams/projects that deal with climate related projects, such as Housing Solutions, Transport, etc. as well the Low Carbon Team, is one practical way to help reach targets. Working together is also essential to avoid duplication and to ensure quick and easy wins.
- 34 The Council will also continue to prepare building feasibility reports to support funding applications and work with partners to pursue Government and other external funding opportunities. On-going progress reporting and member support will also come through the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee which plays an overarching review role in the CERP process.

Finance and resources

- 35 Whilst it is recognised that there are potentially significant costs involved in delivering upon objectives, DCC will take a proactive approach to financial planning to ensure that ambitions can be met along with other responsibilities of the Council. There are significant opportunities to create substantial cost savings from projects within the CERP, especially given energy price volatility seen over the past year, which is not expected to smooth out anytime soon. This demonstrates tackling carbon emissions is not just environmentally sound practice but that cost savings can be found from energy efficiency and energy generation projects.
- 36 The Council previously committed £3 million in funding over two years 2020 – 2022 and further commitments have now been confirmed:
 - capital allocation for buildings decarbonisation (£2.5m a year and targeting government grants);
 - fleet replacement with EV alternatives;
 - retention of staff on temporary posts made permanent (£194k total cost);
 - £1 million revolving loan fund to enable on-going energy retrofits for SMEs;

- £600,000 loan scheme for community and other public buildings;
- additional £150,000 grant scheme for community buildings;
- increase in installation of solar on council buildings and land.

37 Net Zero is a priority from Central Government, following COP26 in Glasgow and it is recognised that Government and local government cannot achieve these ambitions alone. As such there are opportunities to benefit from Government funding, including for example Public Sector Decarbonisation Funding (PSDS), for which we have had four successful projects funded and delivered through the first two rounds. We have also been successful in applying for £5.6 million of funding from round 3 of PSDS for decarbonisation projects including five leisure centres following a huge increase in survey work and applications and are working up significant bids for future PSDS rounds as well as other funding and investment opportunities, such as the Shared Prosperity Fund and Levelling Up.

Background papers

- Carbon Management Plan 2020-2025

Other useful documents

- DCC's Climate Emergency Response Plan.

Author(s)

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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 2°C above preindustrial levels; and to limit the increase to 1.5°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

Previous funding committed £3 million over two years and further new commitments have been agreed as part of the MTFP, including:

- Capital allocation for buildings decarbonisation (£5 million over two years);
- Feet replacement with EV alternatives;
- Retention of staff on temporary posts made permanent (£194k total cost);
- £1 million revolving loan fund for to enable on-going energy retrofits to SMEs;
- £600,000 revolving loan fund for community buildings and a £150,000 grant scheme.

The costs associated with climate change related actions across the CERP2 period and across partners are estimated to be over £121 million. There is some uncertainty in this figure as many of the projects are in design stage and some may not get developed at all. Future work and investment to achieve our ambitions in this area will be built in to established Council processes including the annual MTFP planning cycle where capital and revenue expenditure will be considered alongside the needs of other service projects and programmes.

Likewise detailed estimates of carbon emissions reduction associated with actions are yet to be calculated but will be added into the CERP when known.

It should be noted that with rising energy prices the business case to deploying renewable energy for direct supply to Council facilities gets stronger; and the intention is to utilise Invest to Save funds where criteria are met.

Consultation

This forms part of the Climate Emergency Response Plan, which was widely consulted on in 2019.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Climate Change will disproportionately affect the poorest populations. This CERP2 seeks to address that through reducing DCC's carbon emissions and working with partners to tackle issues including fuel poverty.

Climate Change

This plan is an integral part of the Authority's Climate Emergency Response.

Human Rights

The right to life is threatened by Climate Change.

Crime and Disorder

No direct implications.

Staffing

The delivery of the CERP has implications for all staff not just those from the LCE team; for example CCS and Buildings & Facilities Management all have significant roles to play in making sure projects can get delivered.

Accommodation

Some projects will result in operational/plant down time, however this will be managed appropriately

Risk

The risk of adverse effects of not acting is expected to be greater than the risk of financial loss through immediate action.

Procurement

Contractors, which could include B&FM will need to be appointed through competitive tender to undertake the work

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Climate Change Strategy & Climate Emergency Response Plan

2022 - 24

Turning cl!mate Talk into cl!mate Action

Foreword

Cllr Mark Wilkes

Where do we want to be as a County looking ahead towards 2030 and beyond? Climate Change is very real, as has been made abundantly clear by the increase in severe weather events in the last decade and especially in the last few years. This has brought into sharp focus the question of 'Is County Durham going to be a place where residents, businesses, communities and the public sector have come together to change things for the better; to influence each other so we can all achieve a carbon neutral lifestyle?'

To secure this positive and effective change in the climate agenda is ultimately my goal, and this Strategy and Climate Emergency Response Plan is the next step in making that vision a reality.

County Durham was at the forefront of the industrial revolution, with steel making and coal mining being some of the first industries to start the process of industrialisation. Whilst we are proud of our industrial past and heritage, we also let the CO₂ genie out of the lamp and have hundreds of years of CO₂ emissions and industrial legacy to deal with. It's time to recognise that we need to lead the way in going from a 'Black to Green' economic model.

We need to be at the forefront of the clean, green, industrial revolution. This strategy will pave the way for doing this by investing in people, technologies, research and development, leading the way in projects such as Local Area Energy Planning, minewater heat, ensuring that businesses we work with have net zero plans with meaningful engagement and information sharing between partners to enable us to achieve this goal.

This is not just a Durham County Council ambition, this is an ambition that is shared by all our partners, and we want everyone to help to ensure we deliver.

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The Climate Change Strategy

Introduction

Why is this Important?

In the three years since the Council declared a climate emergency, there has been a very worrying increase in extreme wildfires, floods, droughts, and storms, which have devastated many areas and habitats across the world, as climate change starts to threaten aspects of human existence. Scientists agree that that society only has a few years left in which to act and so there is an urgency to this work that underpins everything we do.

Work must take place collaboratively across all sectors of our community employing all necessary technologies to achieve a carbon neutral future as swiftly as possible. Accomplishing this requires a clear vision, underpinned by strong principles, taking a structured approach to the net zero journey with evidence-based targets and a detailed route map. Finally, the Council and all our partners and communities must work alongside each other if we are to meet the challenges that are posed by climate change.

Drivers

On 20th February 2019, the Council declared a Climate Emergency in recognition that unless immediate action is taken, global warming will continue on its current trajectory toward 3°C with disastrous consequences. Following public consultation, the Council in February 2020 adopted the following statement:

Immediately adopt a new Durham County Council target of 80% [carbon reduction] by 2030¹ making significant progress towards making Durham County Council and County Durham carbon neutral taking into account both production and consumption emissions.

Investigate what further actions are necessary to make County Durham carbon neutral by 2050 and pledge to achieve this.

Government released their [Net Zero Strategy](#) in 2021 which outlines the steps that will be taken to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. It covers issues such as how homes will be heated, support for electric vehicles, nature restoration plans and plans to decarbonise industry. Further information on policy drivers can be found in the previous [CERP](#).

In light of this Durham County Council has revised these targets in 2022.

The new aim for Durham County Council's operations, in addition to 80% real carbon reduction, is to also reach net zero by 2030. For County Durham the target for becoming carbon neutral has been brought forward to 2045.

¹ From 2008/09 levels

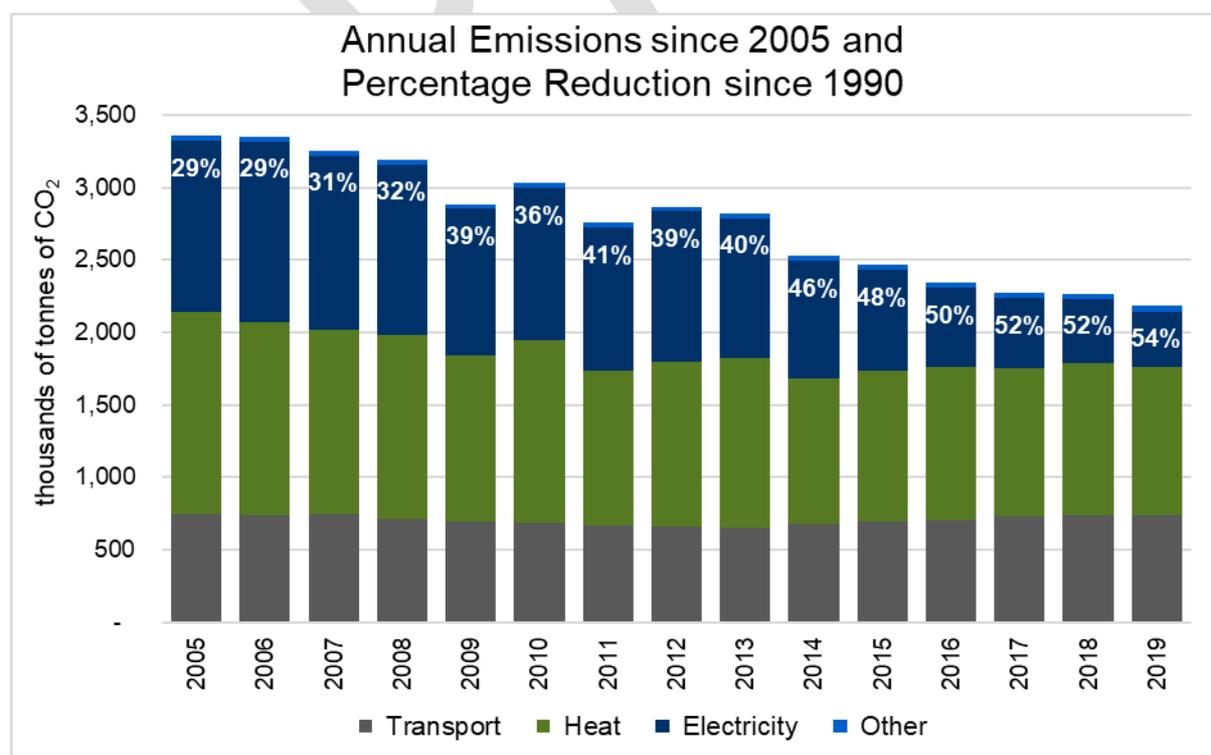
In addition, in 2019, the County Durham Partnership signed up to a joint Vision² for County Durham 2035, which was formally adopted by the council on the 23rd of October 2019. It recognises that whilst climate change is the most important global issue facing society today, much can and needs to be done locally to respond to this dire threat. The vision will be delivered through an integrated framework of partnership and organisational plans and strategies across the County Durham Partnership. The vision will be updated to reflect the urgency of the climate emergency.

This Strategy and CERP reviews the progress made in County Durham since 2020 and highlights current emissions against our stated targets. It sets out the actions we, as a partnership of organisations, communities, and business, need to take now, presented under ten thematic areas and four overarching principles.

Carbon Emissions Budget

It matters how quickly we can reduce our carbon emissions. The latest carbon footprint figures for County Durham are for the year 2019, as it takes a long time to calculate them each year. The baseline year for emissions is 1990, which is the same baseline that the UK government uses for national targets.

The chart below shows how the carbon footprint has declined since 2005 and gives the reduction in each year as a percentage from the 1990 baseline.

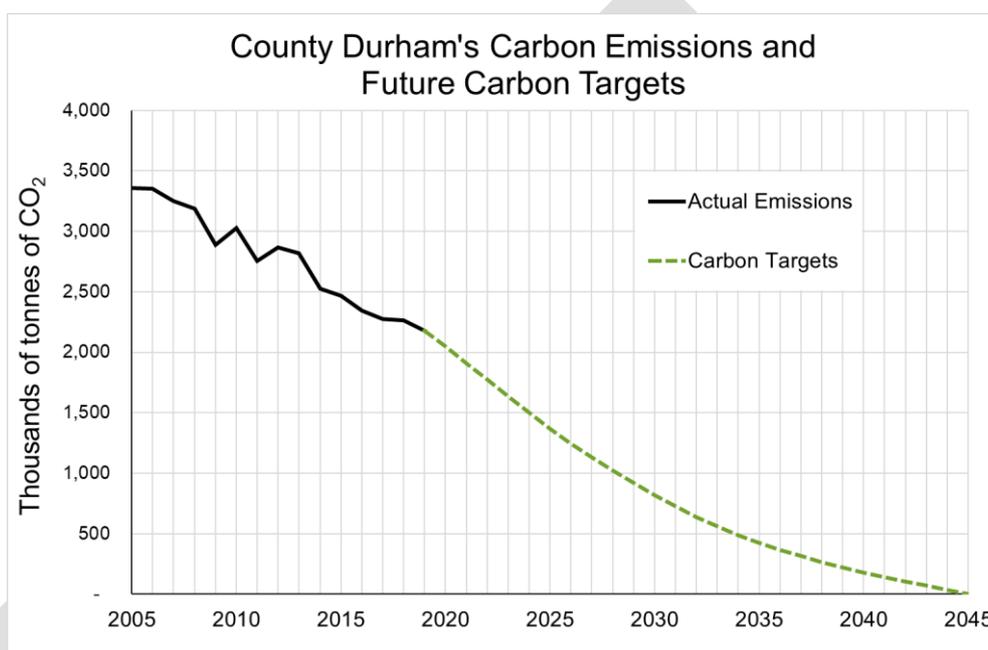


² <https://countydurhampartnership.co.uk/county-durham-partnership/county-durham-vision-2035/>

This shows that in 2019, 47% of the county’s carbon footprint came from heat, 33% from transport, and 18% from electricity. The total footprint was 2,181,724 tonnes.

Carbon emissions reduction so far has predominantly been from using less grid electricity, and less carbon intensive grid electricity as the UK moves away from coal. The carbon emissions from heat (burning gas, oil, or other fuels in our homes and other buildings) have not reduced by as much, and emissions from transport (cars, busses, lorries, and other vehicles on our roads) have not changed very much at all over the last 14 years.

Using scientific analysis described in Appendix B, the county has a budget of 20MtCO₂ which can be used up by 2045, as illustrated below.



For this CERP 2022-2024 to stick to that carbon budget, County Durham’s carbon emissions must fall to a maximum of 1,632,000 tonnes by the end of 2023. That’s 65% less than in 1990, which was the baseline year.

County Target: 65% reduced or offset by the end of 2023

The following specific targets are based on a reduction from 2019 levels (our most recent data) to where we need to be in 2023 (the end of the period covered by this plan). These targets are for the County as a whole and are described in more detail in Appendix B:

- 35,000 fewer fossil fuel cars on our roads, or 25% reduction in car use.
- 55,000 fewer domestic gas boilers, or equivalent reduction in heat demand.
- 20% reduction in gas use in non-domestic buildings.
- 20% reduction in emissions from grid electricity.
- 10% increase in renewable electricity generation across the county.
- 5% offset through sequestration works such as tree planting.

The Council has its own set of targets for carbon reduction in line with this carbon budget. The council's 80% target is for actual reduction and therefore can't include offsetting. The baseline for this target is the 2008/09 financial year.

Council Target: 68% reduced by the end of 2023/24

The following specific targets are based on reduction from 2020/21 levels (our most recent data) to where we need to be in 2023/24 (the end of the period covered by this plan). They are described in more detail in Appendix A:

- 12% reduction in gas use in council buildings.
- 20% reduction in business travel emissions.
- 10% of fleet emissions reduced.
- 6,000,000kWh of renewable electricity generated by DCC annually.

The council's net zero target can include offsetting or actual reduction to account for the emissions remaining after we've met our actual reduction goals.

Council Target: at least 423 tonnes offset annually by 2023/24

This initial offsetting target will be met through sequestration works such as tree planting and through generation of excess renewable electricity that we supply to the national grid.

Vision and Principles

Our 2045 **Vision** for this strategy is to ensure that:

- We are working together towards a just transition to a Carbon Neutral County Durham as soon as possible.
- All the energy that is used in the County will be generated from renewable sources, including the way we heat our comfortable, energy efficient buildings.
- All of County Durham's transport will be ultra-low carbon and everyone will have access to safe and reliable public transport, while cycling and walking by choice whenever possible.
- Our natural environment will be thriving and it will easily offset minimal remaining carbon emissions.
- Our strong local economy will support sustainable and highly skilled jobs
- Rural communities will be connected, supported and sustainable
- There will be almost zero waste in a circular economy
- Our residents and businesses will be safe from the worst impacts of extreme weather events that currently threaten us.

The vision is built on 4 key principles that underpin the approach we are taking:

A Fair and Just Transition

Our climate is changing. That is beyond any doubt, and the impacts are now being felt around the world including here in County Durham. Fossil fuels must no longer be used wherever possible, and the transition must be as quick as possible.

Whilst we can do this, we do not want to disadvantage those most vulnerable in our society. A fair and just transition is about ensuring investment in new clean, green jobs, about making sure that people have access to safe, clean and green methods of transport and that people can live in warm comfortable homes without fossil fuel heating and without fuel poverty. Better internet access and speeds will keep us all connected regardless of our individual circumstances or physical ability.

There is also the social cost of carbon to consider, and which areas of society will be worst hit by the effects of the climate emergency, as many carbon emissions come with added effects which most often harm the most vulnerable people. No-one should be left behind as society changes to mitigate climate change, and no-one should be left to bear the brunt of our changing climate in poor housing or without protection.

The climate crisis will first affect those people who are most vulnerable. It is essential that we do not allow the climate emergency to disproportionately affect the health and wellbeing of any groups of people in Durham. Together we must use this opportunity to encourage improved health for all.

Achieving a Green Recovery

Building our communities back after the global disruption of the coronavirus pandemic is a once in a lifetime opportunity to embed low carbon principles across our society. It is also about ensuring the economy is boosted through the development of new 'green jobs' in a range of industries.

We will ensure that sustainability and climate change are key considerations in all decisions relating to investment, production, development, transport, the economy, society, and the environment to facilitate a truly Green recovery.

Carbon reduction must also be central to the 'Levelling Up' agenda and other funding bids across the County that are focused on the regeneration agenda.

Being Community and People Centred

If County Durham is to successfully tackle climate change, everyone will have to have an opportunity to have their say and be heard, no matter their circumstances, age, ability, race, beliefs, sex, or gender. Collaborating with communities, individuals, and partners to ensure that there is a consensus for this plan, will enable DCC to build the best carbon neutral county for our residents and communities.

Continued communication with individuals, communities, and partners is essential to the delivery of this Plan and for it to be transparent to enable scrutiny. We will work with Government to help deliver Local Area Energy Plans, ensuring that all communities have a viable and cost effective way to transition to net zero heat.

A new website has been developed, ClimateCountyDurham.org.uk, which was launched in County Durham on the opening day of COP 26 in Glasgow. It is designed to be a place where any member of the community can find ways to do their bit or have their say on what we're doing as we work together towards a carbon neutral future.

Addressing the Ecological Emergency

County Durham's natural environment has a vital role to play in tackling climate change. Where they are healthy, our ecosystems can take up and store a significant amount of carbon in soils, sediments, and vegetation. However, the destruction and degradation of our natural habitats results in the direct loss of carbon within them, threatens the survival of our unique wildlife, and makes it harder for people to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

On hearing evidence from the Environment and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee, of habitat and species decline within the County, on 6th April 2022 Cabinet declared an Ecological Emergency. By protecting and restoring County Durham's natural and semi-natural habitats and managing them for nature, we can aid nature recovery and store more carbon. This will also deliver co-benefits for climate change adaptation, improved soil health, water management, and for our own health and wellbeing.

Nature based solutions will therefore be implemented which address both the climate emergency and ecological emergency in an integrated way, whilst upholding key principles identified by Natural England³.

³ R Gregg, J. L. Elias, I Alonso, I.E. Crosher and P Muto and M.D. Morecroft (2021) Carbon storage and sequestration by habitat: a review of the evidence (second edition) Natural England Research Report (NERR094. Natural England, York)

County Durham Climate Change Agreement

On 1st November 2021, to coincide with the opening of COP 26 in Glasgow, local leaders in Durham held our own Conference of Partners and launched a new County Durham Climate Change Agreement, which all organisations in the County are invited to sign up to. The wording of the Agreement reads:

'We agree to work together as a partnership of organisations across County Durham to tackle climate change.'

Over the lifetime of the Plan DCC will be working with signatories to support them in addressing the carbon emissions that they are directly or indirectly responsible for.

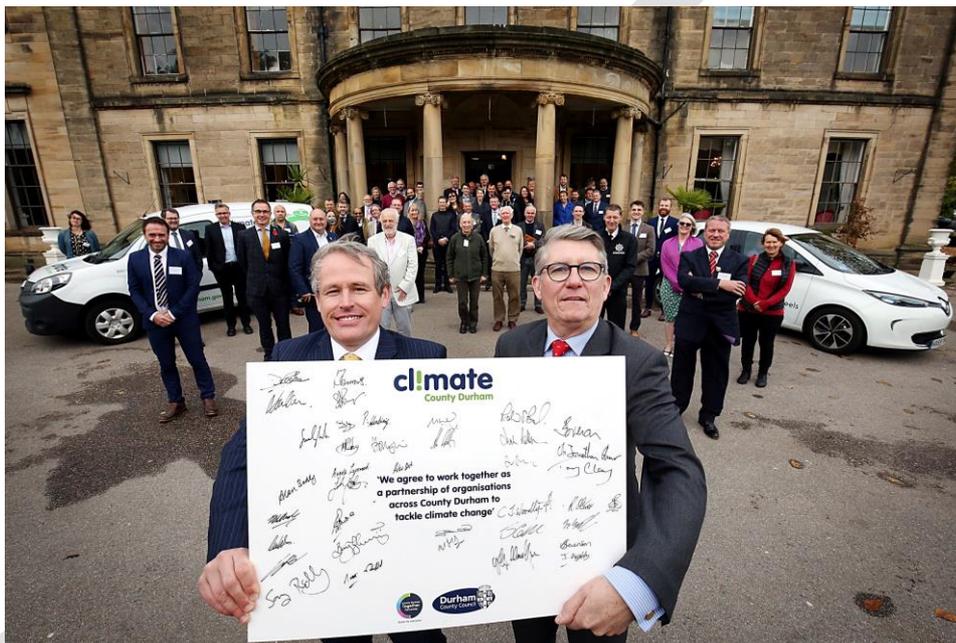


Image Caption: Cllr Mark Wilkes, DCC, and Paul Forster-Jones, Non-Executive Director of County Durham and Darlington NHS Trust Sponsor of the Green Plan, hold the signed Climate Change Agreement at Durham COP.

The Council will offer support to organisations, communities, or individuals who need help to reduce their carbon emissions. All partners will work collectively to find collaborative solutions and make the most of the opportunities available in Durham. Only by working together will we be able to build a Carbon Neutral County Durham.

Themes

The following pages are summaries of each chapter in the Climate Emergency Response Plan for County Durham, describing what each chapter is about with headline information on the actions that need to be taken and progress since 2020.

Some of the themes have changed since the first CERP to reflect the wider understanding and greater challenge that we face as a County. The challenges are vast; therefore, we need business, communities, individuals, and private and public sector partners to join together with the council to meet this challenge head on. This CERP focuses on what we are all doing, which is reflected in the significant increase in actions from partners and communities.

Each summary includes a description of where we are now, where we are aiming to be by 2030, and what we hope a Carbon Neutral County Durham will look like in 2045. These are based on the overarching targets as laid out below and are concluded with a summary of the carbon budget for County Durham.

| Where we are now in 2022 | Laying foundations Actions for 2030 | County Durham's Aims for 2045 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Council emissions down by 58% from 2008/09.</p> <p>Countywide carbon emissions down by 54% from 1990.</p> | <p>Council emissions to be reduced by 80% from 2008/09 levels and net zero overall.</p> <p>County Durham emissions to be reduced or offset by 80% from 1990 levels.</p> | <p>Carbon Neutral County</p> <p>All carbon emissions from the council and the whole of County Durham to be stopped or offset by 2045.</p> |

The chapter themes are:

- Heat Decarbonisation
- New Development
- Transport and Connectivity
- Electricity
- Business and Skills
- Procurement and Waste
- Land and Sustainable Food Production
- Natural Environment
- Adaptation
- Engagement, Education and Behavioural Change

Heat Decarbonisation

Burning natural gas and other fuels to heat buildings in County Durham accounted for almost half (47%) of the total carbon footprint of the county in 2019. Carbon emissions associated with heating our buildings tend to come from the direct burning of fossil fuels in boilers. To decarbonise this will mean either reducing the need for heat, replacing the boiler with an alternative technology, replacing the fuel in the boiler, or removing the boiler altogether and getting the heat from a shared heat source through a heat network.

| Where we are now in 2022 | Laying foundations for 2030 | County Durham's Aims for 2045 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Despite many campaigns across the last 20 years there remain many buildings, especially in the non-domestic sector that are poorly insulated, and most are heated with fossil fuels such as gas or oil. | Insulation schemes are widespread and easily accessible for all. The use of heat pumps is steadily increasing following a government supported drive and subsidy scheme. Low Carbon Heat Networks provide heat to communities in County Durham. | All gas and fossil fuel heating in homes, public buildings, and businesses has been removed and replaced with affordable low carbon alternatives. |

Key Challenges

Heat decarbonisation is the most significant challenge that we face in terms of the infrastructure changes that will be needed to facilitate such changes. Skilling up heating engineers so that they are familiar and competent with heat pump technology is a challenge for government and the Further Education sector. Electricity remains 4 times as expensive as gas. An electricity tariff for heat pump users needs to be introduced to avoid the issues around fuel poverty. Government funding needs to be sustainable and long term, based on quality rather than quantity

Key Highlights

- The Low Carbon depot is a project to significantly reduce emissions linked to a strategic depot in the North West of the county. Alongside electric vehicle charging, a large solar farm and battery storage, the project is refurbishing office buildings at the site to improve thermal properties of the buildings to reduce demand for heat and replace natural gas heating with low carbon heating systems (in the form of heat pumps) all to be fed from the solar farm.
- The County Durham fuel poverty partnership has enabled residents in County Durham to have the 4th highest uptake of energy efficiency grants nationally, working with landlords to improve quality and energy efficiency of buildings and supporting low carbon retrofit for off gas homes.



A building being retrofitted with insulation as part of the low carbon depot project.

New Development

The built environment accounts for over half of the UK’s CO₂ emissions, through both construction and use. It is essential that new development does not overly increase this burden as there is no room in our carbon budget for an increase in emissions from new development.

| Where we are now in 2022 | Laying foundations Actions for 2030 | County Durham’s Vision for 2045 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| New construction is required to go beyond building regulations but with fossil fuel heating and car-centred design. In off gas areas, developers must install low carbon heating systems. There is no requirement to look at embedded emissions in construction. | New buildings are carbon neutral and climate resilient, with all partners working together to enable high quality sustainable development. Construction has moved to modern methods of construction and away from carbon intensive materials | New development in County Durham is designed and implemented with sustainability at the core. Buildings are constructed using materials with low embodied energy and once constructed they will be heated and powered with low carbon technologies. |

Key Challenges

County Durham has recently adopted a new Development Plan⁴ which establishes where development will be built up to 2035. It includes policies on sustainable design which states that new development needs to go beyond minimum standards by 10%. Setting targets beyond government and County Durham Plan policy for new development has very limited scope unless a review of the County Durham Plan is conducted, but even then it is likely that National Policy will have to be adhered to.

Key Highlights

- The Council are specifying that all new Council built development will be required to utilise low carbon technologies for heating.
- Seaham Garden Village will be developed as a beacon of what can be achieved when private and public sector partners work together.
- Local plan policy prevents the connection to the gas network for new the Council development
- The extension of the Council’s prestige enterprise zone, NETPark phase 3 will not use gas to heat its buildings. The council has approved an uplift of £8M to the budget of phase 3 to construct lower carbon buildings, and Business Durham are considering a solar farm to supply green electricity to the site.



Image Caption: A computer generated aerial photo of the planned Seaham Garden Village

Image credit: IDPartnership Northern

⁴ www.durham.gov.uk/CDP

Transport and Connectivity

Transport in County Durham accounted for one third (34%) of the total carbon footprint of the county in 2019 (excluding motorway traffic and trains on the East Coast Mainline).

| Where we are now in 2022 | Laying foundations for 2030 | County Durham's Vision for 2045 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| EV charging points are being installed in many areas to help facilitate access for all and all new dwellings must have and EV charging point installed. Superfast broadband services are available to the vast majority of households. There has been investment in public transport, but encouraging people to go back on buses remains a challenge. | Much improved infrastructure for cycling and walking, whilst EV charging is ubiquitous and fair. Much improved and affordable public transport. | Excellent public transport. Cycling and walking is normal. All vehicles are ultra-low emission. Individual car ownership is less common. |

Key Challenges

Our road network, alongside the network of refilling stations has been developed over decades, we need to rethink this, but the challenge is significant. With 40% terraced housing in County Durham, it will be difficult to allow EV charging cabling on street or to decide which house to put it outside without causing neighbour parking issues. The grid needs to develop to allow the connections for charge points at a cost that is not prohibitive. There needs to be a culture change around shorter journeys, to enable safe cycling and walking for most journeys under 1 mile, alongside improvements in infrastructure. The county's rural geography (hilly, dispersed) is a challenge for active travel and the frequency and fare price of public transport can also be a significant barrier to uptake. Encouraging parents to consider active travel options for school journeys remains a particular challenge.

Key Highlights

- The SOSCI project has installed 153 EV charge points sockets, 10 of those sockets are rapid charge, the other 143 7-22 kWh fast charging, in towns, libraries, leisure centres and community centres.
- Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs) have been submitted to the Department for Transport on behalf of the North East region, asking for significant funding to improve bus services.
- The Council's Cabinet has committed to fund £3.75million as part of the Towns and Villages strategy to improve walking and cycling in County Durham.
- Local cycling and walking improvement plans (LCWIPs) have been developed to help identify how infrastructure can be improved to encourage active travel. This is alongside 'borrow a bike' schemes and investment in our public right of way network.



Electricity

Using electricity from the national grid in County Durham accounted for about one fifth (18%) of the total carbon footprint of the county in 2019. Carbon emissions from electricity taken from the grid are reducing every year as each year a greater proportion of the electricity is generated by renewable sources such as wind farms and solar panels. At the same time, demand for electricity is increasing as people use more electricity for heating and transport.

| Where we are now in 2022 | Laying foundations Actions for 2030 | County Durham’s Vision for 2045 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Electricity from the grid emits 212g carbon dioxide per kWh. Solar panels are common on new buildings and some houses. | Renewable generation increased to meet increasing electric heat and transport demand. Grid is resilient to blackouts through battery storage. | Renewable generation, energy efficiency, and resilient infrastructure is in place for a carbon neutral electricity grid. Solar and wind generation is commonplace and local to where it is needed. Some is community owned. |

Key Challenges

Whilst renewable electricity can be intermittent it requires a smart and flexible grid to distribute energy reliably. Battery storage will be required for this, which should include a variety of types of battery as well as traditional chemical storage. Renewable energy should be generated where it is needed, which requires organisations, individuals, and communities to be able to connect to the grid in the best locations for generation. It must be made easier to obtain planning permission for wind and other forms of renewable energy especially in or near to conservation areas. Hydro power is a reliable source of renewable electricity but there are very few places where it would be viable.

Key Highlights

- DCC’s solar farm at Tanfield Lea, pictured, provides electricity directly into one of its offices, which will pay for itself in less than 10 years
- Northern Powergrid is working to improve the resilience of the grid
- The Auckland Project is planning a deep geothermal generator
- Lanchester Wines has constructed wind turbines, directly supplying power to their site at Greencroft
- Many private households have installed rooftop PV
- A number of privately owned solar farms which feed into the local grid



Image Caption: Tanfield Lea Solar Farm. A 250kW solar farm providing green electricity to a Durham County Council office building.

Business and Skills

25% of County Durham emissions come from the commercial and industrial sectors and whilst there has been a significant reduction in energy consumption in this sector since 1990 there is still more work to be done as much of this decrease has been through closures of manufacturing industries. The services sector has remained roughly static, although usage was low compared to other sectors throughout the period.

| Where we are now in 2022 | Laying foundations for 2030 | County Durham's Vision for 2045 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Business Durham, as one partner on the Economic Partnership, working with the Business Energy Efficiency Project supporting energy efficiency work across businesses in the County. Some businesses are already leading the way.</p> | <p>Business have developed plans to decarbonise and are actively sharing learning and putting measures in place to reduce energy consumption and increase locally generated power. A partnership approach is enabling a growth in local green technologies and skills.</p> | <p>All businesses and industry will have implemented a decarbonisation plan and most will have achieved net zero emissions, with offsetting in place where emissions are unavoidable.</p> |

Key Challenges

Grid availability and upgrades being charged directly to businesses hampers many energy projects. Awareness of climate change and energy issues in business remains low on businesses priority list. There is a need to ensure that business see the green economy as an opportunity, and invest in green skills and training for staff. Covid recovery may distract some businesses from carbon reduction whereas, if planned properly, they should go hand in hand.



Key Highlights

- The Low Carbon Economy Team has supported over 400 SMEs with energy efficiency advice and grants since 2016 and continues to do so
- Sustainability questions on procurement questionnaires are driving all businesses to address their carbon emissions, and the Council are supporting them with impartial advice on how to do this.
- Customer awareness of climate change is also putting pressure on businesses to address the issue.
- Many businesses in County Durham are leading the way in decarbonising and in developing green technologies

Procurement and Waste

Sustainable resource use is at the core of this theme. This means making better use of resources and considering the life cycle impacts of purchasing decisions. It also means minimising the production and consumption of non-renewable resources and ensuring that all waste materials are re-used or disposed of appropriately to emit minimal carbon.

| Where we are now in 2022 | Laying foundations for 2030 | County Durham's Vision for 2045 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Over 250,000 tonnes of waste generated in the county per year. | Minimise consumption of non-renewable resources. Prioritise re-use and recycling of waste. | Build a circular economy and a carbon neutral supply chain centred around sustainable materials, re-use, and recycling. |
| Carbon factored into procurement of some key contracts | Carbon factored into major contracts. Contract managers working to deliver carbon savings | |

Key Challenges

Making changes to the way things are produced to ensure the use of sustainable materials that can be reused or recycled as much as possible should be a key consideration. This requires following the waste hierarchy, reducing the amount of contamination in the waste being sent for recycling and especially minimising food waste, which accounts for 30% of County Durham waste. Advances in technology should be matched with opportunities to embed them in long term contracts and processes. Working effectively with partners and suppliers to maximise carbon savings and include environmental benefits in contracts.

Key Highlights

- Durham has moved significantly away from disposing of residual waste in landfill over recent years.
- We have recently bought our first all electric refuse vehicle, Emma.
- There are facilities emerging in Durham and the wider region to process recycled materials and enable them to be reused in the manufacturing process.
- The County Council is leading the way in embedding social value and wider environmental concerns into major procurements
- Re-f-use in Chester-le-Street is a community café working to end food waste in County Durham. Each month it salvages over 10 tonnes of good quality food and serves it in the café, to private events and restaurant nights.



Land and Sustainable Food Production

The food and drink we consume inevitably comes with a carbon impact, but this can vary hugely depending on how it is produced. Issues such as how it was grown, reared, manufactured, transported, packaged and stored, prepared and served, and how waste is minimised and managed, are all elements that need to be considered in the lifecycle analysis of food.

| Where we are now in 2022 | Laying foundations for 2030 | County Durham's Vision for 2045 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| High quality food is grown, reared and produced in County Durham, but does not always end up on plates in restaurants and homes in the County. | Farmland will deliver a range of public goods, including high quality food production, Food produced in County Durham will be championed. Changing land use practices will enhance soil health | Farmland will deliver a range of public goods, including high quality food production. Residents will have access to local healthy low carbon food. |

Key Challenges

Supporting and enabling low carbon food production and consumption, and sustainable land use through working with others to support local supply chains and promoting products with low food miles. Advocating low carbon farming practices and championing those farmers who are supporting a low carbon economy and promoting good soil health. Pollution and run-off from agricultural land remains an issue.

Food is a multifaceted topic that impacts on almost every area of life, and is of vital importance to every person, making food production and policy-making intrinsically complex and contested. As a region, the north east exports most of its agricultural production and most of the food consumed in the region is imported from outside. Agriculture is predominantly red meat production (beef and sheep), especially on higher land: Arable has been dominated by cereal production for the past 30 years, mainly winter wheat.

Key Highlights

- The County Durham Food Partnership (Food Durham) has achieved bronze Sustainable Food Places status. It is working towards Silver status by late 2023. It benefits from partners across a wide range of sectors.
- Support for food surplus redistribution through the Poverty Action Plan and engagement with charity partners
- Establishment of Community Good Food Network to engage community food providers in food system issues



Natural Environment

Climate change and biodiversity loss are inextricably linked. We will work together including through the Environment and Climate Change Partnership to protect, restore and enhance County Durham’s natural ecosystems so that they contribute towards addressing the ecological emergency and climate emergency, in an integrated way.

| Where we are now in 2022 | Laying foundations for 2030 | County Durham’s Vision for 2045 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Peatland restoration and woodland creation have been underway for some years, with new kelp and oyster habitat restoration work now on stream. Though a programme of restoration is in place, County Durham’s peatland is the most damaged in the North Pennines, and, whilst improving, woodland cover within the county is below the national average at 8.58% ⁵ | The state of the county’s natural environment will be fully understood. All degraded areas of peatland will be either in recovery or restored. Our woodland cover will improve, whilst ensuring that the right trees are planted in the right place. Restoration of our marine ecosystems and blue carbon research will continue. Awareness of the value of nature-based solutions will be raised. | County Durham’s ecosystems will be thriving and resilient in the face of climate extremes. Opportunities to aid nature recovery and maximise carbon storage will have been realised. |

Key Challenges

Climate change is a significant threat to nature and taking correct and timely steps to improve nature’s resilience to storms, droughts, wildfire risk and new pests and diseases will be vital. However, without adequate knowledge of the current state of County Durham’s natural environment and the carbon sequestration value of some habitats it will be difficult to do this and align nature recovery and climate priorities effectively. Public opposition may need to be overcome as changes in land use and management methods are made.

Key Highlights

- 16,000 hectares of blanket bog has been restored in County Durham, avoiding 192,000 tonnes of carbon from being emitted each year.
- Since 2020, 61 hectares of land has been planted with trees, helping to offset an estimated 22,113 tonnes of carbon by 2045.
- Certification of projects to the UK Peatland Code and Woodland Carbon Code, along with the sale of carbon credits are underway.
- Considerable opportunities to restore oyster habitats have been identified off the Durham coast.
- 40 hectares of Council owned land has been placed under positive management for wildlife.



© North Pennines AONB Partnership

⁵ Source: [Carbon Dioxide Emissions and Woodland Coverage Where You Live](#)

Adaptation

It is accepted that the impacts of extreme weather, is becoming more regular through climate change, impacting directly and indirectly on people in the UK and across the globe. In the past two years the world has seen a significant increase in dramatic and devastating weather events; floods, forest fires, heat waves, droughts, and more recently Storm Arwen. Heat records have been broken many times over in every continent, and many lives have already been lost. Adapting or being more resilient in a changing climate is vital if society, the environment, and the economy is to continue to thrive.

| Where we are now in 2022 | Laying foundations for 2030 | County Durham's Vision for 2045 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Partners work together to identify and address climate risks especially around flooding, by working with communities and developing flood defence projects | The impacts of climate change will be well understood and support will be continuing with communities to develop resilience against climate extremes | Durham County will be a resilient place to live with a knowledgeable population, aware of the risks associated with climate extremes. All sectors will be taking appropriate action to mitigate risk especially around health, infrastructure and nature. |

Key Challenges

Climate Change will bring new threats to County Durham and increase the effects of existing hazards. It is not just about flooding. Climate extremes will include droughts and subsequent wildfires becoming more commonplace, more frequent storms and significant damage to property and habitats. How we prepare for such events will be critical to ensure we can be as resilient as possible. Working together with partners is central to the challenges faced.

Key Highlights

- The de-culverting of the Cong Burn in Chester-le-Street to prepare for a 1 in 100 year flood event in partnership with the Environment Agency with funding from ERDF, is just one example of where we are working to reduce risk.
- There is a 6 year programme of works for drainage and flood alleviation schemes, with a cost of over £29m



Engagement, Education and Behavioural Change

Working together with our communities, partners, and staff to raise awareness, build skills and knowledge to tackle climate change will help us become the UK's greenest, environmentally ethical, sustainable, carbon neutral county.

| Where we are now in 2022 | Laying foundations for 2030 | County Durham's Vision for 2045 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| There is a long standing and effective schools education programme. Partnerships and community collaboration are being strengthened. Communication channels and platforms are being developed enhancing the visibility of all CERP activities. | Everyone will have a good understanding of what climate change means, the impacts that it will have and what they can do about it. Messaging will be clear and transparent building on foundations and learnings set within the CERP | Everyone will have an excellent understanding of what climate change means, the impacts that it will have and what they can do about it. Partnerships will be strong across sectors working together address local and national issues and campaigns. |

Key Challenges

There is still a lack of understanding about the implications of climate change, stemming in some part from a spread of misinformation and climate denial. There is a need to ensure different audiences are targeted, as people have different or even opposite perspectives. It must be remembered that people learn from experience and remember selectively. We need to use local stories, visuals, and videos which mirror experiences, balancing messaging with scientific information. Climate change can be a divisive subject due to several influences from community, culture, instilled behaviours, and mis-information



Image caption St Cuthbert's Primary School ECO Council and Richard Hurst Sustainability Education Development Advisor

Key Highlights

- Branding has been developed creating a visible, easily recognisable message, raising awareness and bringing focus to our climate work.
- A community website has been developed bringing focus to our communities' efforts around the County to reduce emissions and impact on the environment
- Climate change discussions and actions are taking place across County Durham, and there is continuity in amplifying the message and combined efforts being taken to reduce emissions. This has been supported through narrative story telling making visual and tangible representation of actions and discussions
- The Eco2 Smart Schools programme has engaged successfully with schools across the County for more than 10 years

The Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP)

Introduction

- The CERP sets a shared vision for County Durham to 2045, with priorities and associated actions over the next two years (2022-24), to tackle both the Council's and County Durham's contribution to climate change
- The CERP actions will be updated every two years
- The CERP has been developed by the Council with support from Strategic Partners, but is owned by residents, communities, and businesses within County Durham
- It builds on the previous CERP which ran from 2020-22
- It covers measures to reduce emissions and plans to adapt to climate extremes
- It includes actions and measures that the Council are undertaking but also what partners, communities and business are doing
- It needs your help to achieve the goals set out below

The following chapters describe the actions that the Council and other partners are planning or carrying out to help the county become carbon neutral by 2045.

The Actions and Partnerships section describes the actions and collaborations that will take place within the period of this CERP (2022 – 2024). The full table of costed actions can be found in the Actions Section at the end of this document.



Image credit: Oliver Sherratt

Heat Decarbonisation

Introduction

Burning natural gas and other fuels to heat buildings in County Durham accounted for almost half (47%) of the total carbon footprint of the county in 2019.

Carbon emissions associated with heating our buildings tend to come from the direct burning of fossil fuels in boilers. To decarbonise this will mean either replacing the boiler with an alternative technology, replacing the fuel in the boiler, or removing the boiler all together and getting the heat from a shared heat source through a heat network.

To remain on course to meet targets set in the climate emergency, over the next 2 years, this would require the equivalent of 55,000 fewer domestic gas boilers, a 20% reduction in natural gas use for both the public sector and the county's businesses and industry.

This chapter explores how existing buildings in County Durham can be provided with low carbon heat, through carbon efficient technologies and heat networks. This includes heating the rooms within buildings as well as heat for swimming pools, kitchens, manufacture and other requirements.

Interactions with other themes

New Development

New development is adding to our carbon budget every year, especially because most are still being heated by fossil fuels. National policy is required to update building regulations, to ensure new buildings are built to high standards of efficiency and do not connect to the gas network

Electricity

To facilitate low carbon heat, upgrades to regional infrastructure will be required, this includes strengthening electricity distribution networks to deal with increased electrical demand and resilience as additional and new technologies are installed. If Hydrogen is to be used in any way linked to heating, this may include changes to natural gas infrastructure, although the Council does not expect this to be the case within the duration of this action plan.

Business and Skills

There is a requirement on and opportunity for business to respond to the climate emergency, this could include investment in buildings, infrastructure, training and skills development. There is also opportunity for cost reduction in business overheads. A low carbon energy system will require a range of skills that may be additional to existing professional practices, for example, heat pump installation requires a skilled workforce to design, install and commission the heat pump system.

Education, Engagement and Awareness Raising

It is critical that heat is communicated as the biggest challenge in terms of decarbonisation. Ensuring that trusted and accurate information is communicated especially around technologies is imperative.

Fair and Just Transition

The health and wellbeing of County Durham's residents can be maintained and improved by ensuring our homes are warm and well insulated. Fuel poverty remains a major challenge in County Durham.

Durham County Council – Leading by Example

The council is actively working on a range of projects to reduce the use of natural gas in the county.

Morrison Busty

The Low Carbon Depot project is a wide-ranging project to significantly reduce emissions linked to a strategic depot in the north west of the County. Alongside electric vehicle charging, a large solar farm and battery storage, the project is refurbishing office buildings at the site to improve thermal properties of the buildings to reduce demand for heat and replace natural gas heating with low carbon heating systems (in the form of heat pumps). Electricity to power heat pumps will be supplied via private wire by the solar farm, supplemented by grid electricity on the shortest days.



Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

The Council has been successful in receiving funding for 4 projects to decarbonise sites across the County, receiving over £1.3million to install heat pumps coupled with solar panels and high efficiency ventilation with heat recovery. It is estimated that the 4 projects will prevent approximately 150 tonnes of CO₂e emissions per annum and facilitate a path to net zero for the sites. Each project will be completed by March 2022 and we hope to develop more over the next two years.

Housing Solutions

To assist domestic properties in decarbonising heat the Council runs several projects to help residents with this transition including the County Durham energy and fuel poverty partnership that has enabled residents in County Durham to have the 4th highest uptake of Energy Company Obligation (ECO) domestic energy efficiency grants nationally, working with landlords to improve quality and energy efficiency of buildings and supporting low carbon retrofit for off gas homes.

The Council is developing a new Council House programme of 500 units, ensuring the buildings are designed with high levels of insulation and heated by air source heat pumps, powered, in part, by solar PV. This will ensure that heat demand is low, but any heat required is provided by low carbon heat sources.

The Council is delivering phase 1 and 2 of the governments Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Green Homes Grant scheme installing insulation and renewable heating measures to over 1000 homes across County Durham.

The Council is the lead member of Durham’s Decarbonisation of Social Housing Consortia made up of all the counties registered providers including, Believe, Karbon, Livin, North Star and Bernicia Homes.

Actions and Partnerships

The strategy for decarbonising all buildings in County Durham should include reducing the demand for heat by improving insulation and building fabric, moving away from natural gas as a heat source and replacing it with heating powered by electricity, usually in the form of heat pumps. However, as the County moves away from fossil fuel heating towards heating via heat pumps, or heat networks there is a risk that the cost to heat homes will increase. In 2020 15.4% of County Durham’s households were already experiencing fuel poverty. Any policy to decarbonise heat should look to mitigate the risk of increased energy bills and fuel poverty.

Partners and Council are continuing the support for heritage assets, within changing environments. Partners such as the Church of England have developed a routemap to decarbonise buildings by 2030⁶. Partners with heritage assets can learn from each other as we progress practical projects.

We will work with Government to deliver Heat Zoning and Local Area Energy Plans, helping to find the most cost and environmentally effective way to transition to net zero heat for all communities.

Insulation

The retrofit of homes with wall, loft, and floor insulation, and other improvements to the fabric of the building, not only creates better quality homes but reduces heating costs and reduces carbon emissions. There are health advantages to improved energy efficiency too: cold homes can exacerbate existing poor health conditions. The Government aims to upgrade all fuel poor homes to Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) band C by 2030, and has an aspiration for as many homes as possible to be EPC band C by 2035 (where practical, cost-effective and affordable).

Insulation schemes are therefore essential in moving us towards the 2045 target. The current national Energy Company Obligation (ECO) programme is highly successful and has increased the take up of domestic energy efficiency measures to reduce energy bills and carbon emissions. Current schemes need to go further and include external wall insulation and this is under review for forthcoming ECO funded programmes.

From a 2013 Element Energy Report and subsequent Opportunities Assessment for NE regional local authorities completed in 2018 the following table estimates the remaining technical measures for the retrofit of homes with energy efficiency measures in County Durham:

| Measure | County Durham (number | Heating Fuel Savings | Annual Carbon Savings | Lifetime Carbon Savings | Annual Fuel Bill Savings | Lifetime investment (£m) |
|---------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | | | | |

⁶ <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/net-zero-carbon-church/practical-path-net-zero-carbon-churches>

| | of Homes) | (GWh) | (ktCO ₂) | (MtCO ₂) | (£m) ⁷ | |
|------------------------|-----------|------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Solid Wall Insulation | 58,000 | 353 | 72 | 2.8 | 22 | 501 |
| Cavity Wall Insulation | 43,000 | 152 | 30 | 1.2 | 8.8 | 116 |
| Loft Insulation | 86,000 | 52 | 10.4 | 0.5 | 3.1 | 25 |
| Floor Insulation | 163,000 | 158 | 32 | 1.3 | 9.4 | 175 |
| Window Glazing | 156,000 | 213 | 44 | 1.3 | 13.3 | 547 |
| TOTAL | | 928 | 188 | 7.1 | 56.6 | 1,364 |

There remains a significant amount of installations to complete but also significant amount of carbon savings possible, which requires a significant amount of investment.

Social housing providers play an integral part of the solution to improve the thermal efficiency of their housing stock. Many are investing in energy efficiency measures and developing strategies around the installation of new heat pumps in existing residential properties and the development of new, efficient, low carbon homes that are suitable for a climate emergency.

Alongside reduction in domestic natural gas use through insulation, the council is also investigating and investing in new technologies to help decarbonise heat, including:

Heat Pumps

Heat pumps are the most workable technology to significantly decarbonise heat for the short and medium term (next 5-10 years) whether installed at a building level or supplying heat to a heat network. Before 2050 it is likely that a low carbon Britain will be reliant on 'green' hydrogen to meet energy demands. It is unlikely, however, that hydrogen will be used for heat in buildings in the next 10 -20 years, because to produce hydrogen in the quantities needed you would still need to burn fossil fuels. Hydrogen therefore does not form part of this response plan for 2022-24.

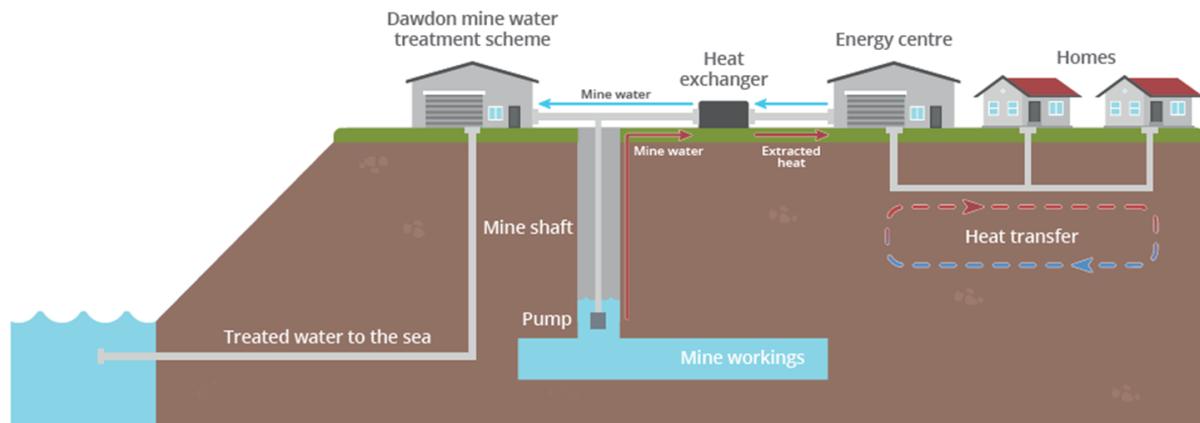
There is also the opportunity to supply heat to buildings via district heat networks, where heat is generated in a central location and piped to buildings as needed. This could allow for utilisation of a waste heat source or natural heat sources. There is potential to supply low carbon heat at a lower cost and lower disruption than installing heat pumps at individual buildings.

Mine Energy

According to the Coal Authority, one quarter of the UK's homes and businesses are sited on former coalfields. DCC have been working alongside the Coal Authority, TOLENT and the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to help develop the first large scale minewater district heating scheme in the country. 1500 homes and commercial buildings will be heated through minewater which is currently being pumped up at the Coal Authority's Dawdon minewater treatment

⁷ Based on 2018 fuel prices

scheme. Water comes to the surface at about 20°C and will go through a heat exchanger where water will be heated and will be used to heat homes and businesses in the scheme (please see the following diagram).



The project has received significant government support and will be used as a pilot to see if this can be replicated in other areas.

The North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) have funded a Mine Energy White Paper which looks at the potential for mine energy development, the benefits and risks and concludes with some recommendations around the need for public subsidy, to reduce the competitive advantage of gas systems. [Mine-Energy-White-Paper_FINAL.pdf \(northeastlep.co.uk\)](http://northeastlep.co.uk/Mine-Energy-White-Paper_FINAL.pdf)

Hydrogen

Northern Gas Networks has recently launched the second trial of Hydeploy in Winlaton Gateshead. This trial will see up to 20% hydrogen injected into the existing gas network supplying 668 homes, a church and local businesses. This will provide information about the viability of hydrogen for heat nationwide.

Heat Recovery

Local bottler and distributor of wines, Lanchester Wines, are investigating innovative ways to decarbonise heat. The new site will be the first bottling plant to use wine to heat their building as sparkling wine needs to be heated and chilled, and thus the aim is to recover heat from the wine which will be used to heat their buildings. This has never been attempted before and will be the first business to pioneer this approach.

Ask of Government

- Current government statements include an ambition to end the sale of gas boilers by 2035. If the UK is to meet net zero targets, this date cannot be put back.
- Funding streams for both the public, private and residential sectors, specifically around heat are welcomed, but they must be made sustainable and fair, without short application windows and unrealistic delivery timescales and be based upon carbon saving potential.
- Funding to improve the thermal properties of all buildings should be made available.

- Energy bills currently have levies applied that in the past have been used to help support introduction of renewable energy and reduce emissions across the sector. Currently levies are disproportionately applied to electricity rates when compared to natural gas rates. As County Durham looks to move away from natural gas use for heat, we are reliant on changes to these levies that would not penalise residents, businesses and the public sector for moving to low carbon heating powered by electricity. In the heat and buildings strategy there is an indication of [a call for evidence](#) (point 5, page 16) on energy prices to even out levies between gas and electricity prices to ensure moving to low carbon heating does not come with a cost penalty.

DRAFT

New Development

Introduction

The built environment accounts for over half of the UK's CO₂ emissions, through both construction and use. It is essential that new development does not overly increase this burden as there is no room in our carbon budget for an increase in emissions from new development. It is recognised that there will inevitably be some increase with the amount of new development planned over the County Durham Plan period (2035), however whilst new housing will not be allowed to connect to the gas network by 2025, there is currently no target date for non-domestic development.

All buildings therefore need to be built to Net Zero Standards as soon as possible or be able to be modified to Net Zero, to avoid raising the Carbon Neutral target.

The construction process has a significant embodied carbon footprint and such careful thought around materials and construction processes should be given. The design of the built environment also drives behaviours, with well designed development helping to lead to sustainable communities through increased active travel opportunities, access to outdoor space, less isolation and increased social interaction amongst other impacts

Interactions with other themes

Heat decarbonisation

New developments will often be used as key drivers of new technologies for low carbon heat. It is generally much easier and more cost effective to fund technologies on new builds rather than retrofit technologies onto older, more complicated buildings, many of which will have only been designed with gas boilers in mind.

Electricity

New developments will require additional electricity to run. The provision of green electricity for such developments, and the challenges this brings, is discussed in the Electricity chapter.

Natural Environment

New developments need land to be built on. This reduces the availability of land for other purposes such as tree planting, which is discussed in the Natural Environment chapter, however policy 26 of the County Durham Plan aims to ensure biodiversity net gain as part of development proposals.

Transport and Connectivity

New developments must include facilities for low carbon transport. This will be discussed in the Transport and Connectivity chapter.

Business and Skills

Low carbon construction requires skills which are not readily available in the North East, such as timber construction of large commercial buildings or maintenance of heat pumps. This training should be discussed in the Business and Skills chapter.

Adaptation

New developments must consider increased risks from the changing climate and new frequency of extreme weather events. This is discussed in the Adaptation chapter.

Green Recovery

New development should reflect the societal changes seen during the pandemic, altering the requirements of buildings and infrastructure for the future.

Durham County Council - Leading by Example

The council is committed to ensuring higher sustainable design standards for new development in the County. The County Durham Plan (the strategic planning document for County Durham) sets down a range of requirements to ensure this, including for example larger non-residential schemes must build to the Building Research Establishment's [BREEAM](#) 'Very Good' rating, a system that assess how well buildings are built and will perform in terms of energy and sustainability. It can help realise additional carbon savings from design aspects such as sustainable transport, soft landings, and embedded carbon/use of sustainable materials, which do not tend to be captured in more traditional design evaluation mechanisms. BREEAM also provides a complimentary route for broader Council priorities, relating to ecology and sustainable procurement for example, to be considered in the build.

National planning policy is clear that new development should help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including through its location, orientation and design. Local requirements for the sustainability of buildings should reflect the Government's national technical standards. This means that the Council has limited powers to insist that developers build to standards significantly over current minimum building regulations.

The council has, however, chosen to require higher standards and major new build residential development will be expected to achieve reductions in CO₂ emissions of 10% above national standards that are set down in building regulations. Nevertheless, the council appreciates that this will only have a relatively limited impact upon emissions from new development. To improve upon this position, the Council now insists that all new non-domestic buildings built by the council will have a Pathway to Net Zero. This will require buildings to be built with design priorities such as ensuring low heat loss, high efficiency building services, local renewable electricity, and crucially, be built without connections to fossil fuels for heating and hot water. Heating will instead be provided by heat pumps (air, ground, or water source) or as part of a low carbon district heat network.

The Council is also developing a new home building programme for construction in 2022/23. These new homes will be built to a standard in excess of current building regulations, matching the proposals in the Future Homes Standard that will come into force by 2025. Homes will be heated by heat pumps, have a small roof mounted solar PV installation and provision for electric vehicle charge points. Building homes in this way will ensure they are best practice at construction and will have a path to net zero before 2050.

Actions & Partnerships

Government have indicated in the forthcoming Future Homes Standard⁸ that, by 2025, new housing will not be allowed to connect to the gas network and as such developers will have to specify alternative forms of heat, however there is little indication of dates for non-residential development.

Over the County Durham Plan period (2016 - 2035) it is proposed that there will be 300 hectares of strategic and general employment land available and a net minimum of 24,852 new homes (many of which already have planning permission).

Using data from the Zero Carbon hub, consultants (in 2019) modelled the carbon and economic impacts of building these new homes to zero carbon standards. In County Durham it would result in an annual reduction of 67ktCO₂ by 2050 and save £5.1m in domestic fuel bills. The cost of additional investment, in terms of building new homes to a zero-carbon standard, would be £189m in additional spend. The savings and costs of implementing zero carbon standards in non-residential development are yet unknown.

DCC advocates the use of the Green Building Council's Net Zero Buildings Framework Definition⁹. It is essential that new buildings and major refurbishments should be targeting net zero carbon for construction and be designed to achieve net zero carbon for operational energy, utilising onsite renewable energy.

Case Study - Seaham Garden Village

A new development of 1,500 homes was granted permission in 2019.

The landowners, TOLENT and the Coal Authority, worked together with the Council to develop an opportunity to utilise minewater heat already being brought to the surface from the adjacent Dawdon minewater treatment scheme. The concept, which is now in development, is for heat from abandoned mines directly underneath the development to supply heat to homes in the development, alongside commercial premises on the site. This project is the first of its kind in the UK. CO₂ savings are significant and homes will be paying no more for their heating than with fossil fuel heating systems.

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-homes-standard-changes-to-part-l-and-part-f-of-the-building-regulations-for-new-dwellings>

⁹ <https://ukgbc.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/05150855/Net-Zero-Carbon-Buildings-A-framework-definition-print-version.pdf>



Image Caption: A computer generated artist impression of the village centre.

Environmentally friendly building techniques:

Lanchester Wines, a business based at Greencroft Industrial Estate in Annfield Plain, Stanley, is currently expanding their business, incorporating the latest design of modular steel frame building which varies the sections of the steel frame, putting strength only where it is needed. This method of construction minimises the amount of steel required for buildings, ensuring a more efficient use of resources.

Flood defence by partner organisation(s):

The Environment Agency, a member of the Council's Climate Emergency Strategic Advisory Board, is investigating the use of low carbon concrete. This is particularly important when building flood defences to adapt to the increased flood risk associated with climate change as concrete is a source of a large proportion of the agency's emissions.

Ask of government

- The Future Homes Standard must be implemented at the earliest opportunity.
- The Future Buildings Standard for non domestic properties must be brought forward and a target set for net zero as soon as possible
- Government must demand better insulation levels
- Government must emphasise a move away from a car centric society, which is facilitated by how new developments are currently designed and instead focus upon how new developments connect with existing communities and local public transport and cycling networks

Transport and Connectivity

Introduction

Transport in County Durham accounted for one third (34%) of the total carbon footprint of the county in 2019. This excludes motorway traffic and trains on the East Coast Mainline, so almost all the transport emissions are from cars, busses, lorries, and other road traffic.

This chapter explores how the county will reduce its carbon footprint from transport through supporting low carbon vehicles, active travel and a reduction in unnecessary vehicle use through increased local access to fast internet and public or shared transport.

It should be noted that transport is organised regionally through bodies such as North East Joint Transport committee, Transport North East, Nexus, local authorities and private public transport operators. DCC works with many of these groups to improve transport within County Durham.

Switching to electric vehicles is good, but is not enough of a solution to meet CO₂ reduction targets as there is the embedded carbon involved with manufacture of the EVs to consider, as well as the carbon impact of the construction and maintenance of the road network. Many communities for example are now pursuing shared ownership of vehicles as a way to reduce adverse impacts of vehicle ownership.

Interactions with other themes

Electricity

Sufficient green electricity must be generated to supply charging points for electric vehicles.

Green Recovery

Transport needs changed during the pandemic and should be taken as an opportunity to find new, green ways of communicating and traveling. Working from home has increased since 2020, requiring better connectivity and reducing the need for us all to all own individual vehicles.

Fair and Just Transition

Active transport options must be safely available to everyone to improve our health and wellbeing while getting from A to B including, in particular safe and frequent public transport services. It is important to ensure that electric car charging points are available in the community and public spaces so that households with no off-street parking are not left behind in the transition to electric vehicles. Access to EVs and low carbon public transport should be for everyone.

Durham County Council - Leading by Example

The Council is leading by example by tackling emissions linked to fleet vehicles and equipment, facilitating active travel, working with regional transport partners and facilitating electric vehicle charging.

Electric Vehicles

The Council has a fleet of over 1000 vehicles, facilitating a wide range of services to carry out daily activities. These vehicles are currently responsible for 39% of DCC's emissions linked to core activities. The Council is looking to reduce emissions linked to these vehicles by starting the transition to electric vehicles. This includes installation of 27 charge points across the council's estate, the purchase of an electric refuse collection vehicle, transition of pool car scheme to electric vehicles, and beginning of the process to transition the rest of the fleet.

The Morrison Busty Low Carbon Depot aims to provide a holistic solution to decarbonising fleet vehicles and depot operations based at the site. A 3 MW solar farm will power extensive electric vehicle charging, providing the infrastructure for very low carbon fleet vehicles at the site. Lessons learnt on this project will be applied to other depots around the county.

Hybrid working

Before the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the workplace the Council was exploring patterns of hybrid working and through the inspire office refurbishment programme, installing high quality teleconferencing facilities to remove the need for travel to meetings. As DCC staff return to the office, lessons learned around hybrid working and communicating using software like Microsoft Teams have been essential in facilitating hybrid working and reducing the number of miles driven for normal operations.

In partnership with Durham University, the Local Government Association and University College London, the Council engaged with staff to explore the energy impacts of home working during the Covid pandemic. This showed that carbon emissions from commuting have the greatest impact and that learning is being incorporated into the Council's planning for new ways of working.

Cycling and Walking

Following the [Strategic Cycling and Walking Delivery plan](#) (2019-2029) the Council is developing 12 Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) at towns and villages around the county to provide an evidence based, strategic approach to identifying cycling and walking improvements required in the County to facilitate increased active travel for everyday journeys.

The Council is running a '[borrow a bike](#)' scheme to support workers and commuters in accessing active and sustainable travel. The scheme offers a complimentary bike loan scheme for 3 months and participants will be given a bike, helmet, lock, lights and training.

The Council have published a series of 'Town Cycling Maps' that outline the opportunities for cycling in local areas around the County.

Significant investment in the Public Rights of Way (PROW) has been made in recent years, helping to enable increased access to countryside and associated health benefits

Public Transport

As part of the regional partnership, the Council has contributed to the North East Bus Service Improvement Plan that has been submitted to the Department for Transport, asking for significant funding to improve bus services in the region. In order to encourage people onto public transport in the long term, more affordable fares are required across the region

Actions & Partnerships

The actions around transport and connectivity aim to facilitate 35,000 fewer petrol and diesel cars on our roads, or an equivalent of 25% reduction in car mileage. Priorities include increasing active travel in the county but also facilitating electrification of private vehicles. If car users switched to buses or cycling and walking for just one quarter (25%) of journeys, this target can be reached. The 'Scaling On Street Charging Infrastructure' (SOSCI) project supports County Durham residents who can't buy an electric vehicle because they don't have off-street parking to be able to charge one, by providing charge points in such areas.



Public Transport

Buses provide the only form of public transport in most parts of County Durham, with 23.2 million passenger journeys starting at bus stops in County Durham in 2018/19. There is an extensive network of bus services throughout the county with approximately 175 services in the main network. Over 4,500 stops are served. Most settlements in County Durham have at least 2 buses per hour during Monday to Saturday daytimes, with much higher frequencies in the main towns and along many of the main interurban corridors.

In the more rural areas, services may run every hour or less often but all except the smallest settlements have regular services. However, the settlement pattern of towns in the County and 229 villages leads to some dispersed travel patterns that are not feasible by public transport. 71% of journeys to work in the County in 2011 were by single occupied private car. This needs to change.

Electric Vehicles

Weardale Electric Vehicle (WEVA) has installed 9 EVCPs in the village of Stanhope as a National demonstrator project. The Charge points have all been installed in a village 5 minutes walk of each other with the support of an electric vehicle car club to see if this brings the uptake of EVs sooner.

Durham On street Charging (DOCs) project will follow this with the installation of 50 EVCPs to support the parish councils.

Regional Electric Vehicle unified plan (REV up) fundamentally a research project but will install 2 EVCPs looking at different models. The project brings in the potential of

a STEP model of installing charge points where the local authority do the underground work before going to a supplier. The Council have taken a stakeholder lead in this project and had discussions with other local authorities and emergency services etc. The potential is to make a large scale bid for funding of EV charge points across the North East.

In partnership, the Council is installing electric vehicle charging infrastructure around the county to help facilitate the transition to electric vehicles. This includes over 200 publicly available charge points.

Car sharing

More use of car sharing and public transport will help us to require fewer vehicles. The Council is partnering with existing and new car clubs to encourage shared usage of vehicles, alongside ensuring car clubs' vehicles can be electric, with access to charging. The council's WEVA project has promoted a new car club in the rural community of Stanhope.

Cycling and Walking

The Council continues to partner with Sustrans in developing cycling infrastructure in the County, for example with projects like the Great North Cycleway that will include 35.5 km within County Durham.

Rail

The Council, working alongside The Auckland Project, are considering plans to develop a passenger rail service from Weardale to Darlington with a grant from the Department for Transport's Restoring Your Railway fund. If developed, it is estimated that 500,000 trips could be made on the line annually.

The Council has submitted a business case to the Department for Transport for a new station at Ferryhill to open up rail links to Teesside, improving transport connectivity for 10,000 people in Ferryhill and a further 50,000 residents within a three-mile catchment area.

Broadband

Project Gigabit is making superfast broadband services available to everyone in County Durham, which will help to reduce the need to travel through more opportunities to work from home.

Transport research

Durham Energy Institute, a member of the Council's Climate Emergency Strategic Advisory Board, is the hub for energy research and activity at Durham University. They are leading the national Network for Hydrogen Transportation (Network-H2) in partnership with the UK Government which has a leadership role in advancing the rapidly advancing hydrogen-enabled transport sector across the energy, marine, on-road, rail, and aviation sectors.

Electrifying fleet

NWL are investigating EVs to decarbonise their fleet although their vans tend to be customised so this will require working with key partners such as Nissan. NWL

introduced their first electric vehicles in 2020, adding the second generation Nissan ENv200 to fleet. The new green vehicles are being used by meter readers, starting the journey towards a green vehicle fleet. Through the water company's partnership with leasing firm VLS, Nissan showcased the first generation model at Northumbrian Water's second Innovation Festival in 2018. The updated model's extra mileage capability makes it a viable option for meter readers and shows the benefits of improving technology.

Ask of government

- Government has indicated it has set aside £3bn to deliver its National Bus Strategy. A partnership of bus operators, the NEJTC, local authorities and Nexus has submitted a Bus Service Improvement Plan to this fund that, if delivered in full, would require a major share of this funding and is estimated at just over £800 million over a three-year period starting in April 2022. Without this funding, projects linked to improving bus services and achieving a modal shift away from miles driven are limited in County Durham.
- Ask government to prioritise public transport, active travel, car sharing, community car ownership, and community EV charging, as part of a fairer and more just transition.
- Prioritisation of the Leamside line to provide alternative train routes.
- Prioritise the phasing out of the sale of petrol and diesel cars from 2032.
- Reduce the upfront cost of Electric Vehicles (EV's) and more fiscal benefits for those choosing Electric.
- More emphasis on active travel and planning in decarbonisation plans.
- Greater investment in passenger transport to improve affordability.
- Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) to complement existing fixed routes bus services.
- Investment in electric passenger transport vehicles.
- Capacity enhancements to the East Coast Mainline (ECML) to facilitate more local rail services in County Durham.
- More national guidance relating to the aviation, maritime and vans and lorries.
- Promote Rail Freight Potential at Forrest Park, Newton Aycliffe.

Electricity

Introduction

Through energy efficiency measures, generation of renewable electricity, energy storage, and resilient infrastructure support, DCC will work with partners to ensure that County Durham's electricity consumption is sufficient, reliable, and entirely green.

Using electricity from the national grid in County Durham accounted for about one fifth (18%) of the total carbon footprint of the county in 2019. Carbon emissions from electricity taken from the grid are reducing every year as each year a greater proportion of the electricity is generated by renewable sources such as wind farms and solar panels. At the same time, demand for electricity is increasing as people use more electricity for heating and transport.

This chapter explores how the county will reduce its carbon footprint from electricity and provide clean electricity for decarbonisation through supporting renewable generation and energy efficiency.

Interactions with other themes

Part of the challenge of decarbonising electricity is ensuring that a steady supply is always available, everywhere that it is needed. This is an example of adapting to climate change, but it will be discussed in this chapter as it is specifically to do with electricity.

Energy from waste (EfW)

Grid supplied electricity is significantly less carbon intensive than electricity generated in EfW plants¹⁰. This may change as Carbon Capture Storage is implemented but is discussed in more detail in the Procurement and Waste chapter.

Heat

The decarbonisation of heat will require a stable and plentiful supply of electricity. It is expected that much of heat decarbonisation will be achieved through heat pumps, which will require green electricity.

Some of this must be met by the inclusion of renewable electricity generation as part of heat pump projects wherever possible. Projects that are about heat but include electricity generation will be in the Heat Decarbonisation chapter.

Transport

Electricity will play a significant role in the decarbonisation of transport across the county. The provision of charging points for electric vehicles will be covered in the Transport and Connectivity chapter.

Fair and Just Transition

Renewable electricity generation should not be just for residents with their own roofs or land. Community owned renewables would allow any resident to be part of the renewable electricity revolution, no matter how big or small their contribution.

¹⁰ <https://zerowasteurope.eu/2020/03/understanding-the-carbon-impacts-of-waste-to-energy/>

Adaptation

Durham's electricity supplies must be robust enough to withstand the weather events that the people of Durham will experience as part of our changing climate. Storm Arwen in late 2021 is an example of the storms that we may expect more often.

Nature Based

Renewable energy projects can often be paired with work to improve biodiversity. Opportunities for this are considered in this chapter.

Durham County Council – Leading by Example

Between April 2020 and March 2021, the Council generated more than one million kWh of renewable electricity. Two thirds of this was used by the council and the remainder was exported to the grid for other Durham residents to use.

The decarbonisation of the National Grid over the last decade has had a significant effect on the Council's carbon footprint. Most of our carbon reduction has been in electricity use by increasing efficiency, generating our own electricity, and using the lower carbon grid electricity. Around two thirds of the reduction in emissions from electricity use was due to the national effort to decarbonise the grid. One third of the reduction was due to improving energy efficiency and generating our own renewable electricity.

The Council's energy efficiency and renewable generation works alone have still delivered a greater reduction in emissions from electricity use than has been achieved for heat or transport. This is because electricity is expensive. For many years it has been possible to do projects to reduce our electricity use because that reduction in invoice costs would be sufficient to pay for the project in just a few years. This has not been the case for heat or transport, as gas, petrol, and diesel are comparatively cheap.

Projects such as the Tanfield Solar Farm, a 250kW array of solar panels which directly feed the Comeleon Office building, were financed through an 'invest to save' model. The project will pay for itself in less than twelve years, a feat not achieved by any heat or transport project that hasn't received any grant funding.



Image caption: Photo of the construction of Tanfield solar farm.

Following the success of the Tanfield Solar Farm we are deploying solar PV systems across the Council sites. At the Morrison Busty Depot, we are installing a 3 MW solar farm, alongside a 2 MWh battery, that will provide very low carbon electricity to power the depot and electrified fleet vehicles based there. Ten council sites across the County will have new roof mounted PV installed. The County Durham Plan¹¹ policy 33

¹¹ <https://www.durham.gov.uk/cdp>

shows DCC's support for renewable and low carbon energy.

The council buys 100% low carbon electricity¹² for all its buildings and on-site electric vehicle charging. The carbon footprint of our purchased electricity is still the national grid average carbon footprint for reporting purposes, but through this action we can consider that we offset these emissions by supporting low carbon generation.

Even though the Council's purchased electricity is low carbon, that doesn't mean that it can be used indiscriminately. When lots of electricity is taken from the grid, that reduces the amount of low carbon electricity that is available for other people to use. If everyone took too much low carbon electricity for themselves, national grid would need to switch a coal power plant back on to meet remaining demand! It is therefore essential that the Council continues to work on energy efficiency and renewable generation.

Examples of energy efficiency works carried out recently by the council include; installing low energy LED lighting in buildings, at bus shelters, and for street lighting, ensuring any electric equipment is high efficiency, switching everything off when it is not in use, and upgrading ventilation systems with high efficiency fans.

Actions & Partnerships

Electricity is expensive. The Council's actions have largely been self-funded, as they would pay for themselves through reduced electricity invoices. Private firms, organisations, and individuals may follow the council's lead and act for themselves without needing financial support from local or national government.

Lanchester Wines, a local business, has constructed four wind turbines and a 41kW solar array produce more than 5.5GWh green electricity to supply its offices, bottling plant, and operational buildings¹³. Around 40% of this green electricity feeds into the national grid to reduce the carbon factor of the electricity for the local community too. The company's second biggest energy use after electricity is space heating. It has used flooded mine workings as a resource to heat 36,000m² of warehouse and factory spaces with heat pumps which require electricity to run.

Energy Efficiency

Even renewable electricity has a carbon footprint as there is carbon embedded in the generation equipment. It wouldn't be right to generate as much as possible without first considering how to reduce the amount that we need through energy efficiency. This could be as simple as switching off what isn't needed, replacing old lights with LED, and ensuring any new equipment is as energy efficient as possible. Use timers or BEMS to make sure nothing is left on overnight that shouldn't be.

Renewable Generation

The UK Government's Net Zero Strategy, published in October 2021¹⁴, includes commitments for all the UK's electricity to come from low carbon sources by 2035, to increase funding for wind turbines, deliver 40GW of offshore wind by 2030, improve

¹² <https://www.nepo.org/news-and-events/nepo-electricity-framework-supports-uk-net-zero-ambitions>

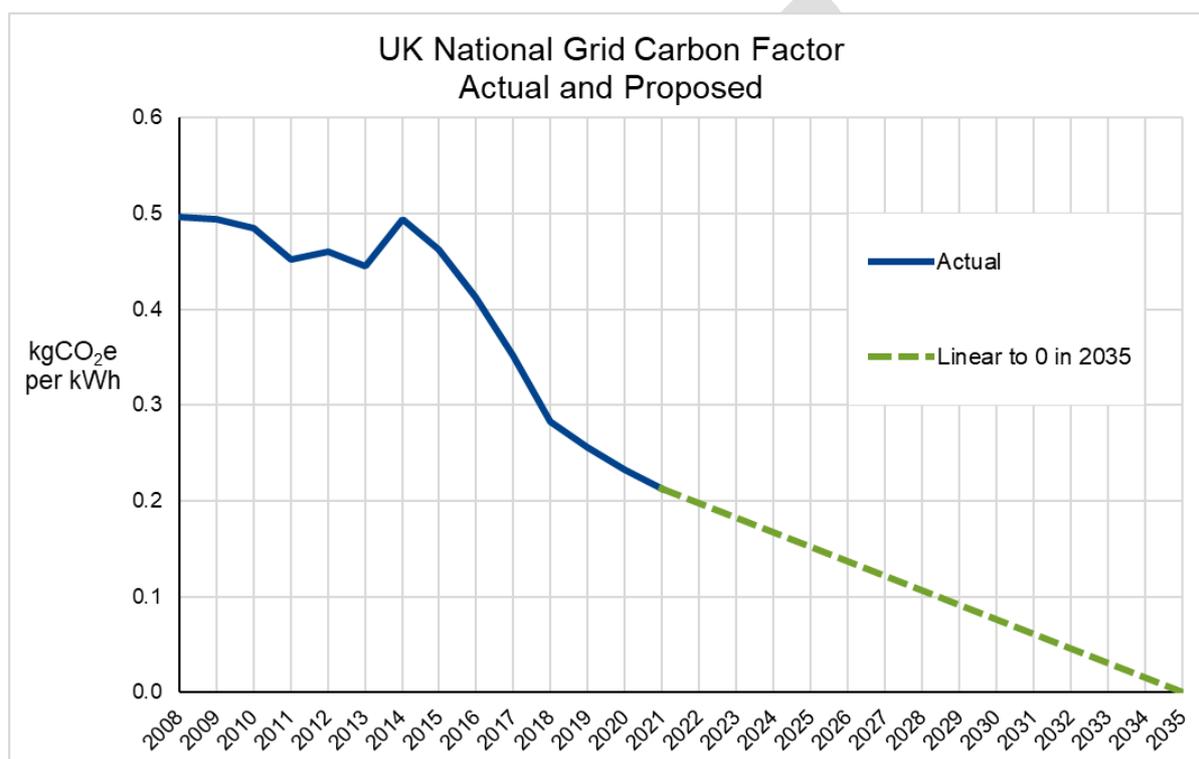
¹³ www.lanchesterwines.co.uk/what-we-do/sustainability/

¹⁴ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1028157/net-zero-strategy.pdf

the planning system to support renewables, and improve the grid to accommodate renewable generation.

These commitments are ambitious and would provide good support for the challenge we face in providing sufficient low carbon electricity for the people of County Durham. If our national grid can supply sufficient green electricity to meet demand by 2035, then we stand a good chance of meeting our decarbonisation goals in all sectors.

The following graph shows that the commitment to reach zero grams of CO₂e per kWh of electricity in 2035 shouldn't be impossible. It is not a sudden drop that is required, but a steady continuation of the reduction we have seen in the last decade.



There have been many successful privately funded solar farms in County Durham. With continued support from local planning and residents alike, this should continue on suitable land and where there is the possibility of connecting to the grid.

Disused landfill sites are good opportunities for solar farms, as the ground is not stable enough for larger construction, and often not nice enough for sequestration works. Where there isn't a wide area of land and there is height available, wind turbines should be considered. They provide electricity when the wind blows, including at night when solar panels are no longer generating.

The other commitments listed in the UK Net Zero Plan are required for the delivery of sufficient electricity, to mitigate the inconsistency of supply from renewable sources and support the transmission and distribution of electricity to everywhere it is needed.

Local government must enable individual and private action to generate renewable electricity, through mitigating blockages such as unfair planning restrictions and very high grid connection costs. DCC are also considering wind turbines where possible

and within planning constraints. The County Durham Plan¹⁵ policy 34 specifically covers wind turbines, which can be more difficult to approve.

If County Durham is going to achieve the carbon reduction targets set out in this CERP, we must increase the amount of renewable electricity that is generated here. The electricity coming from the national grid will reduce in carbon intensity as more wind and solar farms are constructed across the country, including in Durham

We could contribute 25% of the effort required to meet Durham's target by generating an additional 25,000MWh of electricity in County Durham, which could be achieved by constructing either 30MW of solar or 10MW of wind turbines. Each of those would be expected to achieve around 25,000MWh electricity per year in Durham though it would be more practical to have a mixture of different generating technologies.

Members of the County Durham Partnership including Northumbrian Water Ltd, Durham University, Lanchester Wines, and the Coal Authority have solar PV installations on their premises. Northumbrian Water Ltd and the Council are both looking to expand their rooftop PV coverage in the next few years.

Energy Storage

Wind turbines produce electricity when the wind blows and solar panels produce electricity when the sun shines. Even when we include controllable generation such as nuclear as in Hartlepool or biomass as at Drax in Yorkshire, we will not be able to generate exactly the right amount of electricity at exactly the right time all the time. To solve this problem, we need energy storage.

As a local authority, the council can support innovation by hosting demonstrator projects and facilitating collaboration between appropriate partners. One area of innovation at the moment is in battery technology, as we can't rely on the chemicals required for usual batteries for the scale that will be required by the grid. Energy can be stored in other ways such as through gravitational potential, or compressed air.

As the climate crisis takes hold, resilience will become more difficult and more important than ever. Batteries will form a part of the resilience of the grid, both at large scale (frequency response) and within individual buildings (demand response). This plan supports the inclusion of batteries in projects and as standalone grid scale installations.

The Grid Infrastructure

Northern Powergrid (NPG) is responsible for the electricity distribution network across the North East, Yorkshire, and northern Lincolnshire. 14 NPG projects have been selected to benefit from the national Green Recovery Scheme, totalling £53m of investment for the North East, Yorkshire, and Lincolnshire.

One of these projects is in Seaham, where NPG will invest £8.5m to build a new substation and deliver improvements to the overhead and underground network there. This will improve the resilience of the grid for the local communities.

¹⁵ <https://www.durham.gov.uk/cdp>

Investment in grid resilience also allows large scale renewable generation to take place, as this requires capacity for electricity to move in both directions, both out of and into the network. It will also meet the needs of rapid electric vehicle charging, which requires a huge amount of power to be delivered very quickly.

In order to minimise impact of Northern PowerGrid's operations on green spaces, 68.7km of overhead lines have been removed from national parks and AONB. There is approximately 132km of overhead lines remaining to be removed in future.

The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets, OfGem, is in a position to help or hinder the transition to renewable electricity. OfGem oversees financial incentives such as the Feed in Tariff for electricity (now abolished) and the Renewable Heat Incentive for heat (only available for domestic properties until March 2022).

In February 2021, OfGem published an open letter¹⁶ on the potential for a greener economic recovery from Covid-19, showing support for the Energy Network Association (ENA) Green Recovery Scheme¹⁷. The scheme recognises that the upkeep of local energy networks is vital if we are to achieve a low carbon society. Investment in local electricity grid infrastructure must be the first step in the green recovery, providing the foundation on which to build a low carbon future.

By generating renewable electricity close to where it is needed we reduce the amount lost to transmission and distribution, allowing more of it to be used and making the whole process more efficient. Local infrastructure must be upgraded to allow fluctuations in supply and to allow export to other areas.

Smart Energy Networks

Keele University, a member of the Council's Climate Emergency Strategic Advisory Board, have developed their innovative Smart Energy Network Demonstrator Initiative or SEND. It is a European first and involves a living laboratory where they investigate energy generation, distribution and forecasting for the University's campus. The aim of this living laboratory is to deliver better energy management systems to better use energy which could be rolled out across many different organisations.

Local and Community Electricity

The Local Electricity Bill¹⁸ addresses the challenge of improving local electricity availability from another perspective. It aims to remove barriers that can currently prevent local communities making use of the electricity generation opportunities available to them, which few communities in County Durham have been able to do.

The Ruswarp hydro turbine¹⁹ near Whitby is an example of a community owned electricity generator outside of Durham. It also forms part of the community as a tool

¹⁶https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/sites/default/files/docs/2021/02/ena_green_recovery_scheme_open_letter_feb_21.pdf

¹⁷<https://www.energynetworks.org/newsroom/britains-energy-networks-to-invest-over-gbp-300m-in-green-recovery-for-seas-skies-and-streets>

¹⁸ <https://powerforpeople.org.uk/blog/local-electricity-bill-briefing-for-mps>

¹⁹ <https://whitbyeskenenergy.org.uk/>

for education for local school pupils. Their project was helped by the Environment Agency, North York Moors National Park and River Esk Action Committee.

A report²⁰ commissioned by North East Local Authorities and produced by the Centre for Sustainable Energy shows how community energy organisations could benefit the people of the region. The North East currently has the lowest concentration of community energy projects in the country. There are likely to be many opportunities within County Durham to begin to change that, and DCC would encourage community renewable generation projects.

Asks of Government

- That the commitments made in the Net Zero Strategy 2021 are upheld.
- That government recognises that demand for clean electricity will increase with decarbonisation of heat and transport, and that generation and storage are increased in preparation for that rise in demand.
- That electrical infrastructure is prioritised in future budgets.
- That government supports community renewables through the Local Electricity Bill, so that electricity can be generated close to where it is needed.
- That government recognises the extreme importance of a reliable and renewable electricity supply for every aspect of the transition to net zero.

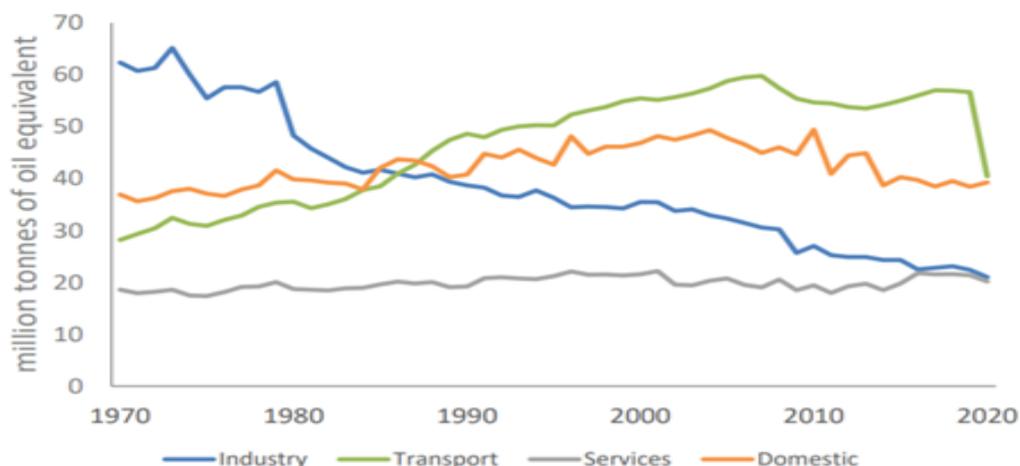
²⁰ <https://www.cse.org.uk/downloads/file/north-east-community-energy-study.pdf>

Business and Skills

Introduction

For some time, decarbonisation of the business sector has been driven by financial savings but more recently, the focus has gradually shifted to the benefits it will bring to the environment. This is, in a large part, due to the scoring of procurement practices with 30% of the scoring now being allocated to sustainability, but also a wider understanding of the issues affecting the climate, and therefore the pressing need to reduce carbon emissions.

Change in energy consumption by sector



UK energy consumption figures by sector are shown above (UK Gov, Energy Consumption in the UK²¹).

Energy consumption in the industrial sector has halved since 1970, assisted by initiatives from The Carbon Trust and others, designed to help businesses use energy more efficiently, but there is still more work to be done. The services sector has remained roughly static, although their usage was low compared to other sectors throughout the period. Reductions for the service sector are likely to come from building and transport efficiencies, which have recently benefitted from people working from home due to Covid restrictions. The use of online meetings has reduced business mileage to attend meetings, and reduced energy bills in offices and commercial locations.

This chapter focuses on decarbonising businesses and skills training in County Durham working in conjunction with the Low Carbon Economy Team (and more specifically, the Business Energy Efficiency Project BEEP), the newly formed Conference of Partners, Business Durham and DurhamWorks.

Interactions with other themes

Heat Decarbonisation

Business must adapt and prepare for the use of gas boilers for heating to end. This means developing a plan for decarbonising their buildings at the earliest opportunity.

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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1021836/Energy_Consumption_in_the_UK_2021.pdf

Business needs to invest in education and training for employees on heat network technologies, and courses are needed to deliver these skills.

Electricity

Business needs to develop energy security, which may mean producing much of the electricity that they need on-site, saving both costs and carbon.

Engagement, education and behavioural change

Many opportunities exist for businesses to embrace the green economy. Much of this will come from upskilling the workforce to enable simple changes and long-term decarbonisation plans.

Land and Sustainable Food Production

Working with businesses in the food production sector to help them decarbonise. supporting our local food production businesses to become more sustainable, and helping train and upskill future generations.

Green Recovery

Local businesses must be supported to recover from the disruption of the pandemic and, where possible, to maximise the opportunities to build their systems and processes back better than before.

Community and People Centred

Communities benefit from having a thriving local economy, with local jobs and skills.

Nature-Based

Forthcoming Government schemes to support environmental land management and net zero could help to improve the resilience of County Durham's farms and rural business. Increasing nature-based solutions for climate change will also offer opportunities for upskilling, reskilling and new career paths. For example, plans to increase afforestation across England could support 2,000 jobs in 2030.²²

Durham County Council - Leading by Example

Small Business Support

Since 2016, the Council has run the Business Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP) which works with SMEs in County Durham to help them identify energy efficiencies they can implement and gives access to a grant pot to assist with any capital costs. The BEEP Team have worked with about 450 SMEs at time of writing. This is an ERDF funded project which will run until end March 2023, after which time the council is exploring ways to continue to provide business energy efficiency support in the future.

Whilst we cannot force businesses to address energy efficiencies, the BEEP project aims to provide all the advice and support possible to make this a simple process for

²² HM Government (2021) Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener

them. A good example of this is the 'Try before you Buy' scheme being launched at the end of November 2021, which provides a free loan of an EV van to a business to trial in place of existing fossil fuel vehicles.

The EV van loan scheme works in conjunction with the Council's Fleet Services who handle the loaning of the vans to SMEs in County Durham. The loan is dependent upon the business accepting an offer of the fully funded BEEP energy efficiency audit to provide them with a detailed look at all their energy usage, not just transport. Details of the BEEP project are below.



Many-businesses have formed strong relationships with the BEEP Project and have remained in contact, seeking further advice and updating the Project on their continuing energy efficiency activities. One such business is Beamish Park Golf Club which started by replacing their heating and lighting and have gone onto replace all their golf buggies with electric ones and started a solar PV rollout on the flat roof of the Club. They constantly seek better and more sustainable ways to do things, as well as looking to become the most sustainable Club in the County.

Under the Interreg funded LOCARBO project, the council has promoted its good practices for adapting BEEP procedures during the Covid-19 pandemic, which restricted social and business operations. This good practice has been shared with European partners, which has helped improve resilience of delivery of BEEP to businesses across the County.

Working with International Partners

In addition, the Low Carbon Economy Team have been part of Interreg Europe working parties, where good practice in the UK, and in other parts of the European Union can be observed and shared.

This includes the SME Power project which is further supporting SMEs during the next two years. It will adopt good practice from Finland to develop and promote a carbon foot printing tool to help smaller businesses relate energy costs and carbon to their productivity. A further project will improve the energy efficiency of our tourism and hospitality businesses utilising the good practice from Slovenia as a model. These projects have shared our BEEP model with other authorities across Europe, supporting them to improve their own engagement with SMEs.

Further Support and Skills

Business Durham is the business support service for the Council, helping to deliver more and better jobs, and a strong competitive economy. It manages a portfolio of business properties on business and industrial estates across the county and is engaging with the Low Carbon Economy Team to identify a model decarbonised estate, with could be duplicated across their property portfolio. This may benefit NetPark 3, mentioned in the Electricity Section above.

Business Durham is also working in partnership with BEEP and the Low Carbon Economy Team staff to promote the initiatives, support and funding that is available to businesses across the county. They are also working to attract inward investors in the clean energy and low carbon sectors and supporting existing companies who are innovators in these sectors.

The DurhamWorks project has an environmental focus, part of which is a commitment to minimise waste and energy consumption, and to promote the use of public and green transport. All DurhamWorks staff are based in the Council buildings which are subject to the council's strategy and targets for carbon reduction. There is a programme level Sustainable Development Policy and Plan and all delivery partners have their own sustainable development policies and plans too.

Actions & Partnerships

Skills and Training

Skilling the workforce is an area of significant opportunity for Further Education (FE) colleges and Universities. Many are adding in low carbon technology modules to more traditional courses, whilst some businesses are establishing training centres for low carbon technologies because of the significant potential growth.

Some businesses, such as Automotive Solutions in Peterlee, and Kinghorn Electric Vehicles in Durham, are already transitioning to provide maintenance and/or supply of EV vehicles.

Atom Bank is ensuring that their Durham city offices and operations are as carbon neutral as possible, with native tree planting alongside other wildlife improvements, greening their supply chain, 100% sustainable energy use, EV charging points and food waste collection. Alongside hybrid working Atom is pioneering a four day working week for all staff which will reduce congestion and pollution from car journeys and energy consumption. The company is also exploring innovative initiatives they can develop within the banking industry, in particular how best to support and encourage energy efficiency in the housing market through their rapidly growing secured lending business.

The Federation of Small Businesses, a member of the Council's Climate Emergency Strategic Board, are engaging with both members and non- members to provide practical support and guidance through their national Sustainability Hub. This hub will provide examples of green projects undertaken by other businesses, educational resources covering topics such as the importance of going green, and a useful jargon buster.

County Durham Economic Partnership, (CDEP), have conducted nationwide research focussing on SMEs and their knowledge of green initiatives; findings included at only one third were aware of the net zero concept and 71 % didn't know where to go for energy efficiency advice. However, 60 % stated that environmental impact was their second largest priority to customers (after cost) and therefore there is a market premium for being 'green.'

CDEP are involved in Durham Works which is a £39 million European Regional Development Fund project which works with young people who aren't in education or employment. CDEP is also working with those in education through the Durham City Incubator which encourages students to stay in the North East and set up businesses with a green focus.

Ask of Government:

- Create replacement funding schemes for ERDF such as the recently announced Shared Prosperity Fund.
- Actions outlined on ESOS reports should be required to be carried out rather than just noted, or at least a % reduction achieved before the next ESOS inspection
- Invest in the National Grid to make electrification easier and cheaper. Many projects in the County have been halted by the cost of upgrading the grid. In a County with a limited gas network, decarbonisation would be easier to promote if grid upgrades did not limit projects.
- Widen legislation relating to energy efficiency requirements for all new buildings (not just domestic) to ensure they are as low carbon as possible from initial build.

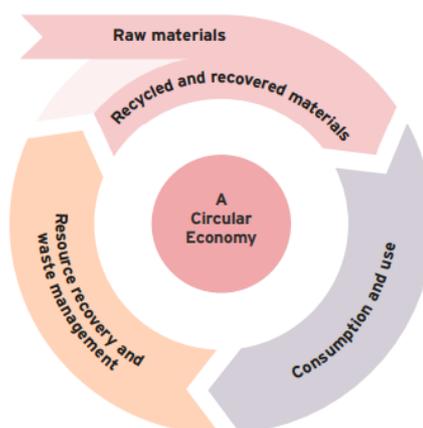
Procurement and Waste

Introduction

Sustainable resource use is at the core of this theme, including making better use of resources and considering the life cycle impacts of procurement decisions. The public sector across County Durham procures a significant volume of goods and services in delivering its remit. This has quite a significant carbon impact, but also provides the opportunity to make savings, to lead by example, and demonstrate low carbon service delivery.

The Council has a strong record of sustainable procurement and has been pioneering in many environmental and social campaigns and aspirations, winning the Cabinet Office's first ever award in 2016 for Social Value Leadership for an Organisation. We are always looking to improve on this and will continue to develop mechanisms and evolve the way we procure goods and services.

At the end of many purchasing decisions is the question of how we dispose of any unwanted waste, which applies to everyone, not just the council. Moving away from seeing this as waste and recognising it as a potential resource will be critical to lowering our carbon and environmental footprint. If something is waste, we must pay to dispose of it whereas treating it as a resource adds value and prevents further consumption of raw materials. This is sometimes called a circular economy model because resources are not lost.



Circular economy model. Source: UK Government.

It can be difficult to track the carbon emissions associated with procurements or waste, as many of the actions rely on other organisations in a supply or disposal chain. However, just because the emissions can be one or more steps away, doesn't make them less important. Where the carbon is generated doesn't matter, as it all contributes to climate change.

The recent '[Net Zero Strategy](#)' reaffirms the Government's aim to create a shift in how waste and resources are viewed and managed. It re-iterates that it will provide £295 million of capital funding which will allow local authorities in England to prepare to implement separate, free of charge food waste collections for all households from 2025.

The Environment Bill, which is currently progressing through Parliament, will effectively establish the Resource and Waste Strategy as a "once in a generation" change to the way waste is managed. The Strategy will result in a more consistent approach to recycling, to achieve aspirational recycling levels by 2035. As well as mandatory food waste collection, this includes some form of Deposit Return Scheme for plastic and glass bottles.

These new commitments should lead to streamlining collections across the UK to facilitate recycling and introduce industry wide schemes to encourage products are made of materials that can be recycled or reused.

At the moment, local authorities and business leaders are awaiting the final details of these proposals and schemes including how the transition costs and the “new burdens” related to recycling will be funded. They should make significant shifts in how products are made and how waste is collected, recycled and treated but until the specifics of the Government’s proposals are announced, industry and local governments are limited in the actions they can take.



Facility processing recyclable waste.

It is intended that the proposals will lower carbon emissions from across the whole process (extraction, manufacturing, use and disposal), however individual stages may see incremental increases. Changes to the types of waste collected and sorting of waste products may require more collection vehicle journeys or energy use at processing facilities for example.

Since the first CERP, the Council has formally adopted an Environment Management System for all of its service areas. This will monitor, report and improve our environmental performance across a series of indicators, and assist with bringing environmental issues associated with activities such as procurement and waste together. It will improve the ability to track some Scope Three emissions from our supply chain that could otherwise be omitted.

Interactions with other themes

Transport and connectivity

A significant proportion of emissions from procurement and waste management comes from transport, mainly HGVs. Whilst low emission transport technology is evolving, this sector will be difficult to address and is likely to be dependent on industry changes later in the decade.

Increased use of digital resources means fewer physical products are needed. For example moving Council Tax and Pension information on-line has saved tonnes of paper and thousands of deliveries.

Land and Sustainable Food Production

Shorter supply chains and better use of perishable resources would reduce both waste and purchasing.

Education

Increasing awareness, skills and knowledge of environmental issues and waste/climate change should lead to positive behavioural change

Community and People Centred

It is clear from consultation work and engagement with the community that recycling is important to the people of Durham. It is also an important part of tackling the climate emergency and will be addressed in this chapter.

Education and awareness

Improving people's awareness of correct recycling and waste avoidance is the most effective way to lower carbon emissions.

Durham County Council - Leading by Example Procurement

The Council is working to further integrate climate and environmental issues into our procurement processes.

In recent years there has been a continued drive to improve processes and standards with existing policies and buying standards available to view on the procurement²³ pages on the council's website. The action plan within the new Procurement Strategy contains a detailed section on Social Value and Climate Change with each action accompanied by a delivery date and review period. We have set buying standards for areas including equipment, textiles, food and timber-based products. In the past two years we have made changes to our procurement processes and led the way on actions to reduce unnecessary single use plastics from our operations.

We have maintained the purchase of 100% low carbon electricity for council buildings.

This year we are implementing a number of procedures to assess the impacts of significant contracts whilst ensuring that we embed environmental considerations across of our procurement activity.

Through the Priority Environmental Procurements (PEPs) initiative, we will review our procurement pipeline and identify procurement activities where we can even further enhance environmental or carbon objectives achievable via the procurement process. Each PEP will have a small project team to ensure that improved environmental performance is built into the procurement process and cycle.

The Themes, Outcomes and Measures (TOMs) have been adopted as award criteria for procurement processes above the £177,898 threshold (January 2022) values for the purposes of the Public Contract Regulations 2015. TOMS includes specific award criteria on the Environment: Decarbonising and Safeguarding our World. Such award criteria will consequently form part of the contract and subsequent contract management process going forward.

The Council has also increased the tender threshold in relation to its own Contract Procedure Rules from £50,000 to £177,898. The threshold is the point at which the bidding process becomes more intensive and increasing it will make it easier for local, smaller suppliers to bid for contracts.

²³ <https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2815/Procurement-policy-and-strategy>

A Procurement Policy Note (PPN) with regard to Carbon Reduction was recently issued by Cabinet Office as a mandatory requirement for all Government contracts over £5M. In short this means that any suppliers wishing to bid for a contract over £5M must have a Carbon Reduction Plan for their commitment to achieving Net Zero by 2050. Whilst it is not mandatory for Local Government to implement this, the Council have decided to add this PPN principles as part of good practice and it will now be included within our Invitation to Tender documents and will be a pass / fail selection question in our documents.

Furthermore, the council's Procurement team is also working to promote and influence, where possible, the environmental agenda locally, regionally and nationally. This is via the County Durham Pound Project (locally), North East Procurement Organisation (regionally) and the National Social Value Task and the Local Government Association (nationally).

Support for local business and local produce is essential for a sustainable community and county. Maximising the 'Durham Pound' (the amount of money spent and retained in the county) is likely to have a significant impact, by retaining profit within the county. It also helps to support the local high street, having real social positive impacts and reduces transport emissions.

Durham County Council Pension Fund

The Durham County Council Pension Funds is in the process of pooling its assets through Boarder to Coast Pensions Partnership (BCPP) alongside 10 other local authority shareholders. BCPP has collaborated with the council and its local authority partners, to develop its approach to Responsible Investment. Like the DCC Pension Fund, BCPP believe that well-managed companies with strong governance are more likely to be successful long-term investments. As such, BCPP embed environmental, social and governance ('ESG') analysis into BCPP investment process across all asset classes.

Additionally, BCPP and Partner Funds have collaborated on a stand alone Climate Change Policy which outlines the approach BCPP will follow in fulfilling its commitment to managing the risks and opportunities associated with climate change across the assets managed on behalf of the Pension Fund. The Policy outlines BCPP's commitment to a net zero carbon emissions target by 2050 at the latest. Whilst both the Pension Fund and BCPP believe in Engagement rather than divestment, however, based on investment criteria and the scope for stranded assets BCPP will not invest in pure coal or tar sands companies. BCPP provides regular reporting to the Pension Fund Committee on the carbon intensity of the assets it manages.

In March 2022 the Pension Fund Committee committed **£70m** to support the launch of a Climate Opportunities Fund through BCPP. This Climate Opportunities Fund will target investments on behalf of the DCC Pension Fund that will have a material positive impact on climate change and support long-term net zero carbon emission goals. In terms of its own operations, the Pension Fund has developed an online portal for its c60,000 scheme members. By delivering the majority of its bulk mailings through the online portal, the Fund has saved an estimated 50 tonnes of carbon per year.

Waste

DCC have a target to recycle 60% of municipal waste by 2030 and to reduce landfill to a maximum of 10% municipal waste by 2035.

From the most recent composition analysis undertaken, 26% of residual waste (waste currently not recycled or composted from the kerbside) is food waste. Out of these ~37,700 tonnes, it is estimated that between 17-19,000 tonnes could be captured through dedicated food waste collections. It is likely that Government will legislate for dedicated food waste collections by 2025, however we are waiting for this announcement.

In the past two years we have completed the process of bringing the composting of garden waste back into council operational control. That is likely to create a small uplift in operational emissions, but give us greater control of the deliveries, processes, and outputs.

We have also restructured the scale of the gas turbines that generate power from landfill gas. Over time the volume of gas produced decreases and the plant size needs adjusting to ensure maximum efficiency.

Our waste collection services have procured an electric refuse collection vehicle, and we have begun the process of upgrading our depots with charging infrastructure to enable future fleet upgrades.

During the Covid lockdowns, the council experienced increased volumes of waste collected from households and also, disappointingly an increase in contamination levels of recycling collections. Both of these will have contributed to an increase in the carbon footprint of the waste service. Now restrictions have eased, officers have intensified promotional campaigns and engagement.



Council staff and volunteers during a litter pick.

We have begun a review looking at the carbon emissions from the waste processes under the Council control and influence. This will continue and results will be fed into procurements and operational decisions.

The new Household Waste Recycling Facility at Stainton Grove was just completed as we

produced the first CERP. Despite Covid lockdowns, in the past year, the on-site shop has seen 16 tonnes of potential waste re-used rather than recycled/disposed. It also provides a Trade Waste facility so that SMEs and businesses can dispose of their waste locally, enhancing their ability to recycle and reduce transport emissions.



Actions & Partnerships

The Council is part of a consortium of 7 north east councils working towards developing a new Energy Recovery Facility plant on Teesside. *Household Waste Recycling Centre.* The new facility will process residual waste that cannot be recycled to generate electricity and heat. The consortium is also bidding to be part of the emerging carbon capture and storage project based on Teesside, so that carbon emissions can be trapped which would enable the facility to be considered carbon neutral.

County Durham Single Use Plastic Task Group

A collection of local organisations and national agencies working together to reduce the unnecessary use of single use plastics.

North East Procurement Organisation

Delivering a coordinated and collaborative procurement between public sector organisations across the north east. Embedding low carbon and sustainability standards in their work enables savings beyond the County Durham boundary and grants us access to more subject specialists.

National Social Value Task Force

The Council is part of in the steering group of this initiative, founded in 2016 to establish a good practice framework to integrate the Public Services (Social Value Act) 2012 into the UK public sector and business community.

Food Waste

'Food Durham' is a partnership of local organisations working to tackle food waste, food miles, encourage consumption of locally grown produce and food citizenship.

Circular Economy/Waste from mines

The Coal Authority is exploring the circular economy for waste removed from mines, for example ochre could be dried and used for pigments or soil improvement. Treatment of such waste products could be done using reed beds, and an increase in this type of land management could have a positive impact on biodiversity which is a key priority for the authority.

Low emission procurement

The County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust is looking closely at supplier level emissions. 80,000 suppliers supply England's NHS with vital products however small changes could lead to big carbon savings, for example NHS England switched to alternative anaesthetic agents which lead to a carbon saving of 350 t per annum. The Trust aims to investigate supplier level emissions and take this into account when purchasing goods and services.

Protection of natural environment

The Environment Agency has developed a business plan with a focus on environmental incidents. This means that the Agency is working closely with regulated industries in order to promote a circular economy, reduce waste crimes, illegal waste sites and high risk waste fires.

Flood water

Flood waters can remove organic matter and minerals from soils which exacerbate the negative impacts of climate change, therefore Northumbrian Water Ltd and Durham Energy Institute are working together to use a waste from water treatment for soil enrichment.

Asks of government

- The Environment Act now written into UK legislation will enable further development of the waste sector and influence production processes. The Government needs to ensure that the resulting changes are adequately and appropriately funded.
- Announce plans for food waste collections as soon as possible, to enable local authorities to prepare for this significant change.

DRAFT

Land and Sustainable Food Production

Introduction

There are significant interdependencies between climate change, health, food and nature, these four topics are strongly connected together with the land upon which food is produced.

The food and drink we consume inevitably comes with a carbon impact, but this can vary hugely depending on the nature of the food and drink. Examples of the factors include:

1. How it was grown/ reared
2. How it was manufactured
3. How far and how it was transported
4. How it needs to be packaged and stored
5. How it is prepared and served
6. How any leftovers and processing waste are disposed of
7. How the land itself is managed to promote biodiversity and good soil health

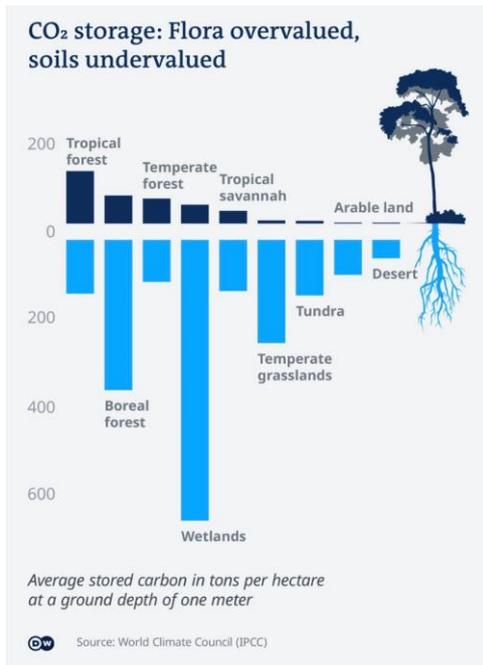
Moving towards a low carbon food system requires the availability of low carbon options, the information being made available to consumers, and consumers being aware of the impacts of their choices, willing to make the choices, and skilled enough to prepare them. It can also be promoted by making more carbon intensive choices less appealing. In addition to carbon there is a real opportunity for reduction in methane emissions and deforestation through advocating for agro-ecological approaches to farming, using a 'less and better' approach not only meat to consumption but also to arable systems too.

As a local authority and Partnership, our role can be one of influencing, enabling and showing leadership in these issues, but it will take change at all levels to succeed in this area, with the aim to increase the production of and access to sustainable food within the County.

There is considerable overlap between a low carbon, sustainable food system and a healthy diet and significant opportunity for working together on projects. A diet high in vegetables and seasonal fruit and low in processed food is likely to be of benefit to both the climate and our health.

We also need to take into account the high dependence on antibiotics and artificial fertilisers that characterise certain types of primary food production that impact upon human health

Soil has an essential role to play in net zero. Soil is a living organism and in healthy conditions it feeds and maintains itself and can store organic and inorganic carbon



too. All terrestrial ecosystems rely on soil condition for their health but 25% of global soils are now degraded and damaged.

Degradation can be from **erosion** (gullies, soil washed away, arid soils blown away as dust, etc) or **chemical** degradation, where nutrient levels are too low for the soil to be productive or **biological** degradation where there are not enough micro-organisms in the soil.

Although there has been a lot of research on soils we don't have accurate data on the carbon storage properties of different soils and how to boost this. Different soils need different treatments which can often be achieved using local waste materials, but this is highly complex. The Parliament's Environmental Audit Committee²⁴ investigated the role of soil in

carbon storage in 2016 and suggested that UK soils store 9.8 billion tonnes of carbon. Carbon storage in all soils can be multiple times that of the above ground vegetation (see graphic above).

Healthy soils are also the fundamental building blocks of the whole of the food chain, both for people and nature. The Environmental Audit Committee recommended that carbon levels in soils should be increased in all soils to ensure agricultural resilience and minimise the effects of climate change. There is widespread agreement on how soil organic matter and thus soils carbon can be increased. Partners across the county must work together to promote farming and land use practices which firstly maintain and then increase soil carbon and soil biodiversity.

Looking at the broader topic of health, we can still find cross cutting examples of mutual benefits. A promotion of walking and cycling for everyday journeys, alongside local food growing or foraging where appropriate, will for example improve people's health, and also lower the amount of carbon released from fossil fuel transport.

Supermarkets must also step up, in terms of their responsibilities with food waste. They must aim to reduce the amount of packaging especially on fruit and veg and focus more on locally sourced produce instead of out of season crops flown in from across the world.

Overall many of the principles of what we want to achieve are embodied in the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration unveiled at COP26 which calls for an integrated and sustainable approach to food production that has less impact on the environment, produces less waste and driving change in the industry including resilient livelihoods for farm and food workers. Considering these synergies, consideration will be given as part of the CERP2 Plan to joining the growing number of local authorities worldwide that have become signatories.

²⁴ <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmenvaud/180/18006.htm>
<https://www.glasgowdeclaration.org/>

Interactions with other themes

Adaptation

Land will be needed for adaptation and resilience measures, which may mean that agricultural land could be taken out of production. Changing weather patterns will impact upon food availability and this we may need to change diets to cope with limited or changes in supply.

Transport

Higher transport costs will lead to increases in food prices

Natural Environment

There needs to be sensitive management of habitats to promote biodiversity and good soil health, with protected wildlife corridors through agricultural areas.

Business and Skills

Further support for our food production businesses to become more sustainable, and helping train and skills future generations.

Fair and Just Transition

There is a need to make sure all people in society have access to healthy and local food when prices for some foodstuffs increase as a result of weather related impacts.

Nature Based

There needs to be an integrated approach with land being used sustainably, for growing food, for biodiversity benefit aiding nature recovery and storing more carbon.

Durham County Council – Leading by Example

The Council is a big promoter of local food producers, as can be seen by the support given to both Bishop Auckland and Seaham Food Festivals. The quality and diversity of the County's food and drink offer is truly outstanding.

Through partnerships with the AONB we are continuing to work with farmers encouraging more sustainable production techniques.

The Council has a Sustainable Healthy Food Policy and engagement in the national Veg Cities Campaign, (coordinated locally by Food Durham) which encouraged more vegetable based meal provision. In addition, the Sugar Smart campaign encouraged provision of tap water and reduction of the sugary products available. These initiatives have a positive impact on carbon emissions as well as other cross-cutting benefits, highlighted in the Sustainable Food Places '[Food for the Planet](#)' campaign.

Low carbon catering at Durham COP

For the Durham COP held on the 1st November 2021 the organisers worked closely with the venue (Beamish Hall Hotel) to provide low carbon lunch options for delegates. This led to a vegan offer that was very tasty, healthy in the main and which lowered the carbon footprint of the food. In addition, the food that was left was distributed to delegates to take home after the event.

Supporting local small food businesses

There's a range of support available for small businesses not only in terms of their operational emissions (see Business chapter) but also through the Council Sustainable Procurement Policy, along with specific initiatives such as the [Discover Durham CIC](#) and other small ventures that are championing locally produced food.

Actions & Partnerships

Food Durham

The Council is a key partner in Food Durham, The County Durham Food Partnership which brings together partners to develop action across the whole food system, focusing on the key themes of Food, Climate & Nature; Food Fairness & Citizenship; Food, Health and Wellbeing and Food Economy & Production.

The council has contributed to the development of Food Durham's county-wide Local Sustainable Food Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2020, which led to the achievement of a Bronze Sustainable Food Places Award for the county, and the revised (Draft) Sustainable Local Food Strategy 2021-2025. There are a number of actions the council will deliver to support Food Durham in its work towards a silver award.

Key actions delivered by DCC in partnership with Food Durham during 2020-21 have included:

- Establishment of Healthy Start Working group to promote use of Healthy Start Vouchers to be spent on veg and fruit and production of promotional materials featuring veg market stalls
- Work towards signing the Glasgow Declaration on Food and Climate change
- Support for local sustainable food businesses e.g. Discovering Durham
- Feasibility work to establish opportunities for minewater heated horticulture at Horden
- Support for food surplus redistribution through the Poverty Action Plan and engagement with charity partners
- Continued support for home composting
- Involvement of Climate Champions in DCC garden competitions
- Exploration of opportunities for developing a growing strategy for the county
- Inclusion of fruit trees where appropriate in trees for children project

Key actions delivered by other Food Durham Partners include:

- Establishment of Community Good Food Network to engage community food providers in food system issues e.g, food waste, climate change,
- Establishment of the North East Sustainable Food Alliance, working across the region with Food Newcastle and Middlesbrough Food Partnership to explore and embed clearer sustainability principles within North East Food Businesses
- Regular Food Durham newsletters highlighting climate-focused food projects

The Council is a signatory to the [County Durham Food Charter](#), which is a statement of how organisations and individuals will work together to develop and promote a more sustainable, health local food system by supporting; a local food economy, environmental sustainability, health and wellbeing, resilient communities, education, and food fairness.

Food Policy and Procurement

Food Durham will work in partnership with the Council and others to develop the programme further in the next 2 years and will also look to revise and use the DCC sustainable healthy food policy with reference to the procurement policy. Food Durham will also revisit the sustainable procurement policy to strengthen and consider rolling it out to the wider community e.g. through AAPs, Fun with Food initiatives and links to social value opportunities.

Food Waste Collection

There are a number of local waste companies that provide food waste collection services to businesses.' In addition, the Council Primary School Meals contract includes requirements on the supplier to measure, monitor and take steps to reduce the carbon impacts within their control and also ensure that food waste is diverted from landfill with preference given to anaerobic digestion or composting.

Food Waste Prevention

DCC engages in and promotes various food waste prevention campaigns such as Love Food Hate Waste/ Feeding the 1,000/ Food Waste Champions, providing advice to residents to help reduce the amount of food wasted, the impact on the environment and save money at the same time.

DCC provides community roadshow events on food waste prevention to schools and community groups to educate and encourage young people and adults to reduce their food waste, make the most of the food they buy, use up leftovers and help protect the environment while also saving money.

Promotion of community fridge schemes across County Durham. Community Fridges installed at the following locations at Shildon Alive, Alt Group in Consett and the REfUSE Café, Chester le Street. We also support local businesses such as Refuse CIC through a 100% local discretionary business rate relief in line with our local policy due to the nature of the business and the community interest.

Grow your Own

DCC promotes Grow your Own initiatives, support a network of Master Composters and offer educational talks on home composting to schools and community groups. We also offer discounted home [composting units](#) to residents.

DCC engage with various Government and independently funded projects such as the Zero Waste Kitchen Challenge, Food Saver Champions and the Sainsbury's Waste Less Save More Project where we fed the 1,000, supported and promoted independent food distribution projects across County Durham and offered competitions.

Local Food

Visit County Durham, the destination management partnership for the county, has committed to a Taste Durham Strategy. This will champion and promote local food products, local culinary experiences, and local food culture through leadership, community engagement, sustainability, education and marketing.

Asks of Government

- Better promote the NHS's eatwell guide²⁵ which, would also result in a lower carbon diet for the average British person.
- Ensure the Environment Act delivers on better land use, soil health and opportunities for low carbon local food production.
- Improve mapping of best and most versatile agricultural land and soil quality. Specifically, make distinctions between Grade 3a and Grade 3b land.
- Stipulate that the public sector buys from high quality, high welfare British farmers for schools, hospitals and other public sector organisations through appropriate procurement regulation and strategies
- Strengthen planning guidance to support low carbon and sustainable food production
- We need Government to highlight the importance of soil health for carbon storage and to develop accurate guidance for local authorities and their partners

²⁵ <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/the-eatwell-guide/>

Natural Environment

Introduction

Climate change and biodiversity loss are inextricably linked, and it is recognised that both issues need to be addressed in an integrated way. Urgent actions are needed as Britain is now one of the most nature depleted countries in Europe.²⁶ Cabinet on 6th April 2022 have declared an ecological emergency in response to this issue.

Climate change threatens the survival of County Durham's unique habitats and will alter the distribution and types of species we see. For example, high altitude plants, such as Teesdale's unique arctic and alpine flora, have adapted to low temperatures and are likely to decline in response to rising temperatures.



Upper Teesdale in the North Pennines AONB is the only place in Britain where you'll find the blue (or spring) gentian Credit: Martin Rogers Photography

As temperatures increase, we also see changes in our insect and bird populations as their food supply and migration pattern changes. Warmer winters also reduce the hibernation periods for mammals which impacts on their survival and breeding rates. Furthermore, climate change is likely to increase invasive species, introduce new pests and diseases to our natural environment and increase the risk of damage to our habitats from storms, drought and wildfires.

Whilst significantly threatened by climate change, nature within County Durham is a vital part of the solution to it. Our county is fortunate to host a diverse range of ecosystems, from peatlands to the coast, which when healthy, can store significant amounts of carbon in soils, sediments and vegetation. In addition, our natural environment can help us to adapt to the impacts of climate change by protecting communities from flooding and helping to cool environments.

²⁶ Source: <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/news/2020/september/uk-has-led-the-world-in-destroying-the-natural-environment.html>

By protecting, restoring and sensitively managing County Durham's natural and semi-natural habitats we will store more carbon, help the county to adapt to the impacts of climate change, aid nature recovery and deliver wider co-benefits for the natural environment and our own health and wellbeing.

Interactions with other themes

Business and Skills

Nature-based solutions to climate change will help to support and diversify rural, conservation and land-based businesses, create jobs and develop skills. For example, opportunities exist to increase local supplies of trees and plants to meet woodland planting and peatland restoration ambitions. Businesses will be able to offset their carbon emissions through the purchasing of carbon credits, linked to woodland creation and peatland restoration schemes in County Durham.

Food and Land

The Government's Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme is due to be fully rolled out by the end of 2024 and will reward environmental management. ELM should increase nature recovery and woodland creation efforts across farms and estates within County Durham. Careful management of the scheme will be needed to ensure compatibility with local food production aims.

Adaptation

The recovery and creation of new habitats can provide a range of important benefits to this theme. For example, the creation of new woodland, in the right place, can provide shade, shelter and natural flood management.

Engagement and Education

Activities such as community tree planting projects, provide a 'hands on', opportunity to engage with schools and communities on climate change and the solutions to it. Active engagement and education are also needed where different practices and approaches to land management are being implemented in order to gain public support.

Nature Based

Delivering nature-based solutions to climate change appropriately across County Durham will aid nature recovery.

Fair and Just Transition

Providing green spaces close to homes allows all residents to experience nature, improving health and wellbeing, and enabling inclusivity between communities who share such spaces.

Durham County Council - Leading by Example

The Council is leading by example by:

- Actively pursuing tree planting opportunities on its own land and with others;
- Developing a woodland creation carbon market which will help to support local, tree planting projects across County Durham;

- Adopting a less intensive approach to the management of its land and ensuring its woodlands are managed in a way which enhances their ability to capture carbon;
- Increasing the rate of peatland restoration through support for the North Pennines AONB Partnership;
- Supporting the Durham Heritage Coast Partnership with blue carbon projects
- Developing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy with non-departmental public bodies and partners from the charitable and private sectors.
- Developing an Ecological Emergency Action Plan
- Policy 41 of the County Durham Plan seeks to ensure that Proposals for new development minimise impacts on biodiversity by retaining and enhancing existing biodiversity and providing biodiversity net gains, including establishing coherent ecological networks

The council, with its partners manages several woodland creation projects. Since the approval of the Climate Emergency Response Plan, over 61 hectares of land has been planted with trees. 26 hectares of which, was Council owned land. In addition, 1,938 large standard roadside trees have been planted through the Urban Tree Challenge Fund. The woodland and roadside trees planted will help to offset an estimated 897 tonnes of carbon by 2050.

The council is also working with Forest Carbon to generate carbon credits from woodland creation on Council-owned land. An initial 5-year agreement will provide a range of services including registration and validation with the Woodland Carbon Code, verification and sale of carbon credits. Income from the sale of carbon credits can then be reinvested to help manage the council's expanding woodland portfolio. Please see Forest Carbon²⁷ for further information.

The council is responsible for the management of 1800 hectares of its own woodland estate which has Forestry Commission approved management plans. A five-year programme of active management will commence in January 2022 to improve their condition. Management, such as removing invasive plant species, improves woodlands, making them healthier and more resilient to climate change whilst enhancing carbon storage.

In addition to woodlands, the council also manages 3,000 hectares of diverse council owned land, comprised of parks, school grounds, amenity open space, roadside verges, cemeteries, closed churchyards etc. To date, 17 suitable sites have been subject to a less intensive approach to management, helping to reduce carbon emissions and benefit wildlife. Traditionally, such sites required cutting 14 times a year and this has been reduced to one cut and collect.

Over the last few years, 40 hectares of council owned land has either been placed under positive management for wildlife or sown with wildflower seeds as part of a nature-based approach to management. This benefits biodiversity and reduces carbon associated with mowing, whilst also providing an attractive, visual impact for residents and visitors to the county. The performance of the current sites and seed

²⁷ <https://www.forestcarbon.co.uk/>

mixes will be monitored and further sites will be brought into nature-based management as the project expands.



Wildflowers at Bishop Auckland Town Park

Use of fungicides and pesticides across the council's estate have also been greatly reduced. Usage is very minimal and reserved for the management of fine sport turf facilities such as bowling greens only. Whilst subject to trial, the council is also using recycled soil conditioner (produced by the council's green waste scheme) and buying in peat free composts for its central plant nursery.

The council provided additional support to the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership over the CERP1 period (2020/22), which helped to increase the rate of peatland restoration over and above programmed activity, enabling the restoration of a further 52 hectares of peatland over 4 sites in County Durham.

The Council have also been actively supporting the Durham Heritage Coast Partnership and Seascapes Partnership with two separate blue carbon projects²⁸ involving the restoration of kelp and oysters.

Furthermore, the council is likely to be the Responsible Authority for the production of County Durham's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), supported by a wide

²⁸ Blue carbon refers to carbon that is stored in marine ecosystems. These ecosystems sequester and store around 2% of UK emissions per year and also provide other benefits such as biodiversity, flood protection and support for valuable fish and shellfish populations. [UK Parliament Post - Blue Carbon \(Sep 2021\)](#)

range of local and national conservation organisations. LNRS are a new, England-wide system of spatial strategies that will establish biodiversity priorities and map opportunities for nature recovery across the landscape, in both urban and rural areas. They will also provide wider environmental benefits including tackling climate change. The Council is also seeking to develop an Ecological Emergency Action Plan by Autumn 2022.

Overall, the council is responsible for approximately 2.7% of County Durham's land of which only a fraction will be available to deliver nature-based solutions to tackle climate change.²⁹ If we need to capture 5% of County Durham's emissions each year to 2024 to become a carbon neutral county by 2045, and support adaptation to climate change, it will be vital to work with other partners, landowners and the wider community to deliver nature-based solutions.

Actions & Partnerships

In order to ensure that nature-based solutions address climate change and biodiversity loss in an integrated it will be necessary to work together to:

- **Protect and restore our peatland.** Healthy peatlands store and sequester huge amounts of carbon - they are our largest natural carbon store – but damaged peatlands are carbon emitters on a grand scale. We need to restore all our remaining degraded peatlands and ensure their positive management;
- **Create new native, broadleaved woodlands**, increasing County Durham's woodland cover, whilst ensuring that trees are grown in the right place;
- **Protect and restore our coastal and marine habitats** in order to optimise the storage of carbon, improve water quality and minimise the impacts of climate change to our coastal communities;
- **Protect our existing semi-natural habitats**, recognising that due to intensive management, these are rare, contain native species not found elsewhere and many of these habitats also store appreciable amounts of carbon;
- **Target nature-based solutions** to places where they can have the most benefit. Recognising that different approaches will work better in different parts of the county and it is important to maximise synergies if we are to meet our targets on climate change, whilst restoring biodiversity and meeting the needs of our communities;
- **Contribute towards research** and filling gaps in knowledge on the role that habitats play in climate change mitigation; and
- **Plan** mitigation and adaptation to climate change together.

There are a number of key challenges we will need to overcome if we are to successfully deliver the above, namely:

- There is no current, clear picture on the state of County Durham's natural environment to align nature recovery and climate change mitigation and adaptation priorities. The production of a LNRS will help in part but will take time to complete.

²⁹ The Council own 5,921 hectares of land which is 2.65% of County Durham's total land area of 223,260 hectares.

- Offsetting 5% of County Durham’s emissions each year to 2025 through nature-based solutions will be a huge challenge and is highly dependent on the availability and suitability of land along with the co-operation of landowners.
- Lack of evidence on the carbon sequestration values of some habitats makes it difficult to prioritise actions.
- Less intensive approach to the management of land may meet public opposition e.g. reduced mowing of amenity grassland.

The following information provides further detail on some of the wider partnership work that is taking place across the county to address climate change through nature-based solutions.

Peatland Restoration

The North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership team works with landowners and others to bring about nature recovery and engage people with nature and heritage. The AONB Partnership’s peat team has been working to conserve and restore the 90,000 hectares of peatland in the North Pennines area³⁰

County Durham’s 32,000 hectares of peatland is the most damaged within the entirety of the North Pennines AONB, due to several contributing factors, including natural topography and climate.

However, the peat team has successfully led the restoration of 16,000 hectares of County Durham’s blanket bog, predominantly through grip blocking, reinstating natural drainage patterns and the restoration of bare/eroding peat. In addition to benefits to biodiversity etc, the restoration of County Durham’s peatlands has avoided 192,000 tonnes of carbon being emitted into the atmosphere each year. This is the equivalent to removing approximately 2,800 cars from the UK’s roads each year, or the annual emissions from around 400,000 UK homes. Restored peatlands begin to sequester carbon around 5 years after restoration.

³⁰ [North Pennines Peatland Programme](#)



Bare peat restoration showing coir rolls and stone dams: © North Pennines AONB Partnership

It is estimated that around 4,000 hectares remains to be restored in County Durham of which, the majority is bare, eroding peat, requiring revegetation works to be undertaken. Over the CERP2 period, the potential restoration of 1,162ha could avoid 23,240 tonnes of carbon from being emitted from County Durham's peatlands each year.

In addition, the AONB Partnership is actively working to develop new Peatland Code restoration sites across County Durham, Cumbria and Northumberland and is also one of the founding partners of the Great North Bog coalition. The Great North Bog is an ambitious, landscape-scale peatland restoration initiative which aims to restore all of the remaining degraded peatland in the North of England over the next 20 years, through collaboration on funding, training, restoration and engagement to make a step change to current rates of restoration.³¹ The project is receiving international attention

Woodland Creation

The Durham Woodland Creation programme was established by the Council in August 2020. The programme aims to plant 10,000 trees in each of the 14 Area Action Partnerships (AAP's), whilst ensuring that one tree for every school child in the county is planted. The Trees for Children element is being delivered in partnership with County Durham's Outdoor And Sustainability Education Specialists (OASES) who will work with at least 70 schools. To date, a portfolio of sites, over 33 hectares has been approved for planting in winter, 2021/22.

The Durham Woodland Revival project aims to plant more than 80ha of new woodland, an area the size of the Historic Durham City centre, whilst providing skills

³¹ [Great North Bog project](#)

to help community groups manage local woodlands.³² 26.9 hectares of land has been planted to date along with 920 metres of hedgerows.

The Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCf) has supported the planting and maintenance of 1,139 large trees and 11,229 whips across County Durham's towns and villages to date. A further application has been submitted to the fund to plant 799 large trees over winter 2021/22 and 2022/23.

Tree Week grants which are awarded to small community and landowner tree planting projects enabled the planting of 2,191 trees across County Durham during 2021.



New tree planting opportunities include:

- The North Pennines A68 Corridor project - joint scheme between the Council, the North Pennines AONB Partnership, the Woodland Trust and the Forestry Commission. The area to the west of the A68 is identified as having the potential for large scale woodland creation.
- North East Community Forest - The Council has joined other North East local authorities³³ to plant tens of thousands of trees each year across the region, by 2050, creating England's latest community forest. The Council are hoping to plant a further 180 hectares of new woodland over 4 years as part of this programme.
- Through its Tees Swale programme, the North Pennines AONB Partnership is aiming to expand woodland and scrub cover in Teesdale, with a target of 200,000 trees by 2025. The AONB team is also seeking resources to facilitate its ambition to double woodland cover in the area over the current decade.

Hedgerows also contribute to carbon sequestration and storage in addition to supporting important aspects of biodiversity and providing shelter for livestock. Over winter 2020/21, 0.7km of new hedge was planted and 1.8km managed through traditional hedge laying techniques by the Durham Hedgerow Partnership.³⁴

Blue Carbon

The Durham Heritage Coast Partnership and Tyne to Tees, Shores and Seas Partnership (Seascapes) have been working to sequester carbon through marine habitat restoration involving two habitat types:

- Oyster and other bivalves and associated habitat – working with the Wild Oyster Project
- Kelp – working with Newcastle University

³² <http://www.woodlandrevivalproject.info/>

³³ Newcastle, South Tyneside, North Tyneside, Gateshead, and Sunderland

³⁴ <https://www.durham.gov.uk/haw>

Oysters provide key ecosystem services including improving water quality by increasing water clarity, removing excessive nutrients and storing carbon in their shells. The Wild Oysters project has created three rehabilitation hubs in the UK to secure the recovery of native oysters and the services they provide, including Sunderland and Blyth. Seaham was shortlisted but had insufficient depth below the installed pontoons.

Habitat restoration is the next step, introducing shells and gravels (cultch) onto the seabed, which will act as a home for juvenile oysters when they settle. Work to identify suitable sites is ongoing with a long list being produced. Crown Estate have identified considerable opportunity available off the Durham Coast as well as more widely in North East coastal waters.

Kelp are marine algae (seaweeds) that form underwater forests around the coast. Studies of kelp productivity suggest a potential carbon burial by UK kelp forests of $147\text{tCO}_2\text{e/km}^2\text{/year}$. Given the importance of light for the maintenance of healthy kelp populations, the long-history of coal mining and depositing of spoil waste on the coast has meant that kelp forests have reduced or disappeared in affected areas. The environmental conditions are now suitable for kelp populations to return.

The Partnerships are working with Newcastle University to test a range of restoration methods focusing on:

- translocation of adult kelp from adjacent healthy populations; and
- culturing of kelp in the laboratory for transplanting onto restoration sites

Once the most successful restoration techniques are determined, onsite testing will take place at suitable locations along the Durham Heritage Coast, with a view to creating healthy populations.



Kelp restoration trial in action Credit: Harry Catherall, Newcastle University

Funding has also been made available to assess sea grass and saltmarsh habitat restoration opportunities on inshore waters between the Rivers Tyne and Tees. It is anticipated that a complete blue carbon assessment of the sediments and habitats within our local coastal area will be established in 2022. This will build upon the recent research report which assessed the carbon capture and storage potential within the English North Sea. This report found that carbon stocks in the top 10cm of English North Sea, seabed sediment amount to nearly 20% of that held in UK forests and woodlands.³⁵

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

An Ecological Emergency Board has been set up within the County Durham Partnership with the sole purpose of producing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). The Board is currently taking the lessons learnt from the Northumberland and Cumbrian Pilots and collating the data required to support the production of County Durham's LNRS.

Asks of Government

- Increase funding via the Nature for Climate Fund or other mechanism, to enable conservation organisations and landowners to increase the pace and scale of delivery of nature-based solutions to tackling climate change.

³⁵ Burrows, M.T., Moore, P., Sugden, H., Fitzsimmons, C., Smeaton, C., Austin, W., Parker, R., Kröger, S., Powell, C., Gregory, L., Procter, W., Brook, T. (2021) Assessment of Carbon Capture and Storage in Natural Systems within the English North Sea (Including within Marine Protected Areas) A North Sea Wildlife Trusts, Blue Marine Foundation, WWF and RSPB commissioned report.

- In the event that statutory tree targets are introduced, provide additional localised support/guidance to the Council to ensure that the right trees are planted in the right place in the county and progress can be monitored effectively.
- Provide greater clarity on how Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) emissions are calculated.
- Undertake further work to close the evidence gaps on the contribution of habitats to net zero.
- Provide tools which help decision makers understand the dependencies and trade-offs within County Durham's land-use system, along with the knock-on effects of proposals.

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Adaptation

Introduction

Adapting or being more resilient in a changing climate is vital if society, the environment and the economy are going to continue to thrive.

It is accepted that extreme weather, which are becoming more regular through climate change, impacts directly and indirectly on people in the UK and across the globe. In the past two years the world has seen a significant increase in dramatic and devastating weather events; floods, forest fires, heat waves, storms, droughts, and other extremes. Heat records have been broken many times over in every continent, and many lives have already been lost.

In July 2021 Germany and surrounding countries suffered devastating flash floods which killed dozens of people and destroyed villages. It prompted the German Environment Minister to say, "Climate Change has arrived in Germany". Twice in the same month, parts of London were struck with unusually high flash floods as extreme rainfall overwhelmed the drainage system and inundated roads and underground rail stations.

Later in July 2021, the Met Office issued its first ever extreme heat warning³⁶ for the UK. During that same heatwave, while Leicestershire was suffering in 30°C heat, parts of the county were struck with golf ball sized hailstones and flash flooding³⁷.

A major incident was also declared following Storm Arwen in November 2021 which caused damage to the electricity network on a scale not seen for 15 years, leaving many homes in County Durham without power for days

These events are not standalone and are expected to get worse and more frequent in the coming years. County Durham may not have suffered the loss of life seen elsewhere, however this should not lead to complacency. County Durham must now adapt to a new future of extreme weather.

This chapter explores how the county is planning to adapt to a changing climate in County Durham and the infrastructure that will be required to support it. It includes information on how we will protect our county



³⁶ <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/press-office/news/weather-and-climate/2021/extreme-heat-warning-issued-for-western-areas>

³⁷ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-57909700>

from the threat of weather events such as floods and heatwaves, and improve the resilience of our food, water, and electricity supplies. As a reminder, these are some of the risks associated with more extremes of weather:

- Higher risk of transport disruption
- Higher risk of summer excess deaths
- Increase in insurance costs
- Increased incidence of flooding
- Increase in air conditioning costs for overheating homes and offices
- Higher risk of skin cancer from UV radiation
- Loss of native land and animal species
- Sea level rise
- Increase in ticks, mosquitos, exotic species and pathogens
- Increased risk of grassland and forest fires
- Higher cost of road maintenance
- Soil subsidence
- Challenges to agriculture and food production
- Worsening air quality
- Increased anxiety
- Increased pressure on the NHS
- Impact upon archaeological and heritage assets from managed retreat

A changing climate has profound implications for human health, including those issues listed above. No continent, country or community is immune from the health impacts of climate change. A 2020 Marmot Report highlighted that climate change is already damaging the health of populations in the UK. It can widen existing inequalities and lead to more unpredictable shocks like the Covid-19 pandemic³⁸.

According to the World Health Organisation, climate change is expected to cause 250,000 additional deaths per year³⁹. The highest risk are the globe's poorest populations, who have contributed the least to the problem of greenhouse gas emissions. In County Durham, the elderly, children and young people, those with underlying health conditions and those who are less able to modify their homes are likely to be amongst the most vulnerable to climate change.

Interactions with other themes

Natural environment

Climate change will have a significant impact upon the natural environment and how we adapt can also impact both positively and negatively. The introduction of saltmarshes along the coast, new reefs, tree planting and peatland restoration will all have significant positive impacts on the natural environment and will help us to be more resilient to extreme rainfall events.

Food and land

Extremes of weather have hugely significant impacts upon our agricultural sector. Where land is needed for attenuation, this can also impact on the agricultural sector.

Climate extremes will impact on both urban and rural areas. It is likely however that rural areas will have to be at the forefront of projects that help to tackle weather extremes. The release of land for flood mitigation for example will impact upon farmers in order to reduce impact for those living in urban areas.

³⁸ The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change:2020 Report

³⁹ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health>

New Development

Changes in the climate in County Durham will affect decisions made around new developments. Specifications for drainage, insulation, and settlement locations must consider the increased risks of floods, extreme temperatures and other climate hazards as described in this chapter.

Fair and Just Transition

Adaptation to the effects of climate change will be easier for the more well-off in society. We will support everyone to ensure that no-one is left unsheltered from the climate crisis, or unable to access the resources they need to live long and healthy lives in County Durham.

Nature Based

A lot of adaptation work can be achieved alongside works to improve biodiversity and restore our natural environment, such as tree planting to mitigate floods.

Durham County Council – Leading by example

DCC is installing 3MW of Solar and 2MW of battery storage at the Council depot in Annfield Plain to assist with energy resilience.

Hybrid working is allowing staff to work from home, thus avoiding commuting at times of extreme weather and reducing carbon emissions from vehicles.

The County Durham Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Water Cycle Study, Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Surface Water Management Plan have been produced to inform decision making for development and manage flooding as a result of heavy rainfall. The Drainage and Coastal Protection Team have developed a Sustainable Drainage System Adoption Guide and worked in partnership with other regional bodies to develop the updated Shoreline Management Plan, which identifies the risks associated with coastal evolution and presents a policy framework to address these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner.

The Emergency Planning team issue heatwave warnings on the Council's website with steps that can be taken to ensure that personal health and wellbeing and that of others, can be protected during such events.

Joint Health and Well Being Strategy

The Health and Wellbeing Board's current Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2025 is the overarching health and wellbeing place-based plan for County Durham. It recognises that climate change is a fundamental threat to health and wellbeing and has the potential to widen inequalities further. Actions to combat climate change, which benefit all, can improve health and aid recovery from the pandemic, in addition to preserving the planet.

It is recognised by the World Health Organisation that climate change affects many of the social and environmental determinants of health. The impact of clean air, reducing emissions of greenhouse gases through better transport, food and energy use can result in improved physical and mental health amongst the population. The

UK Government in the 25 Year Environment Plan (2018) listed 'connecting people to the environment to improve health and wellbeing' as one of six key actions required for success. To achieve this, the partnership is working closely with the Environment and Climate Change Partnership to:

- Improve people's health and wellbeing including using green spaces and through mental health services
- Encourage children to be close to nature, in and out of school
- 'Green' our towns and cities by creating a green infrastructure
- Increase levels of active travel
- Improve access to nature and green spaces
- Tackle fuel poverty and cold home related health problems
- Encourage healthier diets
- Reduce pollution

Impact of the County Durham Plan

The County Durham Plan can make a major contribution to mitigating and adapting to climate change by shaping new and existing developments in ways that reduce carbon emissions and positively build community resilience to problems such as extreme heat or flood risk. It can do this by ensuring that new development is located to reduce the need to travel and support the fullest possible use of sustainable transport. It should be designed in a way that limits carbon dioxide emissions, uses decentralised and renewable or low carbon energy and minimises vulnerability to future climate impacts. Objective 16 of the County Durham Plan highlights the importance of adaptation to Climate Change.

The plan seeks to ensure that all new development can adapt to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather conditions by promoting appropriate sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDs) in new developments, promoting sustainable land management and conservation including protecting habitats such as woodland and peatland, ensuring that new development is located away from areas of flood risk, with an integrated approach to water management across all areas and encouraging appropriate building and infrastructure design and through the restoration of minerals and waste sites.

Our water management policies ensure that all development proposals consider the effect of the proposed development on flood risk, both on-site and off-site, commensurate with the scale and impact of the development and taking into account the predicted impacts of climate change for the lifetime of the proposal.

Our environmental policies require that appropriate Green Infrastructure (GI) is integrated into the wider network, so that it maintains and improves biodiversity and landscape character, increases opportunities for healthy living and contributes to healthy ecosystems and climate change objectives.

Our design policies seek to ensure that new developments incorporate design solutions for buildings and spaces that optimise solar gain (without increasing the risk of overheating) and adapt to climate change impacts. This may include, for example, green/brown roofs and walls, green infrastructure planting and solar shading. The retention of established planting and trees in particular can visually enhance a

development, as can ensuring an appropriate relationship with the wider landscape, both visually and in terms of activity and through the creation of habitat for wildlife.

Actions & Partnerships

Community Resilience

The Council's Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU) works closely with communities across County Durham to help them become more prepared for emergencies such as those exacerbated by climate change e.g. flooding, high winds, heavy snow. Communities are encouraged to create a community emergency plan which can help to warn neighbours about what is happening, identify any important resources communities have nearby and how to use them and help identify any vulnerable people who may need assistance. Having these plans in place can really help reduce the effects of an emergency on a community as it allows them to be proactive themselves before the emergency services arrive to help.

A fantastic example of this is Lanchester. The village community has an emergency plan which has been put into action several times over recent years. It outlines where vital flood equipment such as aqua sacs and wheelbarrows are stored, as well as highlighting places of safety in the village and if any vulnerable residents need help evacuating. It is a massive aid to the people of Lanchester and reduces the impacts from flooding in the village by making sure homes and businesses are prepared for when the worst happens.

Other community resilience work includes the Community Safety Award. This is an award scheme offered to uniformed youth organisations across the county that aims to educate young people in how they can help themselves, family members and their communities to prepare, respond to and recover from emergencies. The scheme has engaged with over 200 young people so far and it is hoped to roll it out further in the coming months. We have also done a lot of engagement work with Y5/6 children in primary schools across County Durham to educate them at a young age to be aware of emergencies and how they can help themselves and their families if they are caught up in one.

The CCU work closely alongside partner organisations and attend and play an active role at the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Community Resilience Group which is a working group that aims to promote and carry out community resilience objectives across County Durham and Darlington. We also work very closely with the Environment Agency's Community Engagement Officer and ensure that communities specifically at risk of flooding within the county are engaged with and encouraged to create an emergency plan or sign up to become a flood warden.

Flood Defence Works

The Council and partners have been working together to implement flood defence works in a range of areas. These include both surface water alleviation and river flooding schemes. £2.5m has been spent from flood defence grants on both studies and practical alleviation works. Some are detailed below.

Drainage Improvements at Ludworth

During periods of heavy rainfall, the road linking Shadforth to the neighbouring village of Ludworth is frequently submerged in floodwater, making it difficult for residents

and their visitors to enter and leave. To address this, we have carried out significant drainage improvements and introduced a new flood defence scheme. The work has included opening up a 60-meter culverted watercourse beneath the highway verge and creating a large basin capable of containing more than 500,000 litres of floodwater during extreme rainfall. This required moving 900 tonnes of earth. The area was then landscaped, and new planting introduced to create an attractive focal point for people entering the village from the east. Wetland habitats have also been created to enhance the local ecology.

De-Culverting of the Cong Burn (Chester-le-Street).

In June 2012, more than 100 homes and businesses at the northern end of the town were affected by flooding and Chester Burn was the main cause. The Council completed the flood prevention work with Northumbrian Water and the Environment Agency at the eastern and western sections of the Burn, but needed to do further work to reduce flood risks in the longer term.

We have worked with the Environment Agency to model what effects potential work will have to prevent flooding. The results show that the work we are doing will reduce the risk of flooding from a 'one in 100' year storm.



The results show that the work we are doing will reduce the risk of flooding from a 'one in 100' year storm.

Actions included:

- The opening up of a 90m stretch of the Burn to create an open channel running from the road at South Burns down to the Red Carpet area
- Landscaping the opened area to include new footpaths and seating, providing a haven for wildlife and storage for flood water during severe storms
- Extending the flood wall to the west of the viaduct
- Relocating the sewer at Cone Terrace to increase channel's capacity

The scheme cost £6.2 million and is funded by the Council, the Environment Agency, and the European Regional Development Fund.

Pine and Poplar Streets Environmental Improvements

Rain Gardens were installed in front of Pine Street as part of the project with three beds placed along the terrace. They contain a mix of water loving, hardy shrubs and perennials. The gaps between the curbs allow water to infiltrate and slowly leak into the drainage system. Raised block paving and pavements are designed to allow the water to filter into the rain gardens. The success of Pine Street with regard to Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) led to a partnership project to continue the work moving onto Poplar Street. Trees with attenuation basins were inserted into the streetscape and have monitoring devices installed to measure the amount of water in the cavity.



Catchment Partnerships

The Catchment Partnerships review the resilience of our river catchments (Tyne, Wear and Tees) as a whole and work with a number of stakeholders, across administrative boundaries, to develop joint projects where specific issues occur. This includes the Environment Agency, Northumbrian Water, Local Lead Flood Authorities (DCC), landowners, Wildlife Trusts, developers and universities.

Heritage Assets

The Council will carry out climate risk assessments for heritage sites in DCC ownership and set up appropriate mitigation/management plans and will work with partnerships, including the World Heritage site in Durham City to produce a Climate Change Action plans, which takes account of the sensitivities of the site, whilst also reducing its contribution to emissions.

Asks of Government

- At home adaptation and resilience must be built into our towns and cities, with more green spaces to provide cooling during the summer months and flood preparedness. This will require funding, infrastructure improvements and expertise. The Environment Agency must be supported to provide this level of investment and expertise.
- More broadly, climate change will cause large groups of people all over the world to be displaced as their current homes are made uninhabitable. The UK must continue to provide aid to these countries to assist with resilience measures but we must also welcome refugees fleeing devastated areas as the human race adapts to live on a changed planet.

Engagement, Education, and Behavioural Change

Introduction

A pivotal task in reaching the council and countywide carbon neutral goals is communicating, engaging and providing the knowledge, skills and appropriate support to staff, stakeholders, partners and the wider public that will influence behavioural change, action and environmentally ethical practices.

There is a critical need to explain, in clear and brief terms what climate change is, what it means and what we can do about it, translating what this means to everyone locally, and creating emotionally intelligent communications.

This can be achieved and supported by creating a focused, meaningful, and measured communications and engagement approach, making sure that the global and local impacts of climate change along with the benefits of adaptation are understood, accepted, and adopted with actions.

Key outcomes and deliveries from CERP 1

One of the Council's highest priorities now is to find the best ways to engage and work together with our community and partners to meet the county wide net zero targets. It was recognised that the many people need to see more information around climate change impacts and what we can do reduce our carbon footprints.

A set of engagement tools have been developed as part of the initial activity. We were proud to launch the new community focused website specifically created to address a lack of information for residents, businesses, children and young people, and community groups. It looks at what these groups can do, has a pledge to sign and will have various case studies from the community.

The council corporate website and the partnership website are being refreshed so that information is easily digested and engages the reader. We are also creating links with the council data-driven website, Durham Insight, the SME focused BEEP website, the County Durham Parentship website and council intranet. This is all work in progress and will continue to be developed during the CERP 2 period, ensuring that key information targets audiences across the county and broader.

Branding has also been developed to bring focus and awareness, supporting our aim to create a visible, easily recognisable message, that will be used on all climate, sustainability and environment related projects (please see final page). This includes, for example, the branding of the new DCC electric refuse collection vehicle (eRCV), electric vehicles and pool cars and we will continue to develop this work throughout CERP 2.

To help raise awareness of the work currently being done we have had regular PR and communications throughout corporate and other channels to bring further focus on the task ahead and the work currently being done. Several videos have been completed that have marked work done throughout CERP1 which have proven to be

a crucial way of engaging wider audience and telling our story. An example is the recent video which you can watch [here](#).

The future picture

It is crucial that we keep on building and growing relationships and communications now that the foundations have been set up. The following tasks have therefore been identified:

- Climate Change Communications and Engagement Strategy to support aligned messaging and cohesive approach
- Corporate climate change training to be rolled out to all staff and continue for all new starters
- Climate change communications and engagement campaign which will target internal and external audiences
- Community engagement - presence and support in key events
- Community and staff workshops quarterly or twice a year
- Continue to build on PR and social media activity
- Use more video as these are new times and engage allow to summarise our stories in an engaging and powerful way
- Continue to work and build relationships within the community and partners
- Essential to monitor and evaluate all engagement and communication activity to help feed in future activities and strengthen our strategic communications and engagement approach.
- Continue to develop engagement tools and techniques.

Individual actions are essential to tackling climate change, but they aren't enough on their own. We must work to engage everyone in this challenge, including County Durham residents and schools, as well as business leaders and government leaders outside of County Durham.

Interactions with other themes

Education, awareness raising, and engagement are crucial to ensuring all themes and projects reach their full potential and helping influence all audiences and sectors in doing their bit.

Increasing understanding across all sectors and audiences is pivotal to drive the innovation and new ways of working we need to tackle the climate challenge in both mitigation and adaptation.

Community and people centred

Our engagement plans will ensure that our work is people centred, that our residents can have their say and that the adaptation and mitigation works are completed with the needs of the communities of County Durham as a priority.

A fair and just transition

Communication and engagement need to bring focus towards what people can do in all types of settings and supply information and knowledge to support them through transition and adaptation.

Durham County Council - Leading by Example Schools

The Council began developing a comprehensive schools engagement programme over a decade ago to support schools with energy education and efficiency. This programme has adapted over that time to meet the needs of schools and adapted to the climate emergency priorities. Now called [ECO₂ Smart Schools](#) it provides comprehensive energy support for schools and multi academy trusts. This programme, which has focussed on behaviour change and appropriate building controls, has led to significant savings in energy usage across the school estate. The in-school support has been provided for many years by the charitable organisation OASES working closely with Education Durham to ensure the support is appropriate and continues to adapt to changing needs. From April 2022 a new in-school support contract will begin working closely with Education Durham to ensure the support is appropriate and continues to adapt to changing needs.

In the Autumn of 2021, we coordinated our first [International Schools Conference](#) working with 130 schools from 13 countries. Durham schools partnered with schools from all around the world, sharing their learning and experiences of the impacts of climate change. This was a true partnership event with Durham University (Durham Energy Institute), OASES and Durham's International Office. All partners are keen to build on the success of the event. A summary film can be [viewed here](#).

In the original Climate Action Plan a trial a school/ home education and awareness programme was agreed. This became known as [ECO₂ Smart Homes](#). The pilot will be coming to an end in March 2022. The first phase of schools included: Byerley Park, South Stanley Infants, Annfield Plain Infants, Greenland Primary and Tanfield School. Additional schools are being recruited at time of writing. The programme involves pupils undertaking home energy surveys, with house holders being passed onto Housing Energy Advisers for further support and advice.

Climate Champions

The climate champions staff network was launched in 2019 in response to the Council's Climate Emergency declaration. The network was created in recognition that staff can play a significant role in embedding a climate emergency culture within the Council and can help increase levels of awareness and climate action amongst the partners they work with and residents and businesses they serve.

Over 100 members of staff currently participate in the network, representing all Council directorates. Champions are encouraged to:

- Lead by example in caring for and protecting the environment
- Take action on the climate emergency within their area of work, share ideas and challenge others
- Get involved in relevant campaigns, events and consultations
- Share environmental information more widely with colleagues, residents etc
- Help trial environmental tools, mechanisms and training that are developed

Climate Change in House E-Learning

Mandatory staff training on climate change has been developed. The course covers: what climate change is, it's global and local impacts, what is being done to tackle it

and how staff can help at work and in their daily lives. The training forms part of the council's commitment to tackling the climate emergency, as it is recognised that our staff are an invaluable part of the solution. This will help develop critical thinking along with embedding knowledge to help everyone do their bit in their everyday role.

Campaign, events materials and provisions

We need to ensure that meaningful campaigns and events are supported with materials that are carbon, recyclable and kind to the environment.

Actions & Partnerships

International Partnerships

Durham has been a partner in a number of energy/ climate related EU funded programmes through the Interreg Europe programme all based on sharing and learning from one another.

[SME Power](#) - a project seeking to improve the energy efficiency of SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) which will run until 2023.

[LoCARBO](#) - a project seeking to improve the energy efficiency of SMEs in County Durham by exchanging best practice and experience, adopting good practice in partnership working and governance in particular. This Action Plan is the policy instrument for the final year of the LoCARBO programme until Autumn 2022.

[REBUS](#) - a project to improve energy efficiency of publicly owned buildings by exchanging best practice and experience. It has been extended until Autumn 2022.

The [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) are the most comprehensive framework to allow dialogue and learning around how we live justly and responsibly on this planet. They can be adapted to suit reporting for measuring a wide variety of projects and programmes.

National Partnerships

The Council has signed up to the [Let's Go Zero 2030](#) campaign which is supporting schools to reduce their carbon footprint across all aspects of school life including procurement, transport, school food etc. The aim of the campaign is for the education sector to be a pathfinder showing how net zero is possible in the public sector.

[Transform Our World](#) is a great hub for sustainability education for schools. Lots of free resources are downloadable for schools.

[APSE Energy](#) supports local authorities in the fields of energy and climate change. The Council won the award for the 'Best Climate Initiative' in 2020 and we regularly attend and speak at their events sharing learning with other local authorities and organisations across the country.

[Countryside Climate Network](#) - rural communities are at the forefront of climate change impacts. DCC is a member of this network (part of UK100) to share learning and experiences in rural communities

Regional Partnerships

[North East England Climate Change Coalition](#) - Durham is a member of this cross-sector initiative bringing the region together to tackle the climate emergency, reverse ecological collapse and deliver an urgent and just transition

[VCSE Climate Action Alliance](#) - [Going Green Together](#) - this new website and alliance is supporting voluntary sector organisations to make their organisations more sustainable - through sharing case studies, ideas and collaboration

[North East Local Enterprise Partnership](#) (NELEP) and BEIS Regional Energy Hub (REH) – NELEP and the REH works with local authorities, business and communities across the region developing shared learning, feeding back to national government and providing specialist technical assistance.

Local Partnerships

Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) - We are working together with AAPs to help Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) - We are working together with AAPs to help embed our communications and engagement approach within County Durham communities. There are a total of 14 AAPs, most of which have already adopted and developed their own communications and engagement approaches around Climate Change and Environment. We need to develop this and work together to enhance this useful resource.

SMEs - We are actively engaging with SMEs through the Business Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP) -see Chapter 5

Climate Action County Durham – is an alliance of voluntary, public and private sector organisations brought together by OASES to share ideas and stimulate countywide climate action activity

Community Groups - We are actively engaging with several community groups, churches and parish groups supporting raising awareness on what everyone can do to tackle climate change. There are several groups which are already active and doing their bit as listed below:

- [Woodcraft folk](#) is an organisation focusing on youth education for social change, co-operation, international friendships, children's rights, nature and environment, and peace. It has inclusive groups operating in Stanley, Framwellgate Moor and Durham. Through their work they encourage understanding, enjoyment, and protection of our environment locally and globally, promoting responsible use of the planet's finite sources.
- [Re-f-use](#) is an anti-food waste project (community interest company) based at a community café in Chester-Le-Street. Re-f-use salvages food that would have otherwise been wasted from around the county (wholesalers, supermarkets, restaurants etc), using it at the community café, at private events (weddings, parties, commercial catering etc) and through food boxes (waste-not boxes). Refuse also tries to campaign against food waste, offers consultancy services on reducing food waste and advocates for climate action.
- [Ecofest](#), a set of events are run out of St John's Church in Neville's Cross, designed to work towards a more sustainable community.

- [Greening Ustinov and Sheraton Park](#), a community group in Neville's Cross trying to encourage sustainability in the Sheraton Park community, both in person and via [facebook](#)
- Climate Action Durham, a not-for-profit organisation formed by local people whose aim is to work towards reducing carbon emissions and encouraging biodiversity.
- Green Durham, a website profiling climate action in the area, is the new home of Transition Durham, Durham Local Food and The North East Permaculture network. The three groups have come together to provide a single site to help the public find local food providers, community groups and projects from around Durham and throughout the North East.
- [St Nics' Church Climate justice / eco group](#), a group in the St Nic's congregation working on local environmental action. They have worked on getting the Diocese of Durham to [divest in fossil fuels](#)
- [Durham Community Action](#), an organisation focussed on enabling communities, promoting action, supporting volunteering and getting voices heard in County Durham. It works with a diverse range of individuals and groups to promote action that can be taken to improve health and wellbeing, work more effectively and save money.
- Durham Community Action is also trialling a [training programme](#) for their trustees which will include sustainability and environmental protection and supporting volunteer led organisations to implement community led climate response actions.
- Northumbrian Water Ltd aims to harness the enthusiasm of young people for environmental protection through their [ripple effect programme](#). This programme includes a series of educational games and activities focusing on reducing water consumption in the region.
- County Durham & Darlington Foundation NHS Trust are engaging with their employees in order to embed environmentally sustainable practises and understanding of sustainability through staff training modules.

Asks of Government

- We welcome the new draft [Department for Education Sustainability and Climate Strategy](#) - this is a start, but we would ask the Government to be bolder in their vision to ensure a coordinated approach to climate education and a broader Education for Sustainable Development focus that will equip the young people of today with the knowledge, skills, values and resilience necessary to make net zero a reality
- Support the Education (Environment and Sustainable Citizenship) bill from Lord Knight to amend the Education Act
- Approve the proposed Natural History GCSE to provide a recognised programme of study and qualification for secondary students.

Governance

Good governance will be essential to the success of the Climate Emergency Response Plan 2, so we are putting in place and building upon a series of engagement structures.

In the Council, a new Net Zero Carbon Board has been established that oversees all the Council's work as it relates to climate change. With high level strategic engagement across all departments this Board ensures that progress is measured, monitored, and scrutinised. Reporting into this Board are a series of specialist corporate groupings including the Carbon Capital Group, the Electric Vehicle Working Group and a communications working group, with management representatives from all areas of the Council.

In order to tackle the net zero challenge across County Durham we need to work closely with our partner organisations, each of which has their own specific role to play in the journey. We have therefore established a Climate Emergency Strategic Board, chaired by Durham University. This Board scrutinises Plan delivery and reports up to the County Durham Partnership.

We also work closely with our colleagues in the Government Department of Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and with the North East, Yorkshire and Humber Energy Hub that BEIS has established to support work on achieving net zero. We liaise with other councils in the region and with the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) and the North East Combined Authority (NECA).

We have an Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee that maintains oversight of delivery of the Plan and acts as a critical friend to the process. A local Councillor also sits on the cabinet as the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change to ensure that the climate emergency is high up in the political framework.

Action Plan

Each of the chapters has its own specific actions which are listed in the tables below. The first table is a summary of the total cost and carbon reduction achieved.

Costs

The costs associated with climate change related actions across the CERP2 period and across partners are estimated to be over £121m. There is significant uncertainty in this figure as many of the projects below are in design stage and some may not get developed. Carbon emissions reduction associated with actions are yet to be calculated but will be added into the CERP when known.

Heat Decarbonisation Actions

| Sub theme | Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost | CO ₂ saving | Completion date |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Domestic | Advice through the Managing Money Better Service | Support to vulnerable residents around a range of financial issues but also around energy and energy efficiency | DCC | £60,000 | Indirect | Ongoing |
| | Domestic Energy Efficiency Projects | 2 bids have secured for £10M of retrofit investment for 1000 homes | DCC | £2.765m | To be assessed | 2024 |
| | Private Landlord Advice | Work with landlords to improve building quality / energy efficiency / higher standards and improve enforcement actions | DCC | £100,000 | To be assessed | Ongoing |
| | Home energy efficiency loan scheme | Supporting householders with loans to pay for energy efficiency measures | DCC | £100,000 | To be assessed | Ongoing |
| | ECO Funding | Support to low income and vulnerable private sector households providing grants for energy efficiency measures | DCC | £1.25m | To be assessed | Ongoing |
| | Smart Meter Installations to 250 properties | FOC | Karbon Homes | N/A | N/A | Octopus Energy |
| | Cavity Wall Insulation Programme | CWI programme in properties across portfolio | Karbon Homes | £650,000 | Unknown | Dyson Energy Services |
| | EPC C Investment | Deliver energy efficiency improvements to ensure all stock | Karbon Homes | £12m | Average 156.22kg per property | TBC |

| Sub theme | Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost | CO ₂ saving | Completion date |
|-----------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------------------|--------------------|
| | | achieves EPC C by 2030 (7590 Homes) | | | | |
| Strategic | Durham City District Heating | Business Case Development for district heating scheme for Durham City including Freemans Reach, Passport Office. | DCC | £150,000 | Unknown | 2022 (feasibility) |
| | Minewater | Undertake research to identify opportunities for mine-water and other sustainable heat (and cooling) schemes across County Durham – includes heat storage | DCC, Durham Energy Institute; NELEP; the Coal Authority | TBC | Unknown | 2024 |
| | Decarbonisation of existing buildings | Continue to develop building decarbonisation plans across corporate DCC estate and implement schemes to eradicate the use of gas boilers. | DCC | £5m | 1,000 tonnes per annum | By 2024 |
| | Development of Local Area Energy Plans | Work with Gov to develop LAEPs | DCC | £0 | 0 | By 2024 |

Actions for beyond CERP or Projects dependent upon funding

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost (if known) | CO ₂ saving (if known) |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Warm Homes Fund | Supporting low carbon heating in off gas homes | DCC | £2m | TBC |
| Social Housing Decarbonisation Scheme | Decarbonisation Pilot – 1600 social homes with ASHP, Battery and PV with EWI | DCC; Believe, Livin, Karbon, Bernicia, North Star | £4.6m | TBC |
| Domestic Energy efficiency Projects (LAD3) | Domestic energy Efficiency Projects | DCC | TBC | TBC |
| SHDF Wave 2 – Project under development | TBC | Karbon | TBC | TBC |
| SHDF wave 1 funding bid for 908 properties – county wide | Domestic Energy Efficiency Projects | DCC, EQUANS | ~£3,900,000 | 569.3 tonnes CO ₂ e |
| Heat Network Zones | Work with regional and national partners to develop Heat Network Zones, in line with new Gov consultation. | BEIS, NELEP, DCC | TBC | TBC |
| Decarbonisation of existing buildings | Continue to develop building decarbonisation plans across corporate DCC estate and implement | DCC | 1,000 tonnes per annum | TBC |

| | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | schemes to eradicate the use of gas boilers. | | | |
|--|----------------------------------------------|--|--|--|

New Development Actions

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost | CO ₂ saving | Completion date |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Seaham Garden Village | 1500 homes in Seaham to be heated by minewater | Coal Authority; DCC; TOLENT; Karbon | £14m | TBC | 2028 |
| DCC – Fossil Fuel Free development | New internal DCC policy will prevent the connection to the gas network for new DCC development | DCC | TBC | TBC | Ongoing |
| NetPark phase 3 | Phase 3 of netpark will have lower carbon design and will not be connected to the gas network. A balance will be met between reducing embodied carbon and emissions from occupancy. | DCC & BD | £8M uplift to reduce carbon impact of construction | TBC | September 2023 |
| Off gas homes | All new homes in off gas areas must be heated by low carbon technologies | DCC | Nil | TBC | Ongoing |
| District Heating Options – Sniperley | Develop options for District heating at Sniperley | DCC / CA | £100,000 | TBC | 2023 |

Actions for beyond CERP or Projects dependent upon funding

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost (if known) | CO ₂ saving (if known) |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Construction Emissions | Work with the green building council to develop policy on construction emissions, supporting the reduction of embodied emissions through e.g. timber framed buildings | DCC | TBC | TBC |

Transport and Connectivity Actions

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost | CO ₂ saving | Completion date |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| SOSCI | Install 153 EVCP sockets in the rural areas of County Durham. | Cybermoor | Innovate UK funded £263,638 | TBC | 31 st January 2022 |
| WEVA | 9 EVCPs and 17 sockets installed in Stanhope area. | Durham County Council | £138,484.28 (£75,000 funded by OZEV) | TBC | 31 st December 2021 |
| REV UP | Research project which will install 2 EVCPs and research the STEP model. Stakeholder role for DCC to investigate best ways and practises for installing charge points to make bids. | DCC, Cybermoor | £100,000 | TBC | March 2022 |
| DOCS | 50 EVCP (100 sockets) to be installed | Durham County Council | £500,000 (375,000 funded by OZEV) | TBC | 31 st March 2022 |
| Derwent Valley | 6 EVCP (12 sockets) | Durham County Council | £30,000 AAP funding. ORCs application to be made. | TBC | 2023 |
| Durham City P&R extension | A new P&R site on the western approach of Durham City and an extension to Sniperley P&R. Planned adoption of Electric Bus fleet TBC. | Durham County Council | £4.5 - £5.0m | TBC | Dec 2022 |
| E Van – Try before you Buy | 4 vans on free 2/3wk trial to SMEs 4 Electric Vans to be purchased and will be made available for rental to SME's across County Durham | Durham County Council | £100k DCC Climate Fund | 1.5t CO ₂ per 10,000 miles | Sept 2023 |
| Rapid EV Charging | Facilitate the provision of ultra-rapid EV charging and EV filling stations where appropriate | Durham County Council | External funding | TBC | Ongoing |
| | Encourage and incentivise commercial organisations to switch to EVs – especially taxis, fleet and delivery firms | Durham County Council | TBC | TBC | Ongoing |
| | Develop destination charge point infrastructure | Durham County Council | TBC | TBC | Ongoing |
| Local Cycling and Walking Delivery Plans | Completion of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans for 12 main towns (LCWIPs) | Durham County Council | £280,000 | TBC | 2024 |
| Park that Bike | Further development of scheme to provide bike parking infrastructure | Durham County Council | £65,000 | TBC | 2024 |
| LCWIPs | Construction of priority routes identified in LCWIPs and associated infrastructure | Durham County Council | £500,000 | TBC | 2024 |

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost | CO ₂ saving | Completion date |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Great North Cycleway | Complete construction of Great North Cycleway (NCN 725) | Durham County Council | £500,000 | TBC | 2024 |
| Cycling Super Routes | Construct Cycling Super Routes linking key settlements within 5 miles of Durham City | Durham County Council | £500,000 | TBC | 2024 |
| E – Cargo Bikes | Support the use of e-bikes and e-cargo bikes especially for last mile deliveries | Durham County Council | TBC | TBC | Ongoing |
| Durham City Bus Station | Completion of Durham City's bus station as the County's main bus interchange | Durham County Council | £10.4m | TBC | 2024 |
| Bus Priority measures | Identify and introduce bus priority measures in areas of need | Durham County Council | £394.000 | TBC | Ongoing |
| Bus Network | Continue the commitment to underwrite a comprehensive bus network for the County | Durham County Council | £2.5m | TBC | Ongoing |
| P&R provision | New P&R provision at Stonebridge | Durham County Council | £4.5m | TBC | 2024 |
| Park and Ride EV Busses | Bring in electric buses for the Durham City park and ride routes (cost per bus) | Durham County Council | TBC | TBC | 2024 |
| Countywide ULEV busses | Support a transition to ultra-low emission buses across the County | DCC, Go North East, Arriva | TBC | TBC | Ongoing |
| Car Clubs | Explore and promote opportunities for an increase in car clubs | DCC, Co-Wheels | TBC | TBC | Ongoing |
| 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. Roll out to four more towns: Murton; Stanley; Pity Me; Newton Aycliffe | Durham County Council | TBC | TBC | Ongoing |
| Project Gigabit Voucher Scheme | (PGBVS) enables gigabit-capable connectivity to be deployed to rural communities using voucher funding. | Durham County Council | £1.5m | TBC | Ongoing |
| Project Gigabit - Hubs | Project Gigabit - Hubs: Providing gigabit-capable broadband to public sector buildings, making it more commercially viable for providers to install gigabit capable services to the surrounding community. | Durham County Council | £600,000 | TBC | Ongoing |
| Project Gigabit - Procurement | Project Gigabit - Procurement: Aims to maximise gigabit-capable coverage in the harder to reach 20% of the UK | Durham County Council | TBC | TBC | Ongoing |

Actions for beyond CERP or Projects dependent upon funding

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost (if known) | CO₂ saving (if known) |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Auckland E Bus Project | Electric busses to shuttle visitors from car parks to town centre | The Auckland Project | Tbc | TBC |
| Weardale Railway Hydrogen | Exploration of hydrogen to power trains | The Auckland Project | Tbc | TBC |

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Electricity Actions

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost | CO ₂ saving (2021 carbon factors) | Completion date |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Collaborate with heating projects | Take opportunities to add electricity generation to heat pump installations | Project dependent | Project by Project basis | Tbc | Ongoing |
| Collaborate with transport projects | Take opportunities to add electricity generation, such as solar car ports, to support EV projects. | Project dependent | Project by Project basis | Tbc | Ongoing |
| NETPark Phase 3 | Development options includes potential solar farm to support all electric buildings. | Business Durham | Part of phase 3 | tbc | 2024 (estimate) |
| Tanfield Lea Solar Farm | Expansion of the solar farm, with battery storage, to meet the full demand of the offices including provision of low carbon heat. | Durham County Council | tbc | tbc – dependant on heat requirements. | 2024 (estimate) |
| Jade Renewables | The development of a combined wind turbine and solar farm to provide renewable power at Jade Business Park, Murton. | Durham County Council | £2.1m | 277 tonnes CO ₂ | 2023 (estimate) |
| Renewable Energy opportunities | DCC is actively looking at options to utilise land for renewables across the County | Durham County Council | Tbc | tbc | Ongoing |
| Solar Car Ports | Develop an investment case to energise and biodiversify large public car parks with solar PV carports and Green Infrastructure | DCC DCC with Climate Emergency Strategic Board partners | £45k EUCF funded | Study will estimate rolled out savings | Sept 2022 |
| LEDs in DCC buildings | Continued roll out of LED's across DCC buildings | DCC | Tbc | Tbc | Ongoing |
| Grid resilience (example) | New substation and delivery of improvements to the overhead and underground network in Seaham | NPG | £8.5m | N/A (supporting works only) | |
| LED street lighting | Replace up to 19,500 remaining old streetlights with LED, saving around 5GWh, between 2020 and 2023, leaving a further 3,352 to upgrade before 2030. | DCC | Tbc due to scale and duration. | 1,100 tonnes CO _{2e} | 2023 |
| Solar PV on DCC buildings | Further installation on DCC buildings to reduce electricity consumption | DCC | £750k | 150 tonnes CO ₂ | March 2022 |

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost | CO ₂ saving (2021 carbon factors) | Completion date |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| BEMS in DCC buildings | Improve building energy management systems across DCC estate to ensure proper electricity efficiency. | DCC | TBC | TBC | Ongoing |

Actions for beyond this CERP or Projects dependent upon funding

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost (if known) | CO ₂ saving (if known) |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Local Plan Update | Any new Local Plan update should prioritise climate change mitigation policy including provision for local renewable electricity. | DCC | Staff Costs | N/A |
| Bishop Auckland Geothermal electricity generation | A scheme to drill down at least 5,000 metres and bring up super-heated steam to the surface to generate electricity – an ‘ultra-deep geothermal system’. The total size would be 5MW, which would generate constantly, providing around 40,000MWh electricity per year. | Auckland Castle | £50m 10% funded from BEIS | 8,850 tonnes CO ₂ e. (2021 carbon factor) |
| Depot Decarbonisation | Develop options for depot decarbonisation following lessons learnt from Annfield Plain project | DCC | TBC | TBC |

Business and Skills Actions

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost | CO ₂ saving | Completion date |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Energy efficiency in Business Durham let properties | Review all BD let buildings for energy performance, display performance certificates, and work with BEEP to liaise with tenants to introduce energy efficiency measures | Business Durham/ Business Energy Efficiency Project | Uncertain | TBC | December 2022 |
| Model energy efficient business/ industrial park | Commission a study to establish a model energy efficient Business Durham business/ industrial park | Business Durham | Uncertain | TBC | March 2023 |
| Formulate 'green economy' proposal | Develop 'green economy' inward investment proposal | Business Durham | Uncertain | TBC | December 2022 |
| Energy efficiency presentations | Offer on-site energy efficiency management presentations to all estates | Business Durham to arrange/ BEEP to deliver | Nil | TBC | December 2022 |
| Generate BEEP referrals | Introduce BEEP with the aid of the 'Try before you buy' EV vans being offered on loan to SMEs (50 referrals per annum) | Business Durham to arrange/ BEEP to deliver | Nil | TBC | Ongoing |
| Assist new Durham businesses with energy efficiency | Introduce businesses moving into Co Durham to BEEP for assistance with identifying energy efficiencies for new premises etc (5 referrals per annum) | Business Durham to arrange/ BEEP to deliver | Nil | TBC | Ongoing |
| SME Power | Learn from international good practice and enhance the support offer to SMEs in Durham: - Incorporate carbon footprinting into advice - develop a specific tourism/hospitality project | SME Power project partners, LCE Team | Existing resources | TBC | July 2022 |
| Compliance from Business Partners by DurhamWorks | Durham Works is asking their supply chain to comply with sustainable activities such as recycling etc | Durham Works and their Business Partners | Nil | TBC | Ongoing |
| Transport Guides from DurhamWorks | Guides on public transport and routes to Durham Works premises and delivery services have been produced. Walking and cycling to work is actively encouraged across the programme. | Durham Works | Nil | TBC | December 2021 |

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost | CO ₂ saving | Completion date |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Green Economy Exhibition | To hold a Green Economy Exhibition in conjunction with the Low Carbon Economy Team during 2022. | Business Durham/LCE Team | Uncertain | TBC | December 2022 |
| LoCARBO | Develop and share good practices with international partners and use partners positive experiences to guide and influence partnership development locally. | LoCARBO project partners, LCE team. | Existing resources | TBC | October 2022 |

Actions beyond CERP or Projects dependent upon funding

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost (if known) | CO ₂ saving (if known) |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| MEES17 Energy Efficiency Standards (at BD Estates) | Exceed MEES17 (MINIMUM ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS) regulations by ensuring all BD property is EPC D/E or above (expected next stage of this standard) by end of 2022 | Business Durham/BEEP to offer audits to tenants | Much of the work needed will be the responsibility of the tenant | TBC |
| Pilot Decarbonisation plan for BD Estate | Identify a Business Durham owned estate to pilot decarbonisation plan (and subject to a successful pilot, duplicating the process across all Business Durham owned estates by 2025) | Business Durham/ Low Carbon Economy Team to advise | Uncertain | TBC |

Procurement and Waste Actions

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost | CO ₂ saving | Completion date |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Priority Environmental Procurements | Identify 'priority environmental procurements' (PEP's) within the Council's Procurement Pipeline | DCC Procurement and Low Carbon Economy Team | Staff time | TBC | Annual updates |
| Themes Outcomes and Measures | Embed sustainability into major procurement exercises through the Themes, Outcomes and Measures (TOMS) methodology | DCC Procurement | Staff time | TBC, depending on contracts in the system. There are several options encouraging the reduction of carbon emissions in the methodology | ongoing |
| Influence procurement at a local, regional and national level | Using partnerships and projects such as the County Durham Pound Project (local), North East Procurement Organisation (regional) and the National Social Value Task and the Local Government Association (national). | DCC Procurement | Staff time | N/A | Ongoing |
| Small Order review and delivery assessment | Identify opportunities to reduce small orders and consequent reduction in CO ₂ . | Procurement, LCE, and Payment Income and Support Team | Staff time | N/A | Initial contract in 21/22. Further products in 22/23 |
| Tender Thresholds | Increasing the tender threshold from £50,000 to £189,330. The threshold is the point at which the bidding process becomes more intensive and increasing it will make it easier for local, smaller suppliers to bid for contracts. | Procurement | Staff time | N/A | Ongoing |
| Waste Carbon analysis | Conduct detailed assessment of carbon emissions associated with Waste Services | LCE, Strategic Waste, Refuse And Recycling | Staff time | Potentially significant. Waste will be responsible for approximately 5% of DCC's current emissions | 2022 |
| Green and Food Waste collections | Respond to Government's final decision to implement these services | Strategic Waste | Unknown at present | Could increase DCC emissions, but lower overall global emissions | TBC |
| Promote and encourage home composting with | Current scheme operating for residents | Strategic Waste | Within existing budgets/funding | Savings from avoiding carbon emissions from | ongoing |

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost | CO ₂ saving | Completion date |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| carbon management guidance | | | | transport and processing of waste | |
| Garden Waste collections | Continue garden waste collections. Waste is now processed by DCC and additional savings from reuse of compost being explored | Strategic Waste | Within existing budgets/ funding. Income from service | Increase in emissions counted by DCC from processing. Savings from overall scheme and potential to reuse compost | Compost facility now operational |
| Waste awareness campaigns | Provide information to residents, schools, businesses and community groups to encourage better waste management practices. | Strategic Waste | Within existing budgets. | Savings from better waste management decisions, and avoidance of processing and use of raw materials | Ongoing. Current focus on electrical waste and reducing contamination in recycling |
| Single Use Plastics | 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. | Strategic Waste, procurement | Programme delivery is staff time. Individual actions to be funded from Service budgets | Savings from better use of resources and reduced disposal costs | ongoing |
| Implement and deliver Environmental Management System | Work to measure, monitor and reduce the Council's environmental impacts | LCE | Staff time, service budgets | Will enable greater awareness of, and opportunity to reduce Scope 3 emissions | Ongoing, annual audits |
| Waste and Recycling in Council Buildings | More, better recycling and composting in council properties. Including office furniture re-homing & re-use scheme. | LCE, Facilities teams | Minimal. Costs from transport likely to balance with savings from avoiding disposal costs | Scope 3, not tracked at present | ongoing |

Actions for beyond CERP or Projects dependent upon funding

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost (if known) | CO ₂ saving (if known) |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Tees Valley Waste to energy Plant with CCS | The development of this Energy Recovery Facility to process residual waste will generate electricity, export heat and use Carbon Capture Storage (CCS) to minimise carbon emissions. | Strategic Waste | TBC | TBC |
| Food Waste Collections | DCC will progress to begin food waste collections (and processing) in line with Government requirements and funding | Strategic Waste | Depends on government requirements | Depends on scope and treatment options |

Land and Sustainable Food Production Actions

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost | CO ₂ saving | Completion date |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Silver Sustainable Food Places | Holistic approach to a range of key food issues across the County | Food Durham | ~£40k per annum (partly externally funded) | N/A | Summer 2023 |
| Food Engagement | Contributing to funding the food coordinator role | Food Durham / DCC | N/A | N/A | Ongoing |
| Sustainable Food Production | Developing ideas and programmes around land-use / food growing to support more sustainable local food production | Food Durham / DCC | N/A | N/A | Ongoing |
| Master Composters | Revitalise the master composters scheme and link with community growing projects | Food Durham / DCC | N/A | N/A | 2024 |
| School Food Waste | Explore the impact of school food waste, those that have collections and those that don't. through auditing and connect with the Lets Go Zero 2030 through existing school programmes | Food Durham / DCC | N/A | N/A | 2024 |
| Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration | Consider DCC becoming a formal signatory to this declaration. | DCC/Food Durham | N/A | N/A | 2023 |
| Soil Health | Work with Durham University and other partners to explore soil health and carbon storage | DCC, Durham University | N/A | N/A | 2024 |
| | Eco2 Smart Schools project to work with Durham University on terrarium planning to raise awareness | Eco2 Smart Schools, Durham University | N/A | N/A | 2024 |

Actions for beyond CERP or Projects dependent upon funding

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost (if known) | CO ₂ saving (if known) |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Domestic Food Waste Collection Launch | Food waste collections likely to commence in 2025 | DCC | TBC | TBC |

Natural Environment Actions

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost | CO ₂ saving | Completion date |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nature Based Approach to Managing the Council's Estate | Continue to identify suitable sites for a less intensive, nature-based approach to management across the Council's estate. Implement change in management regime across a minimum of 8 sites and increase wildflower meadow creation. | Clean and Green & Ecology | Costs met from existing budgets | Not currently verifiable. This will need to be calculated | Ongoing |
| Nature Based Solutions Awareness Raising Campaign | Raise awareness of the benefits of Nature-Based Management Solutions internally and with the public | Clean and Green, Ecology, Low Carbon Economy Team & Comms | Costs met from existing budgets | Not applicable | Ongoing |
| Elimination of Peat use within the Council | Elimination of peat-based tree/shrub compost through use of recycled soil conditioner, contributing towards reducing emissions from the destruction of peatlands. | Clean and Green Strategic Waste | Not applicable | The UK's peatlands, Greenhouse Gas emissions are estimated at 23.1 MT CO ₂ e y-1. 11.1 million of which is from England. | Ongoing |
| | Change customer sales to Peat Free Compost | Clean and Green | Not applicable | As above | Ongoing |
| | Elimination of peat based compost for bedding: Trial established PFC brands | Clean and Green | Not applicable | As above | Ongoing |
| | Elimination of peat based compost for bedding: Trial 0-4mm Recycled soil conditioner | Clean and Green Strategic Waste | Not applicable | As above | 2023 |
| | Elimination of peat based compost for bedding: Review Trials and implement change to PFC | Clean and Green | To be evaluated as part of trials | As above | 2023 and then ongoing |
| | Peat free publicity and promotion to raise awareness and encourage residents to go peat free | Clean and Green Low Carbon Economy Team | Costs met from existing budgets | As above | 2023 |
| | Peatland Restoration | Continue programmed peatland restoration | North Pennines AONB Partnership (Paul Leadbitter) | Estimated at £770,000 | 20 tonnes carbon per hectare of avoided losses from restoring |

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost | CO ₂ saving | Completion date |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| | work, estimated at 1,162 hectares 2022/23 – 662ha (planned) 2023/24 – 500ha | | | bare peat. Therefore potential to avoid losses of 23,240 tonnes carbon per year (1,162 x 20) | |
| | Work with the Environment Agency to develop new methods of integrating existing Lidar data for the AONB to identify further areas in need of restoration | North Pennines AONB (Paul Leadbitter) | Staff time | Enabling action | 2022 |
| Woodland Creation: Durham Woodland Creation Programme | Identify and plant a further 50 hectares of land over 2022/24 (10,000 trees per AAP including Trees for children 69,000) Total programme estimated at 70 hectares of planting | DCC, Communities, AAP's, Schools, Landowners, OASES,NECF, Trees for Cities | approx £600k, including external funding and maintenance for 15 years, along with Trees 4 Children programme | Total Programme: Best case scenario, estimated at 22,475 tCO ₂ e by 2045 | Ongoing |
| Woodland Creation: Durham Woodland Revival Project | Continue to support the project and plant a further 48ha over 2022/24. | DCC, DWR, Woodland Trust | £60k, large tree planting schemes being delivered by Woodland Trust | Total Programme: Best case scenario, estimated at 29,000 tCO ₂ e by 2045 | 2024 |
| Woodland Creation: Urban Tree Challenge Fund | Deliver UTCF round 3 2022/24 and plant a further 799 large specimen trees across County Durham's towns and villages | DCC, Forestry Commission, Karbon Homes & Believe | £440k | Estimation of planting to date: 2,120.65 tCO ₂ e by 2045 | Winter 2023 |
| Woodland Creation: Tree Week Grants | Maximise uptake of tree week grants aiming for applications and that deliver the most benefits | DCC, communities, landowners | £3k per annum | Estimation of planting to date: 351.62 tCO ₂ e by 2045 | Ongoing |
| Woodland Creation: North East Community Forest (250ha over 4 years) | Aim to plant 62.5ha each year to 2025 in County Durham as part of the NE Community Forest. (Year 1 schemes recorded under | DCC, Newcastle City Council, South Tyneside, Sunderland, North Tyneside, Gateshead landowners | £300k | Total Programme: Best case scenario, estimated at 65,250 tCO ₂ e by 2045 | 2050 |

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost | CO ₂ saving | Completion date |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| | Durham Woodland Creation) | | | | |
| Woodland Creation: North Pennines A68 Corridor Project | Work with private landowners to advise on woodland creation schemes and management. | DCC, North Pennines AONB, Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission | n/a post funded in 2020/21 | tbc | tbc |
| Woodland Creation: Carbon Market | Continue to develop registered and validated tree planting projects to the Woodland Carbon code to offer local people and businesses the opportunity to offset their carbon through local tree planting / carbon credits. Aim for 2 projects per year. Finance to be re-invested in managing the Council's expanding woodland estate. Awareness raising of the scheme will be required | DCC, Forest Carbon | n/a will generate income | tbc | 2025 |
| Hedgerow Creation and Management | Continue to support hedgerow planting and management in County Durham in line with advice from Natural England to ensure a longer term accumulation of carbon. Review and amend any exiting guidance as necessary (e.g. increase height from 2 to 3 metres and widths between 3 to 4 metres) | DCC, Durham Hedgerow Partnership, Landowners | £30k | Natural England provides a carbon stock figure of 68.2 t C ha ⁻¹ for a 2-3 metre hedge comprised of Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Hazel. | Ongoing |
| Manging our woodlands (DCC estate) to improve condition and increase carbon efficiency and other benefits for nature and people | Implement Woodland Improvement Grant. January 2022- 2027 | DCC, Forestry Commission | £960k over 5 years | Not verifiable | 2027 |

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost | CO ₂ saving | Completion date |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Blue Carbon | Wild Oysters Project: Work to identify suitable sites off the Durham Coast and in North East coastal waters for habitat restoration i.e. introducing shells and gravels onto the seabed. | Niall Benson/Karen Daghish (Durham Heritage Coast / Seascapes) | North East region £400,000 DCC nil | Not currently verifiable. The primary store of carbon in oysters is the shell material | Ongoing |
| | Continue research into the most effective kelp restoration techniques (translocating/seeding) followed by testing at suitable pilot sites along the Durham Coast. | Niall Benson/Karen Daghish (Durham Heritage Coast / Seascapes) | £40,000 DCC £20,000 | Not currently verifiable. Potential carbon burial by UK kelp forests of 147t CO ₂ e/km ² /year | 2023 |
| | Explore opportunities to restore sea grass and saltmarsh habitats | Niall Benson/Karen Daghish (Durham Heritage Coast / Seascapes) | £10,000 DCC £5,000 | Most UK estimates for Saltmarsh fall between 440 - 550t CO ₂ e/km ² /year. Seagrass - rates of between 42 - 136t CO ₂ e/km ² /year | 2023 |
| Local Nature Recovery Strategy | Production of a LNRS | Ecological Emergency Board (includes the Council and is a sub-group of the County Durham Environment Partnership) | tbc | tbc | tbc |

Actions for beyond CERP or Projects dependent upon funding

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost (if known) | CO ₂ saving (if known) |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Increase the rate of peatland restoration | Provide funding to enable further restoration beyond planned work | North Pennines AONB Partnership | Dependent on scale | Dependent on scale |
| Land mapping exercise | To determine carbon/ecological priorities for the use of land e.g. tree planting vs food vs renewable energy etc | DCC / Partnership | Uncertain | Enabling action |

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost (if known) | CO ₂ saving (if known) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Peat Free County Durham | All businesses, organisations and residents within County Durham encouraged to go Peat Free | Partnership | N/A | Will contribute towards reducing emissions from the destruction of peatlands. The UK's peatlands, Greenhouse Gas emissions are estimated at 23.1 MT CO ₂ e y-1. 11.1 million of which is from England. |
| Carbon sequestration value of soils | Identify carbon sequestration value of soils and how this impacts upon Durham County | Durham University | N/A | Enabling action to help address gaps in knowledge |

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Adaptation Actions

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost | CO ₂ saving | Completion date |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Community Emergency Plans | Durham County Council engages with communities at risk to create community emergency plans for a number of specific areas within County Durham. Including: Chester-le-Street Newfield and Pelton Lane Ends Dipton Lanchester Stanhope Woolsingham | DCC | TBC | N/A | TBC |
| South Stanley SUDS | The Community Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) Innovation Accelerator 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; we call this the <i>SuDS+</i> approach. | DCC (EA, Communities) | £6m | N/A | 2027 |
| Flood Defence Works | A programme of 31 flood alleviation schemes exists in areas across the County. All have funding allocated and will progress from 2021/22 through to 2027/28 | DCC, EA, NWL, Communities | £29m | N/A | 2028 |
| Heritage site assessment | Carry out a climate risk assessment for heritage sites in DCC ownership, and set up appropriate mitigation/management plans | DCC | | N/A | |
| Binchester Roman Fort Risk Assessment | Carry out a Climate Risk assessment for Binchester Roman Fort and any other visitor attractions run/managed by DCC to look at how to mitigate their impacts. As visitor focussed attractions, there is scope also to use them to promote the Climate Change message, by drawing comparisons between then and now (for historic type sites e.g. Binchester Fort) | DCC | | N/A | |

Actions for beyond CERP or Projects dependent upon funding

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost (if known) | CO ₂ saving (if known) |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Flood Defence Works | A programme of 31 flood alleviation schemes exists in areas across the County. All have funding | DCC, EA, NWL, Communities | £29m | N/A |

| | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | allocated and will progress from 2021/22 through to 2027/28 | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|

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Education and Engagement Actions

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost | CO ₂ saving | Completion date |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| ECO ₂ Smart Homes | Review of pilot programme | OASES | £20,000 | TBC | Pilot ends March 22 |
| Let's Go Zero 2030 | Launch programme with Durham schools | DCC | N/A | TBC | Ongoing |
| AAPs collaboration | We need to work more with AAPs to raise awareness and embed messages in the community | AAPs, | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Communication and Marketing Campaign | Make the work visual with strong messaging for internal and external audiences including public and stakeholders over one year | Corporate Comms | £15000 | N/A | Phase 1 Jan 22-Dec 22 |
| Two core video productions | Video is one of the best ways of engaging, empowering and inspiring people and showcasing what is happening. Over one year | Corporate comms and video contractos | £9000 | N/A | March 2022-Dec 2022 |
| Marketing Collateral | Leaflets, banners, digital material all recyclable and sustainable over one year | Corporate Comms, Design and Print | £4000 | N/A | Jan 2022 – March 2023 |
| Corporate Website | Information to be restructured and made visual and content appealing to public and wider audience | Corporate Comms, LCE | N/A | N/A | 2022 |
| Intranet | Restructure and information building in progress | Corporate Comms, LCE | N/A | N/A | 2022 |
| County Durham Partnership website | Align information and messages ensuring right information is displayed as per partners audience | Corporate Comms, Transformation and Partnerships team, LCE | N/A | N/A | 2022 |
| Community Events and case studies | Support the community groups and residents raise awareness on their efforts utilising the Climate County Durham Website | TBC | N/A | N/A | 2022 -2023 |
| Climate Change DCC staff training | Support and ensure delivery of the training and all staff complete along with ongoing delivery for new starters | Corporate comms, HR, L&D | N/A | N/A | Jan 2022 – July 2022 |

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost | CO ₂ saving | Completion date |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Image and photo bank | Collate and have the ability to record photographic evidence to support PR and BAU sharing purposes | Corporate Comms and contractors | £6000 2 yrs. x£60 p/p | N/A | N/A |
| Metrics, Analytics and review | We need to measure and review engagement through all channels including PR to help inform future approaches, this need to include face to face and digital feedback. | Corporate Comms | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Public consultation | We need to ensure that we do complete a public consultation in future ensuring that members of the public are engaged, informed and part of the journey to carbon neutral | COG group, Corporate Comms | N/A | N/A | N/A |

Actions for beyond CERP or Projects dependent upon funding

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost (if known) | CO ₂ saving (if known) |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Community workshops and events | We need to support community events and participate more | TBC | N/A | N/A |
| Website development | Now the community website has foundations we need to build on these as this is a crucial communication tool. | Corporate Comms and ICT | TBC | N/A |
| Internal Workshops | Supporting staff build their knowledge and skills | TBC | N/A | N/A |
| Climate Change Training | Adapt current internal training for members and external audiences pending licences and costs | HR, L&D | N/A | N/A |
| Projects, Community and staff engagement videos | Video is a powerful and effective way in engaging and telling a story with little words but having large impact. We could develop a series of videos to tie in with CERP themes or raising awareness on significant partnership/community and staff work. | Corporate Comms, Project leads, Community groups, Video contractor | Approximately £500 to £1,000 per video production (2 days' work - production and editing) | N/a |
| Discussion forums | Research the best way to open communication within the communities and our local authority. Channels and mitigation. | TBC | TBC | N/A |
| Brand ongoing development | Ensuring that the brand is continuously developed ensuring all projects needs | TBC | TBC | N/A |

| Project | Description | Lead Partner | Cost (if known) | CO₂ saving (if known) |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| | are met and used across several platforms, fleet etc | | | |
| International Schools Conference | Establish annual international engagement of Durham schools on climate education | DCC | £10,000 | N/A |
| ECO ₂ Smart Homes | Review of pilot programme | TBC – School Contract provider | c£20,000/ per annum, | TBC |

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Policy Plan

Policies and practices are required to achieve a culture change for a carbon neutral County Durham. These policies and practices are collected in the following table.

DCC Policies and Practices

| Policy Title | Description | Lead Body |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| DCC's Carbon Management Plan | Internal plan for DCC's carbon reduction across its operations. | DCC |
| DCC's Climate Champions | Internal Climate Change awareness programme | DCC |
| Sustainable Procurement Policy | Embedding sustainability into DCC's procurement practices | DCC |
| Low Carbon Project Investments | Use an 'invest to save' criterion to provide funding for internal DCC carbon saving projects | DCC |
| Low Carbon Decisions | Climate Change is included as an implication category in all council reports. | DCC |
| Low Carbon Employees | All DCC staff are required in their job descriptions to consider the carbon impact of their work | DCC |
| Low Carbon Leadership | Durham has a corporate director with a climate change brief: Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change. | DCC |
| Fossil Fuel Divestment | Keep under review DCC Pension Fund's engagement approach regarding fossil fuels giving consideration to the appropriateness of exclusions and alternative investments | DCC and the LGPS |
| County Durham Plan | Development plan for County Durham. Where and how much development is to be located alongside planning policy | DCC |
| Minerals and Waste Local Plan | Policies for waste and minerals extraction in County Durham | DCC |

Appendices

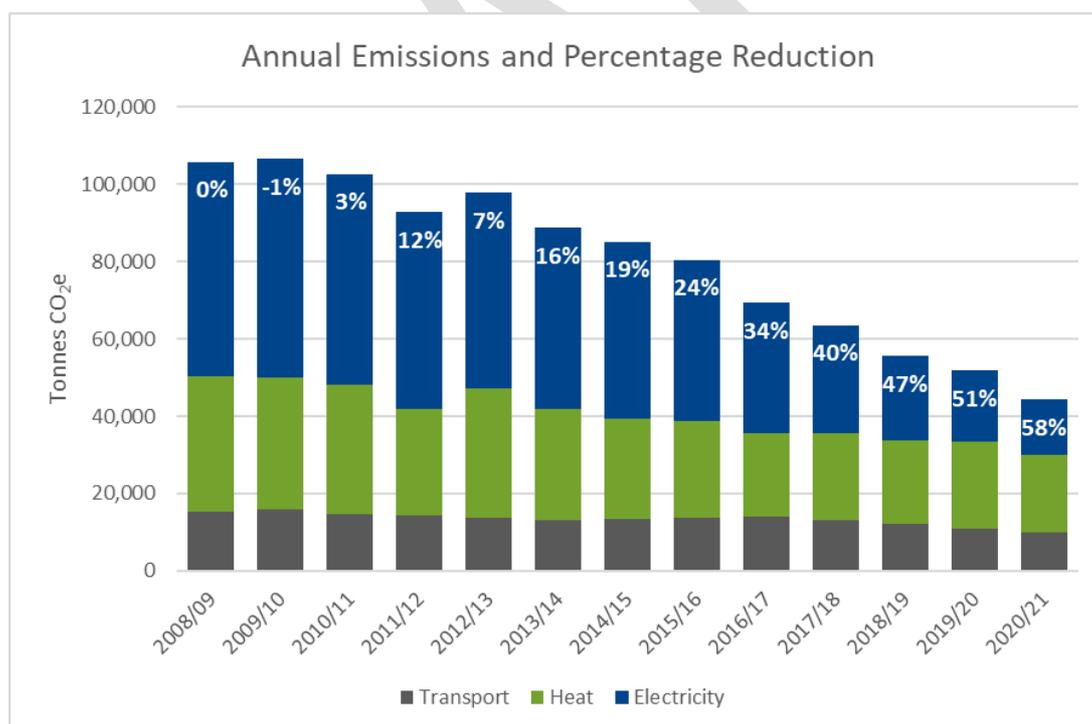
A. Council Emissions

Durham County Council calculates its own carbon emissions at the end of every financial year. The Council's carbon footprint is only a small proportion of the carbon emissions from the County as a whole. The Council operates in all areas in the County and all residents are affected by the work that we do. It is our duty to lead the way in carbon reduction as well as providing the support and infrastructure required for everyone to live lower carbon lives. This section looks the latest figures.

Current Emissions

The most recent data are for the financial year from April 2020 to March 2021. In that time, the council's footprint was 44 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. We use carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) because it includes emissions from other gasses like methane as well as just CO₂.

Our baseline year was 2008/09, the year that DCC became a Unitary Authority. Since then, our emissions have reduced by 58%. The graph below shows this progression year-on-year. The figures for each year are separated into Electricity, Heat, and Transport, in line with our priorities from CERP 2020-2022.



In the baseline year of 2008/09, most of the council's carbon emissions were from electricity use, shown in blue in the graph above. More recently, the biggest portion of the footprint is from heat, shown in green. We have done a lot of work to reduce the amount of electricity that we take from the grid over the years and, at the same time, that electricity has become less carbon intensive as the UK moves away from coal and toward more renewable electricity generation.

In 2020-2021 the total footprint was made up of 46% heat, 32% electricity, and 22% transport.

Scope

The carbon footprint includes emissions from the following sources:

- Gas and electricity used in our own buildings, and buildings we are leasing for our own use. This includes most of our schools and academies if they opt-in to our utility purchasing.
- Oil, biomass, LPG, and any other fuels used in our own buildings and buildings we are leasing for our own use.
- Fuel used by our fleet vehicles.
- Business travel in cars, trains, aeroplanes, busses, and other modes of transport.
- Emissions from our waste contractors including their fleet vehicles and a share of the plant and utilities at processing facilities including recycling centres and the energy from waste plant on Teesside.

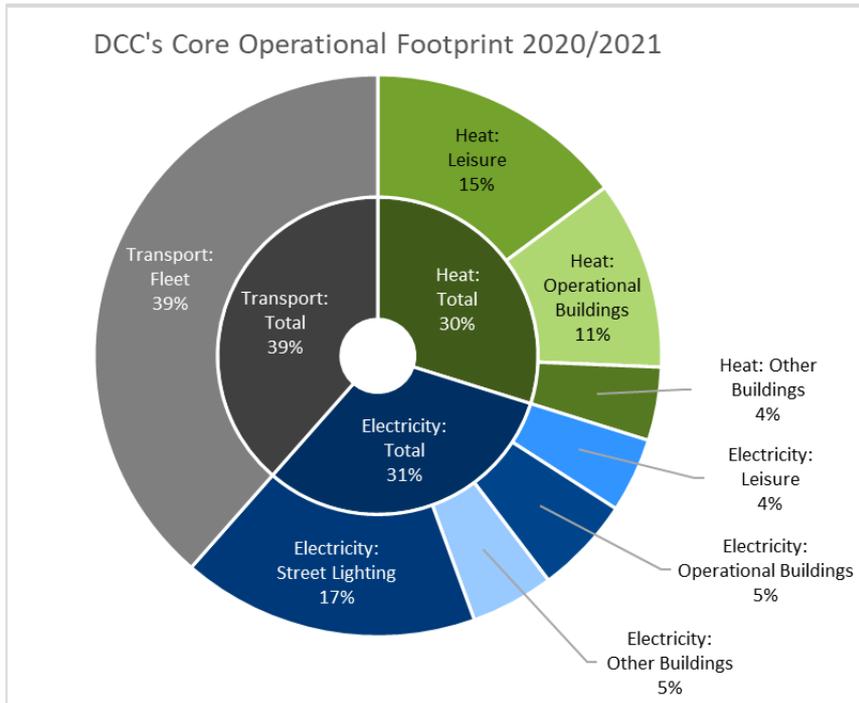
The carbon footprint excludes emissions from the following sources:

- Gas, electricity, and other fuels used in buildings that are entirely operated by third parties, even if we own the premises. This includes a small number of schools which have opted to arrange their own utility purchasing.
- Fugitive gasses – though we do report these separately.
- Business travel where the member of staff hasn't claimed the mileage.

Since the data come from many different sources, carbon emissions can be broken down into smaller segments so that they align more closely with the different levels of control we have over their footprints:

- Core Operational Footprint
Our own buildings and vehicles
- Wider Council Footprint
Buildings and vehicles owned or operated by others including schools and academies, and private vehicles used for business travel
- Other Associated Emissions
Supply chain and contract emissions as well as embodied carbon

The third group, Other Associated Emissions, are addressed by DCC but not included in our footprint reporting. It is not possible to fully add up all of DCC's emissions in this area and a line must be drawn clearly around the emissions that we do declare. DCC has policies that address supply chain and contract emissions and will tackle embodied carbon on a case-by-case basis. Other emissions, such as from staff commuting, will be addressed through engagement and awareness campaigns as well as a reduction in the requirement for staff to attend the office if they are able to work from home.



This chart shows a breakdown of our Core Operational Footprint.

Transport is the biggest portion of the council's core footprint, making up 39% of emissions. This is just our fleet, and doesn't include business travel or commuting, as neither the choices that staff make on how to commute nor the transport available for business travel are entirely within our control.

The biggest electricity user is our streetlights. This is due to the vastness of the county and the number of streetlights that are required within it. Almost all of them are now LED, which has reduced the amount of electricity they require considerably.

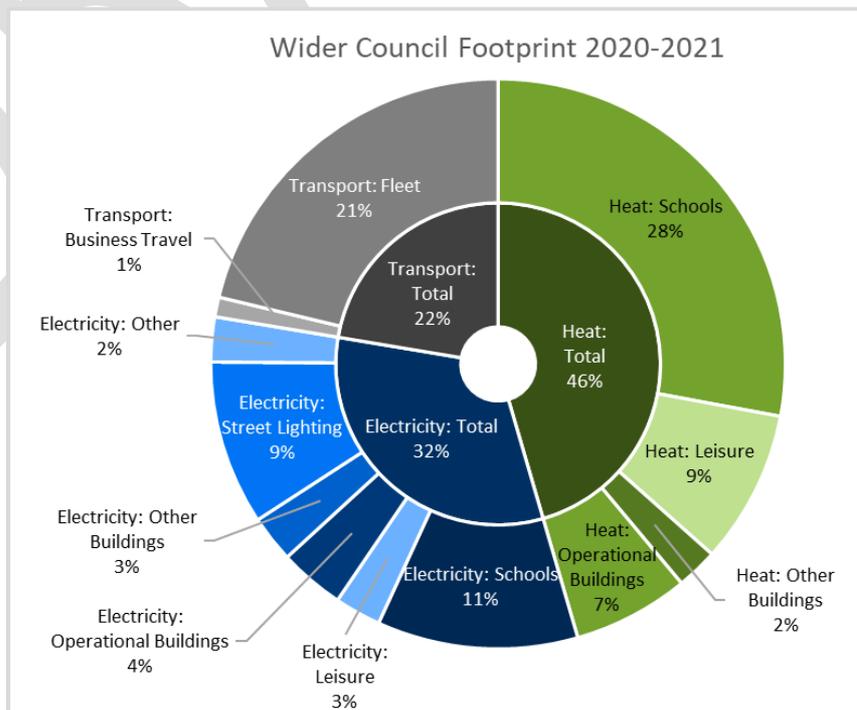
Our leisure centres require a lot of heat. Swimming pools in particular have very high heat demand, but they are ideal candidates for heat from low carbon sources as their demand for heat is near constant.

The Core Footprint accounted for 55% of the Wider Council Footprint in 2020/21.

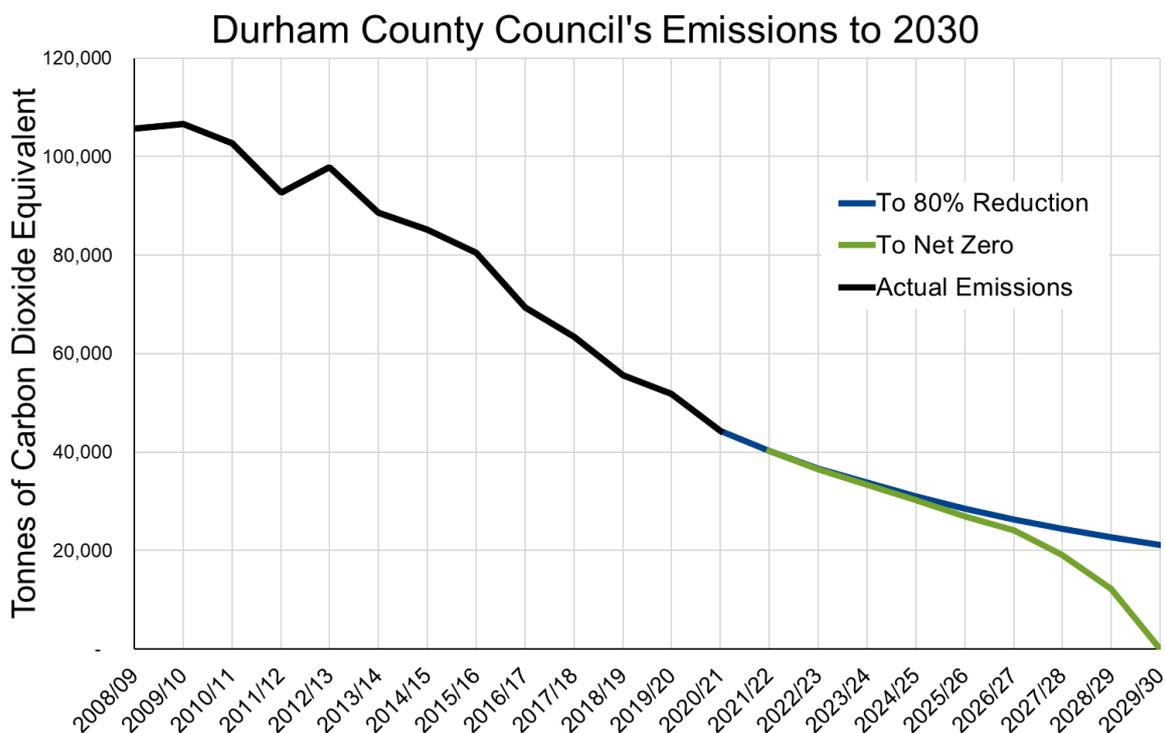
This chart shows a breakdown of the Wider Council Footprint, which includes business travel and schools, and some tenanted business sites.

It does not yet include staff commuting.

Schools add a significant amount to DCC's wider footprint. 28% of the wider footprint is for heating schools, and 11% is for schools' electricity use.



Council Carbon Budget



According to the IPCC report of July 2021, it matters how quickly we reduce our carbon emissions. It's not good enough to simply aim for 80% reduction or to be net zero by 2030, we must also aim to reduce our emissions every year between then and now. We should aim to limit the total amount of carbon emissions we cause in the next eight years. This total limit is called a carbon budget.

A budget of 230,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent between the start of 2022/23 and end of 2029/30 is more than enough to meet our 80% reduction target in 2030 without leaving all the reduction to the last minute. This budget will require us to decarbonise more quickly, in line with the IPCC's advice.

This target could be met by just focussing on the Core Footprint but, since we will have to tackle the Wider Footprint in the long term it is better to take a broader approach now. This will ensure that our schools, business tenants, and staff are not left behind.

The target to be net zero by 2030 must be considered alongside the 80% reduction target. It could be achieved through the purchase of carbon credits, or through our own sequestration and renewable generation activities. Some of these offsetting activities will take time to establish, so the path to net zero will be steeper as we approach 2030. In the near future we will concentrate our efforts on real lasting carbon reduction while planning for a net zero 2030.

Science Based Target

Using the budget set out in the section above, we can determine what target we should be aiming for to avoid catastrophic climate change. The table below shows where we are now and the milestones we hope to reach between now and March 2030. Any footprint remaining in 2030 must be offset to reach Net Zero.

| Year | Total Footprint Tonnes CO ₂ e per year | % Reduced From 2008/09 |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2020/21 | 44,319 | 58% |
| 2022/23 | 36,701 | 65% |
| 2024/25 | 31,401 | 70% |
| 2029/30 | 21,610 | 80% |

The following table shows our whole carbon footprint separated by the type of fuel or other emissions source. Targets for each fuel type are given for the two years of this CERP and for our target year, 2029/30.

| Emissions Source | Actual Data Tonnes CO ₂ e per year | | Targets Tonnes CO ₂ e per year | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------|
| | 2008/09 | 2020/21 | 2022/23 | 2029/30 |
| Solid Fuel (Biomass) | 91 | 9 | 12 | 21 |
| Liquid Fuels (Oil) | 511 | 645 | 506 | 106 |
| Gaseous Fuels (Natural Gas) | 34,371 | 19,519 | 16,826 | 9,308 |
| Vehicle Fleet | 11,596 | 9,409 | 7,636 | 85 |
| Business Travel | 3,804 | 499 | 760 | 635 |
| Grid Electricity (incl. distribution) | 55,395 | 14,238 | 10,961 | 11,000 |
| Total | 105,768 | 44,319 | 36,701 | 21,154 |

Some target figures, such as gaseous fuels, are based on what we believe is possible and others, such as business travel, are based on what will be necessary. This is because we have full control over how much work can be done on reducing the use of gaseous fuels for heating buildings, but reduction in fossil fuels from business travel requires a much greater change in how we work and how we deliver our services to the public.

Business travel in 2020/21 was much lower than in previous years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This event has shown how much of our work can be delivered remotely if necessary. We do expect business travel to increase again during the next few years but expect that emissions from such travel will never return to what they have been in the past.

Some of the emissions remaining in 2029/30 will come from grid electricity. These emissions should be counted in our footprint according to the carbon factor of the national grid as reported by UK Government. However, the council currently purchases 100% renewable electricity, so this amount could be offset through that action. That leaves us with an estimated 10,577 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent to offset if we are to be carbon neutral in that year, as well as reaching our 80% reduction goal.

Achieving the Targets

The overall target is to reduce the Council's carbon emissions by 80% from 2008/09 levels by 2030 as well as achieving Net Zero by that same year. This section describes what actions will be required to reach the target set in this CERP while sticking to the carbon budget.

There will be some flexibility in this. We may not need to do all of one action if we can do more of another. If everyone suddenly stopped driving fossil fuel cars, then we wouldn't need to replace so many gas boilers in these next two years.

Target: 68% reduced or offset by the end of 2023/24

The following interim targets are based on reduction from 2020/21 levels (our most recent data) to where we need to be in 2023/24 (the end of the period covered by this plan).

12% reduction in gas use

2,354,305kg of emissions reduction can be achieved by replacing gas boilers at 43 of our buildings by 2024. It is estimated that this will cost in the region of £27million. It will not save us any revenue through reduced heating bills if gas remains cheap relative to electricity.

20% reduction in business travel emissions compared with 2019/20

This can be achieved by retaining use of remote working and video conferencing wherever possible. In addition, staff must be encouraged to use public transport, walk, or cycle, even if it means the journey takes longer.

10% of fleet emissions reduced

This can be achieved by replacing fossil fuel vehicles with electric alternatives and reducing the need for staff to travel. We are introducing remote access to our building energy management systems which will mean engineers will have to travel to sites less often to diagnose problems which could have been spotted remotely.

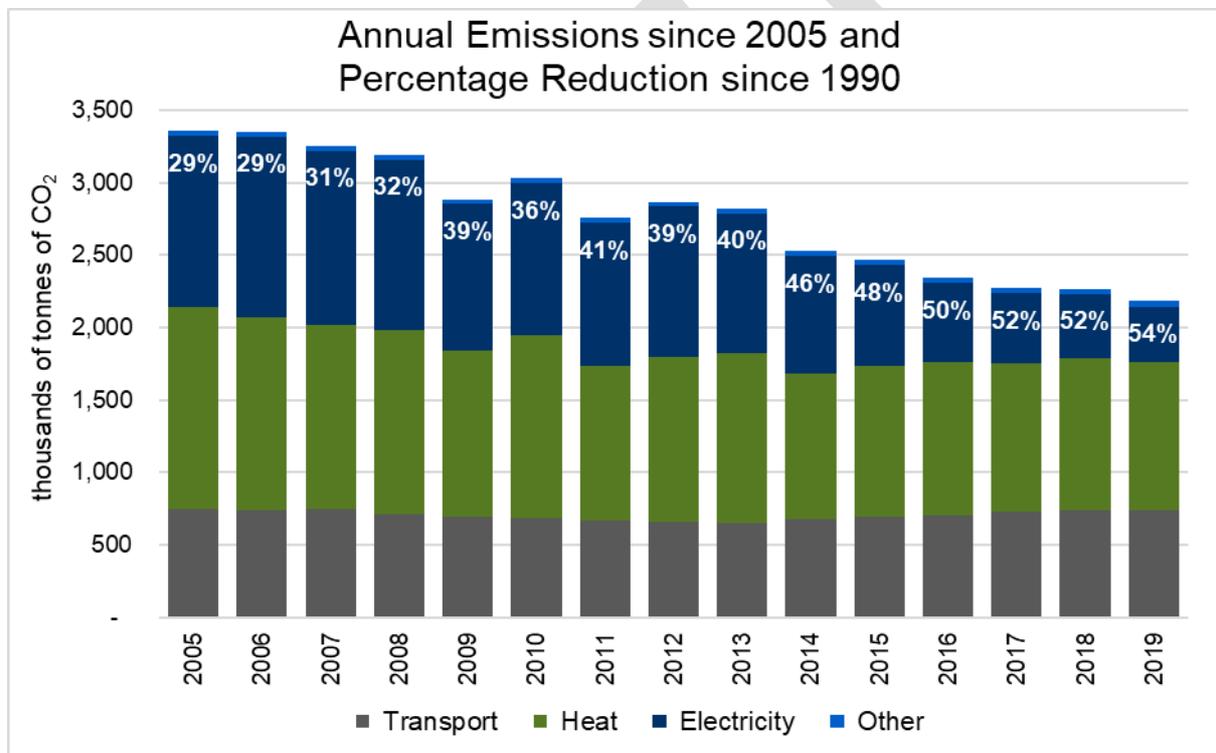
6,000,000kWh of electricity generated locally through renewable technologies each year. In 2020/21 DCC generated just over one million kilowatt hours of electricity through solar panels and our Archimedes Screw turbine. Further renewable generation is required to supply our buildings and to help reduce the carbon factor of the national grid for our neighbours. This target would double DCC's renewable electricity generation.

B. County Emissions

Carbon emissions for County Durham are calculated by central government at the end of every calendar year. This footprint covers everything that happens within the county boundary, with only a few specific exclusions. It takes a long time to gather all the necessary information each year, so the final totals are usually published in June, one and a half years after the end of the reporting period. This section looks at the latest figures.

Current Emissions

The latest carbon footprint figures for County Durham are for the year 2019. The baseline year for emissions is 1990, which is the same baseline that the UK government uses for national targets. The chart below shows how the carbon footprint has declined since 2005 and gives the reduction in each year as a percentage from the 1990 baseline.



In 2019, 47% of the county's carbon footprint came from heat, 33% from transport, and 18% from electricity.

Scope

The carbon footprint of the whole of County Durham is much larger than that of the council and takes into account everything that happens within the county. The only exclusions are traffic passing through on the A1 motorway, trains on the East Coast Mainline railway, and large industrial sites.

Carbon Neutral

Carbon Neutral means that we accept that we won't be able to stop emitting greenhouse gasses completely, but those that we do emit will be countered by actions to remove harmful gasses from the atmosphere, such as planting trees.

The best way to cut our carbon emissions is to actually cut our emissions! However, there are some activities that we need to do that make this impossible. Some aspects of farming, waste disposal, transport, and manufacturing will always have some carbon emissions. These must be countered, or offset, through tree planting, peatland restoration, kelp farming, and other sequestration activities.

Our carbon emissions are currently reported as just the amount that we emit, and do not take into account any sequestration. Government provides some figures in the form of a LULUCF (land use, land use change, and forestry) estimate, currently providing 48ktCO₂ of carbon removal. This doesn't take into account other sequestration actions such as peatlands or anything in the sea. Unless government changes their LULUCF method, we will need to make our own estimates for how much sequestration our county is achieving, and subtract this from our carbon footprint. This is how we will show that we are Carbon Neutral.

To make this calculation easier, it is possible to assign carbon credits to offsetting schemes. When we grow a forest, we provide evidence of the type of trees and scale of the forest to prove how many tonnes of carbon that forest would remove. Each tonne counts as one carbon credit.

Carbon credits from tree planting are for carbon offsetting in the future. Young trees can't offset their lifetime of sequestration immediately. Therefore, tree planting isn't useful for a short term or annual target.

If the Council plants trees for carbon offsetting, but sells the carbon credits to someone outside of the county, that sequestration can no-longer be used to offset Durham's carbon emissions. If we did use the carbon credits after selling them, that would be double counting.

County Durham Carbon Budget and Targets

To stop the Climate Emergency, we need to stop putting carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere. We cannot immediately stop having a carbon footprint since our society currently relies too heavily on fossil fuels. However, we can consider how quickly we need to reduce our carbon footprint. One way to look at this is to consider a total amount of carbon that we can allow ourselves to emit between now and 2045. That is, if you add up all of the carbon targets for every year until we are carbon neutral, the total would be our carbon budget.

It's important to consider how big the carbon budget can safely be, and what the consequences of sticking to it, or not, would be. So, there are two things to consider; how quickly do we need to reduce our carbon emissions to avoid catastrophic climate change and, how much time do we need to give ourselves to adjust to a low carbon society in which no-one is left behind?

If we consider only the first question, how quickly do we need to act, then we get the scientific carbon budget provided here by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research. If we consider only the second question, then we take a much slower approach. In this Climate Emergency Response Plan, we hope to get as close to the scientific budget as possible but recognise that we do not have the resources to do so. Hence, our carbon budget for this CERP is somewhere in between.

UK's sixth carbon budget, published in late 2020⁴⁰, enshrined targets for carbon reduction into law. These are targets for reduction of national carbon emissions and are given as percentage reduction from the baseline year of 1990. UK carbon emissions in 1990 are estimated as 887Mt CO₂e.

- National Targets: (baseline 1990) 68% by 2030 and 78% by 2035.

DCC's first countywide carbon budget was produced for our first Climate Emergency Response Plan, CERP 1, published in February 2020. It uses the same baseline as the National targets, so they can be compared directly. County Durham's carbon emissions in 1990 are estimated as 5Mt CO₂e.

- County Targets: (baseline 1990) 75% by 2030 and 90% by 2040. (CERP 1)

Tyndall Centre Scientific for Climate Change Research has produced a scientific carbon budget for County Durham⁴¹. This budget considers only the maximum amount of carbon emissions we can allow ourselves to be responsible for between now and 2100, while avoiding catastrophic climate change.

- Total carbon budget for 2018 to 2100 is 21.5MtCO₂. 2018 and 2019 used 4.4MtCO₂, leaving 17.1MtCO₂ for the 81 years to 2100.

There is a significant gap between the three carbon budgets described for County Durham. In this second Climate Emergency Response Plan, CERP 2, we have an opportunity to try to close the gap between our own targets and the science-based budget set by the Tyndall Centre.

We know that it matters how quickly we decarbonise, but we also know that we need to provide services, homes, and connectivity for our residents and businesses. We cannot simply switch people's boilers off or take away their cars. Nor can we close carbon intensive businesses and take away people's livelihoods.

DCC's second carbon budget is calculated using our knowledge of the ideal carbon budget, set by the Tyndall Centre, and the likely resources we have available to ensure that this is a Just Transition.

- County Targets: (baseline 1990) 83% by 2030 and 96% by 2040. (CERP 2)

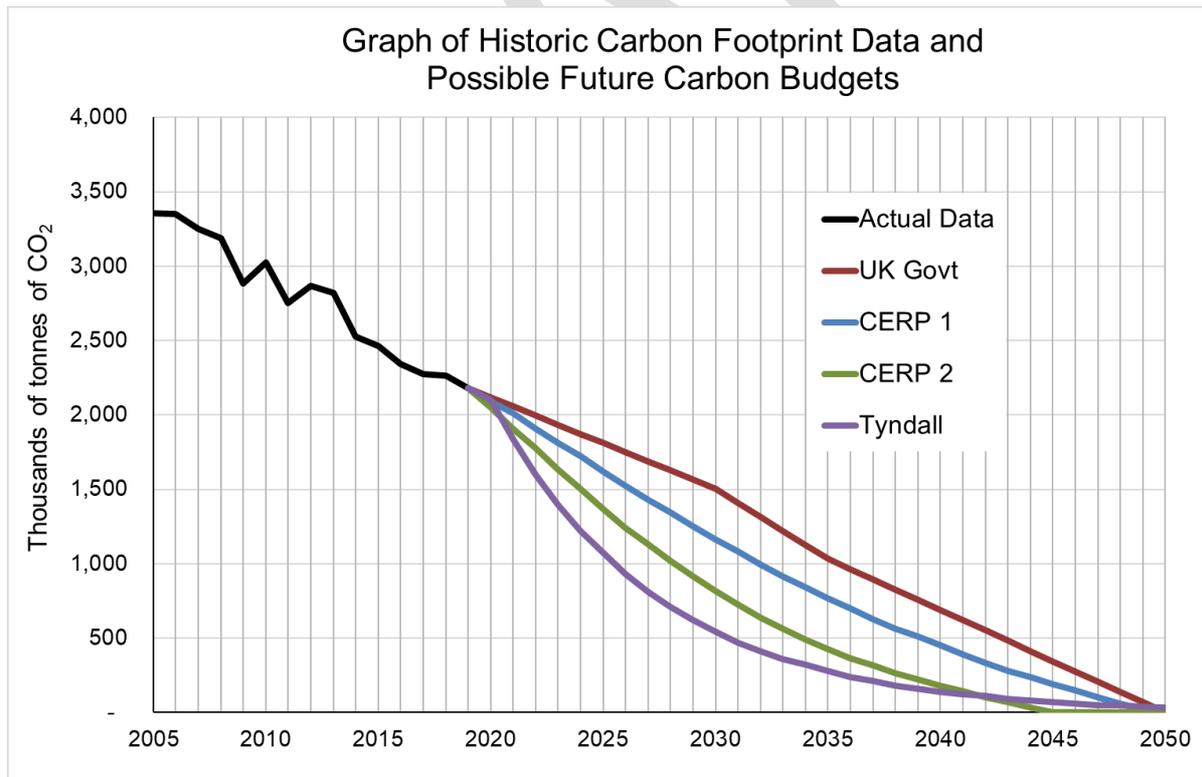
This new budget for CERP 2 uses a total of 24.3MtCO₂, which is 3MtCO₂ over the Tyndall Centre budget, but considerably better than the national target. The table below compares the four budgets:

⁴⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-enshrines-new-target-in-law-to-slash-emissions-by-78-by-2035>

⁴¹ <https://carbonbudget.manchester.ac.uk/reports/E06000047/>

| Carbon Budgets for County Durham (MtCO₂) | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Time Period | UK Government⁴² | DCC CERP 1 | Tyndall Centre | DCC CERP 2 |
| 2018 - 2022 | 10.6 | 10.4 | 10.4 | 10.2 |
| 2023 - 2027 | 9.1 | 8.1 | 5.4 | 6.9 |
| 2028 - 2032 | 7.4 | 5.8 | 2.8 | 4.1 |
| 2033 - 2037 | 5.2 | 3.9 | 1.4 | 2.2 |
| 2038 - 2042 | 3.4 | 2.2 | 0.7 | 0.9 |
| 2043 - 2047 | 1.7 | 1.0 | 0.4 | 0.1 |
| 2048 - 2100 | 0.2 | 0.9 | 0.4 | 0.0 |
| Total 2018-2100 | 37.7 | 31.5 | 21.5 | 24.3 |

County Durham’s carbon footprint in 2019 was 2,180,720 tonnes. If we repeat those emissions every year from 2020, we would have emitted 54,518,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide by the beginning of 2045. As shown in the table above, we are only permitted to release 24,300,000 tonnes. We therefore need to prevent the emission of at least 30,218,000 tonnes over the twenty-five years to 2045. What we can’t prevent, we must offset.



The table below shows where we are now and the milestones we hope to reach between now and March 2045.

⁴² Assumes linear reduction between targets for 2030, 2035, and 2050.

| Year | Total Net Footprint Tonnes of CO ₂ per year | % Reduced From 1990 |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2019 | 2,180,720 | 54% |
| 2023 | 1,632,080 | 65% |
| 2030 | 815,240 | 83% |
| 2040 | 178,200 | 96% |
| 2045 | 0 | 100% |

Achieving the Targets

The overall target is to make County Durham carbon neutral. In order that we do achieve this, keeping to the budget set out above, we must aim for a series of interim targets. This section describes what actions will be required in order to reach the target set in this CERP. There will be some flexibility in this. We may not need to do all of one action if we can do more of another. If everyone suddenly stopped driving fossil fuel cars, then we wouldn't need to replace so many gas boilers in these next two years.

Target: 65% reduced or offset by the end of 2023

The following interim targets are based on reduction from 2019 levels (our most recent data) to where we need to be in 2023 (the end of the period covered by this plan).

35,000 fewer petrol and diesel cars on our roads, or an equivalent of 25% reduction in car mileage. In 2019 there were almost three hundred thousand vehicles registered in County Durham, of which only 800 were electric. 170,000 (55%) of those vehicles were cars, but they accounted for nearly two thirds (60%) of vehicle fuel consumption. If car users switched to busses or cycling and walking for just one quarter (25%) of journeys, this target can be reached.

55,000 fewer domestic gas boilers, or an equivalent drop in heating use in our homes. There were 250 thousand dwellings in County Durham in 2019. Heating all these homes caused 670 thousand tonnes of carbon dioxide. We can reduce this by turning the heating down, adding better insulation, or swapping our gas boilers for low carbon heaters such as air source heat pumps. If we start with adding more insulation, the carbon emissions from heat will reduce while our homes are made ready to accept low carbon heating in future.

20% reduction in public sector gas use, through boiler replacements and improved efficiency. A lot of gas can be saved in large buildings through better control systems, improved insulation, and better plant equipment with heat recovery. Even with all of that, many boilers will need to be removed and replaced with low carbon options. The Council is planning a programme of boiler replacements and urges other organisations to do the same.

20% reduction in business and industrial gas use. As in the public sector, we need businesses and industrial organisations to curb their gas use in line with our

carbon reduction targets. Better controls, insulation, and more efficient plant should all be introduced to achieve this. In addition, there may be opportunities to use more carbon efficient processes in some industries.

20% reduction in emissions from grid electricity. By the year 2023 we estimate that the carbon factor of the national grid will have dropped below 200g of CO₂e per kWh to around 185g of CO₂e per kWh. This will be achieved through increased use of wind and solar electricity across the country and in countries from which we import electricity. That alone could result in a 13% reduction in emissions from electricity use. However, with the switch from fossil fuels to the use of electricity in heating and transport, we can expect our demand on the electricity grid to increase in that time, undoing some of the good that the change in carbon factor had achieved.

It is essential that we continue to increase the amount of renewable generation we have in County Durham, and on Council land and buildings, while also continuing to improve the energy efficiency of our electrical appliances across all sectors, including at home.

10% increase in renewable electricity generation. In 2020, more than 500GWh of renewable electricity was generated in County Durham. By 2023 this must be increased by at least 10% to 550GWh.

5% offset through sequestration works such as tree planting and peatland restoration. It will be exceptionally difficult to achieve all the targets in all these sections in these two years. We cannot force residents to give up their gas boilers or fossil fuel cars, nor is it guaranteed that big businesses, industries, and other big emitters will meet their obligations. We must therefore anticipate that a significant proportion of the county's carbon emissions will need to be offset. If 5% of the total footprint can be offset consistently by 2024, that would be a good start.

5% of the footprint is 109,036 tonnes each year. It is not possible to achieve this through tree planting alone. It must be achieved through a combination of tree planting, peatland restoration, and other methods which may not all be readily quantifiable. A best estimate will be produced to assess progress on this target.

C. Glossary

This glossary contains tables of acronyms, notations, and terms used in this Climate Emergency Response Plan or in the usual Climate Emergency lexicon.

| Acronyms | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Acronym | Stands For | Description |
| AAP | Area Action Partnership | Partnerships that consist of members of the public, representatives for the Council, town and parish councils, police, fire, health, housing, business, university, and voluntary organisations. |
| AONB | Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty | A beautiful area of countryside with protection against development |
| BASEE | Boosting Access for SMEs to Energy Efficiency | A Government fund of up to £6m for SMEs |
| BD | Business Durham | The business support service for the Council |
| BEIS | Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy | Government department most closely related to Climate Change |
| BEEP | Business Energy Efficiency Project | Supports SMEs in County Durham to improve energy efficiency and awareness. |
| BEMS | Building Energy Management Systems | Machinery and software used to control buildings including heating, lighting, ventilation, etc. |
| BEV | Battery Electric Vehicle | A vehicle powered by an electric motor with a battery charged from the grid. |
| BREEAM | Building Research Establishment's Energy Assessment Method | A method for determining how sustainable a building will be once it is constructed. |
| DCC | Durham County Council | The Local Authority |
| DEC | Display Energy Certificate | An energy efficiency rating for buildings based on their use |
| EPC | Energy Performance Certificate | An energy efficiency rating for buildings based on their design |
| ERDF | European Regional Development Fund | Fund from the European Union previously available for projects in Durham. |
| EV | Electric Vehicle | A vehicle powered entirely by electricity through a battery |
| EVCP | Electric Vehicle Charge Point | A socket or series of sockets that facilitate electric vehicle charging |
| GHG | Greenhouse Gas | Any gas released into the atmosphere which contributes to global warming. |
| GNC | Great North Cycleway | A cycling route that will run from Blyth to Darlington. |
| HNDU | Heat Networks Delivery Unit | Funding and guidance for local authorities in for heat networks |
| HNIP | Heat Networks Investment Project | Funding for public and private sector heat networks |
| IT | Information Technology | Such as computers |

| Acronyms | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Acronym | Stands For | Description |
| IPCC | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change | UN body responsible for advancing knowledge on Climate Change |
| LCWIP | Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans | UK government initiative asking local authorities to create strategic plans for cycling and walking |
| LED | Light Emitting Diode | A very efficient type of light bulb |
| LULUCF | Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry | Defined by the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat as a "greenhouse gas inventory sector that covers emissions and removals of greenhouse gases resulting from direct human-induced land use such as settlements and commercial uses, land-use change, and forestry activities." |
| LNRS | Local Nature Recovery Strategy | A new system of spatial strategies for nature, which will cover the whole of England. |
| NETP | North East Transport Plan | The region's transport aspirations up to 2035. |
| NELEP | North East Local Enterprise Partnership | Organisation to assist regional local authorities and organisations to support the economy |
| NPPF | National Planning Policy Framework | Sets out UK government's planning policies for England and how they are expected to be applied. |
| OASES | Outdoor and Sustainability Education Specialists | Deliver and promote outdoor learning and sustainability education |
| PCT | Propensity to Cycle Tool | Provides an evidence base to inform cycling investment |
| PHEV | Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle | Vehicle with both a battery motor and a petrol or diesel engine. |
| PV | Photovoltaics | Solar Panels which generate electricity from the sun's energy. |
| SME | Small and Medium Sized Enterprise | Businesses with fewer than 250 employees or less than €50m turnover. |
| SPV | Special Purpose Vehicle | A subsidiary company formed to undertake a specific business purpose |
| SUP | Single Use Plastic | Plastic products that aren't kept but are used once then thrown away. |
| TBC | To be confirmed | Not yet decided or announced |
| T&P | Town and Parish | Related to smaller local councils |
| ULEV | Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle | Umbrella term for any vehicle with very low emissions, including electric and hydrogen powered vehicles |
| UTCF | Urban Tree Challenge Fund | Provides funding to plant more trees in urban areas. |

| Notations | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Notation | Stands For | Description |
| °C | Degrees Celsius | Temperature |
| kWh | Kilowatt hours | Energy, equal to using one thousand Watts of power for a whole hour. |
| CO ₂ | Carbon Dioxide | The most common greenhouse gas. |

| Notations | | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Notation | Stands For | Description |
| CO ₂ | Carbon Dioxide | Where is it not possible to change formatting, such as in image files, CO ₂ or CO ₂ e may be written as CO ₂ . |
| CO ₂ e | Carbon Dioxide equivalent | The amount of emissions that has the equivalent climate change contribution as that much CO ₂ . This includes all measurable greenhouse gasses as well as CO ₂ . |
| CO ₂ e or CO ₂ per kWh | Carbon Factor | Amount of carbon dioxide equivalent or amount of carbon dioxide that is release into our atmosphere for every unit of energy used. |
| CH ₄ | Methane | A greenhouse gas. |
| k | kilo | One thousand of something, such as a kilogram (kg) being 1,000 grams |
| M | mega | One million of something, such as a megawatt (MW) being 1,000,000 Watts |
| kg | kilogram | Unit of mass. |
| t | Tonne | Unit of mass equal to 1,000kg |
| kt | kilotonne | Unit of mass equal to 1,000t |
| ha | Hectare | Unit of area equal to 10,000m ² |
| NO _x | Nitrogen Oxides | A group of greenhouse gasses. |
| SO _x | Sulphur Oxides | A group of greenhouse gasses. |

| Terms | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Term | Description |
| e-bike | A bicycle with an integrated battery to supplement pedal power. |
| Energy | Word often used to describe electricity and gas and other heat utilities. |
| Carbon Budget | The amount of carbon emissions that can be produced by an organisation, area, or activity over a period of time while the organisation, area, or activity meets its carbon targets. |
| Carbon Emissions | A general term for all greenhouse gas emissions, including CH ₄ and CO ₂ or CO ₂ e. |
| Carbon Footprint | Amount of carbon emissions directly associated with the organisation, area, or activity. |
| Carbon Neutral | Having no carbon emissions that are not also countered by additional carbon off-setting or sequestration. |
| Carbon Off-setting | Additional carbon reduction elsewhere to compensate for the actual emissions associated with the organisation, area, or activity. This could include tree planting, carbon capture, or renewable electricity generation to be used other than by the organisation, area, or activity. |
| Carbon Reduction | Actual reduction of carbon emissions, which cannot include carbon off-setting. |
| Cargo bike | A bicycle or tricycle designed to carry a large load. |
| Minewater | Water that naturally fills the abandoned mines beneath the ground. |
| f | Having no carbon emissions that are not also countered by additional carbon off-setting. |
| Payback Period | The amount of time a project takes to generate enough income or savings to off-set its cost. |

| Terms | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Term | Description |
| Semi-natural | An ecosystem with most of its processes and biodiversity intact, though altered by human activity in strength or abundance relative to the natural state. |
| Sequestration (of carbon emissions) | The removal of carbon emissions from the atmosphere, commonly by growing trees. |
| The Council | Durham County Council |
| Whips | A whip is a slender, unbranched shoot or plant. This term is used in forestry to refer to unbranched young tree seedlings of approximately 0.5-1.0 m in height and 2–3 years old, that have been grown for planting out. |
| Zero Carbon | Having no CO ₂ e emissions at all from any aspect of the organisation, area, or activity. |

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Cabinet

15 June 2022

Levelling Up Fund: Round 2

Key Decision No: REG/05/22



Report of Corporate Management Team

Geoff Paul, Interim Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth

Councillor Elizabeth Scott, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economy and Partnerships

Councillor James Rowlandson, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Resources, Investment and Assets

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide an overview of the guidance and bidding requirements to access Round 2 of the Levelling Up Fund.
- 2 This report seeks approval for the submission of five proposals across County Durham for the following parliamentary constituencies: City of Durham, Easington, North Durham, North West Durham and Sedgefield.
- 3 The report outlines each submission for Round 2 and identifies a match funding requirement, including £10 million of Council funding to lever an initial £92 million Levelling Up Fund investment towards the five Levelling Up schemes with a total expenditure of £117 million.

Executive summary

- 4 In the 2021 Budget, Central Government announced the Levelling Up Fund (LUF), to provide investment in regeneration and growth in places with low productivity and poor connectivity.
- 5 As detailed within the Cabinet Report on 15 June 2021, County Durham has been identified as one of the areas of greatest need of levelling up in the UK and has been classified as a Tier 1 area by Central

Government. The Round 1 submission for the Bishop Auckland Parliamentary Constituency: Rural Connectivity and Cultural Connectivity, was successfully awarded £20 million Levelling Up Funding in the Autumn Statement, October 2021. The LUF is a competitive fund totalling £4.8 billion nationally, with £1.7 billion awarded to successful applicants in Round 1. This leaves £3.1 billion for future rounds.

- 6 Beyond the announcement of the LUF, the Government White Paper released in February 2022 confirmed the wider approach to Levelling Up. The Council will continue to develop its approach and champion priorities for investment to support levelling up within the county.
- 7 Further guidance for Round 2 Levelling Up bids was released in March 2022 (see Appendix 2). This confirmed that the funding criteria was broadly in line with the previous round. Each parliamentary constituency within the Local Authority area can submit one bid for Government grant of £20 million. County Durham, with six parliamentary constituencies, can submit up to six bids in total. The Government guidance states that a minimum of 10 percent match funding is required to support each bid. Cabinet agreed in February 2022, as part of the MTFP(12) process, that up to £10 million funding could be allocated to lever in further LUF investment. A £5 million capital budget will be created to enable a match funding budget. It is forecast that if all Levelling Up bids are successful that a further £5 million will be required in MTFP(13). This is in addition to other Council funding, already identified and allocated, as detailed in the report.
- 8 Local authorities are the accountable body for all bids and the guidance is clear that engagement with, and the support of, the local Member of Parliament for each area is required.
- 9 The bids can include a maximum of three cohesively connected projects, with capital spend in financial year 2022/2023 with Government grant expended by March 2025. Business cases must demonstrate need, deliverability, strategic fit and value for money. The three priority areas for scheme investment remain as the following:
 - Transport;
 - Regeneration and town centres;
 - Cultural investment.
- 10 The deadline for submitting Round 2 proposals for 2022/23 funding awards is **6 July 2022**, and priority will be given to projects that can commence capital spend in 2022/23. It is thought likely successful bids

will be announced in the Autumn Statement 2022. There will be time pressures to ensure that bids are delivery ready by this point.

- 11 Although Government announced that there would be three bidding rounds when Round 1 was announced, the most recent Levelling Up White Paper and subsequent guidance on Round 2 are silent on the issue. The working assumption is therefore, that there will not be a Round 3.
- 12 Local authorities, as Responsible Bodies for developing the bids, have received £125,000 capacity funding to support the development of future bids. However, the development costs of a full programme of levelling up proposals will be substantially higher overall. Cabinet has earmarked reserves to accommodate the estimated costs of developing robust bids.
- 13 This approach has considered existing priorities, substantial masterplanning across several towns, local councillor, MP and stakeholder engagement. A range of potential schemes has been developed across the remaining parliamentary constituencies to support transport connectivity, culture, heritage and regeneration in the city, town centres and villages.
- 14 Given the tight timescales for Round 2 since funding criteria announcement in March 2022, gateway criteria within the LUF requirements and the quantifiable economic benefits that need to be demonstrated, considerable work is underway to develop a further 5 bids. It is proposed that five bids are submitted by the 6 July 2022 deadline. These proposals address socio-economic needs, transport barriers and cultural ambitions within each locality. A summary of each parliamentary constituency area bid is outlined as follows:

City of Durham: Enhance and Maintain Transport Assets to Support Durham City's Economy

- 15 A £20 million Levelling Up government grant is being sought to contribute to the delivery of three schemes that will collectively enhance and maintain Durham City's economy. The schemes support economic development through transport and cultural led regeneration. The schemes proposed are:
 - (a) Bowburn Relief Road – tackling traffic capacity constraints to bring forward Phase 3 of Integra 61, by reassigning traffic away from Junction 61 and Bowburn village (A177);
 - (b) City Centre active mode connectivity, linking new and existing cultural attractions;

- (c) Stabilisation of A690 – ensuring the A690 remains open and there are no adverse impacts on the A1 or the wider city.
- 16 The bid will generate strong labour supply, transport, active mode, amenity, land value and cultural benefits. The MP has shown support for economic growth and job creation within the parliamentary constituency. These proposals enhance the county’s ambition as part of the City of Culture 2025 campaign by enhancing existing connectivity between the city’s cultural assets, promoting the natural environment within the city centre and boosting the riverbanks as a destination.
- 17 The total forecast cost for the three investments is £31.5 million. £20 million of LUF Government grant will be bid for and a remaining £11.5 million mix of private and public match funding will be secured. The report seeks approval for a further £2 million capital investment in support of these proposals, with a MTFP12 request approved in February 2022 for this amount.

Easington: Horden Regeneration - Wellbeing and Quality of Life

- 18 A £20 million Levelling Up grant is being sought to contribute to the delivery of three schemes that will support wellbeing and quality of life improvements as part of a longer-term approach to housing led regeneration within Horden. This long term plan has previously enjoyed support from local residents and a detailed report on the regeneration strategy, phases to be delivered, acquisition and demolition strategy, funding opportunities and partner procurement will be presented to Cabinet in the Autumn.

The Levelling Up schemes support regeneration through the new and enhanced community assets on brownfield land, improving local streets and enabling housing development land. The schemes proposed are:

- (a) Enabled Residential Land to provide land for social housing to support the rehousing of residents impacted by regeneration plans;
 - (b) Community assets on brownfield land including a woodland plantation, nature reserve and new community building;
 - (c) Improving local streets to encourage modal shift to non private car use.
- 19 The bid will generate strong wellbeing, cultural, active mode, amenity and land value benefits. The MP has shown strong support for housing led regeneration in Horden. These proposals will enhance the approach for longer term housing regeneration within this community, supporting the housing mix and choice available to residents.

- 20 The total forecast cost for three investment is £22 million. The report seeks approval for a £2 million capital investment in support of these proposals, with a MTFP12 request approved in February 2022 for this amount. This will be in addition to a £20 million Government grant requirement.

North Durham: Stanley Regeneration

- 21 A £20 million Levelling Up government grant is being sought to contribute to the delivery of three schemes that will support high street regeneration, boost economic growth, encourage modal shift and tackle known congestion issues on the A693. The schemes proposed are:
- (a) High street regeneration - bring buildings back to life within town centre through the introduction of new managed workspace, public realm, enhancement of the wellbeing offer at the Louisa Centre and bus station revitalisation;
 - (b) Decongestion improvements along the A693, including at the Asda Roundabout and Oxhill junction, also allowing for improved public transport journey times and punctuality;
 - (c) Active mode improvements – linking key nodes such as the Academy and High Street with residential areas. The town will be better connected to the Coast 2 Coast route.
- 22 The bid will generate significant transport, journey quality, active mode, amenity, land value, health and wellbeing and labour supply benefits. The MP has shown support for regeneration within the town. These proposals will enhance the regeneration approach outlined within the Stanley Regeneration Masterplan.
- 23 The total forecast cost for three investment is £27.9 million. This includes Council funding of £5.93 million and a £20 million LUF government grant. The report seeks approval for a further £2 million capital investment in support of these proposals, with a MTFP12 request approved in February 2022 for this amount.

North West Durham: 3 Towns Regeneration – Strong, Connected and Active Towns

- 25 A £12 million Levelling Up government grant is being sought to contribute to the delivery of three schemes that will enhance recreational facilities, support wellbeing, improve active mode provision, grow the local economy and boost high street regeneration across the three towns of Crook, Willington and Tow Law. The schemes proposed are:

- (a) Town Parks and Leisure – range of improvements across the towns including a new community hub, improved parks, Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs), event spaces, BMX track and skate park;
 - (b) Stronger Towns through high street regeneration and employment growth – enabling infrastructure to support development at Low Willington Industrial Estate, targeted improvement for the high street, wayfinding and public realm;
 - (c) Active mode and Sustainable Streets – new and upgraded cycling and walking routes within and between the three settlements. New EV charging infrastructure to support and encourage sustainable travel.
- 26 The schemes' designs, costs and benefits are being refined however will deliver wellbeing, active mode, amenity, land value and cultural benefits. The MP has shown support for regeneration across the three towns.
- 27 The total forecast cost for three investment is £14 million. The report seeks approval for a further £2 million capital investment in support of these proposals, with a MTFP12 request approved in February 2020 for this amount.

Sedgefield: Newton Aycliffe Regeneration

- 29 A £20 million Government grant is being sought to contribute to the delivery of three schemes that will support high street regeneration, improvement public transport provision, improve culture and wellbeing and enhance active mode connectivity within the town. The schemes proposed are:
- (a) High street regeneration – repurposing land and buildings at the within the town centre to provide improved flexible and amenity space, a public transport interchange, reprovision of surface level car parking and improved commercial buildings;
 - (b) Enhancement of active mode routes across the town linking employment locations, rail stations, green spaces, parks and residential areas;
 - (c) Improved cultural and wellbeing offer within the town centre to enhance provision and provide a cultural family attraction alongside the existing leisure and library services.
- 30 The schemes will generate strong transport journey quality, active mode, amenity, land value and cultural benefits. The MP has shown strong support for regeneration within the town. These proposals will enhance the regeneration approach within the town Masterplan.

- 31 The total forecast cost for three investment is £22 million. The report seeks approval for a further £2 million capital investment in support of these proposals, with a MTFP12 request approved in February 2020 for this amount. This will be in addition to a £20 million government grant requirement.

Finalising the Funding Proposals

- 32 Final costings and economic analysis as part of business case development are being refined ahead of the LUF submission deadline for all five bids on 6 July 2022. In summary, the total financial requirement and contributions across all five proposed proposals are outlined in the table below. The potential DCC match required is £10 million to lever £92 million of LUF resources.

| Parliamentary Constituency | LUF Grant | Existing DCC Match | New DCC Match Requested | Private Match | Total |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------|
| City of Durham | £20m | £4m* £1.5m** | £2m | £4m | £31.5m |
| Easington | £20m | | £2m | | £22m |
| North Durham | £20m | £1.4m*** £4.5m**** | £2m | | £27.9m |
| North West Durham | £12m | | £2m | | £14m |
| Sedgefield | £20m | | £2m | TBD | £22m |
| Total | £92m | £11.4m | £10m | £4m | £117.4m |

*£4m from DCC highway maintenance allocations

** existing £1.5mm of highway maintenance funding

*** includes £1.4m of maintenance funding for the Louisa Centre

**** funded either as part of the Accommodation Programme or from capital contingencies

- 33 The Council will be required to continue to develop projects at risk whilst the funding bids are assessed by Central Government. If the Council does not commit to this continued investment at risk then it may mean that the overall programme of projects is not then deliverable to the Government's timetable for implementation. A programme is being developed across all projects which will determine key milestones and expenditure required, in line with earmarked reserves available to develop submitted bids to ensure that they are delivery ready if funding is awarded.

- 34 In view of the complexity of the work involved and the tight deadline for bid submissions detailed work will continue to develop the proposals after the Cabinet meeting and delegated authority is sought to finalise the bids to government.

Recommendation(s)

- 35 Cabinet is recommended to:
- (a) agree draft outline approach for the Levelling Up submission for Round Two and support the five proposals for investment across the City of Durham, Easington, North Durham, North West Durham and Sedgefield parliamentary constituencies;
 - (b) note the anticipated bid costs estimated of £117.4 million, including £92 million of LUF government grant to be bid for;
 - (c) utilise £5 million of Capital funding approved in February 2022 as part of the MTFP(12) process and if all Levelling Up bids are successful, recognise that a further £5 million will be required in MTFP(13) to meet match funding requirements;
 - (d) £11.4 million of match funding required and how this will be funded;
 - (e) note that earmarked reserves are available to develop submitted bids to ensure that they are delivery ready if funding is awarded. This meets the requirement to commence delivery prior to March 2023;
 - (f) recognise that further design work and costings is to be finalised and this could influence the final LUF request for government grant. The business case development underway will further shape proposals and time scales are very tight and pressured to develop all five proposals in time for the deadline; and
 - (g) delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Regeneration, Economy and Growth and Corporate Director of Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economy and Partnerships and the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Resources Investments and Assets and Deputy Leader and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance to take all such decisions necessary to progress and finalise Levelling Up proposals for Round 2 ready for the submission deadlines on 6 July 2022.

Background

- 36 In the 2021 Budget, Central Government announced the Levelling Up Fund (LUF), to provide investment in regeneration and growth in places with low productivity and poor connectivity.
- 36 As detailed within the Cabinet Report on 15 June 2021, County Durham has been identified as one of the areas of greatest need of levelling up in the UK and has been classified as a Tier 1 area by Central Government. The Round 1 submission for the Bishop Auckland Parliamentary Constituency: Rural Connectivity and Cultural Connectivity, was successfully awarded £20 million Levelling Up Funding in the Autumn Statement, October 2021. The LUF is a competitive fund totalling £4.8 billion nationally, with £1.7 billion awarded to successful applicants in Round 1. This leaves £3.1 billion for future rounds.
- 37 Beyond the announcement of the LUF, the Government White Paper released in February 2022 confirmed the wider approach to Levelling Up. The Council will continue to develop its approach and champion priorities for investment to support levelling up within the county. This will require a blend of investments that create different outcomes for communities, make the best use of national funds such as Levelling Up Fund, Shared Prosperity Fund UK and the potential of a County Deal for County Durham. This will include place-based regeneration that improves the quality of our city, towns and villages, alongside broader investments to unlock sites for housing and employment and support the labour market.
- 38 Further guidance for Round 2 levelling up bids was released in March 2022. This confirmed that the funding criteria was broadly in line with the previous round. Each parliamentary constituency within the local authority area can submit one bid for Government grant of £20 million. County Durham, with six parliamentary constituencies, would be in a position to be able to submit six bids to lever in up to £120 million of Government grant. The Government guidance states that a minimum of 10 percent match funding is required to support each bid. Cabinet agreed in February 2022, as part of the MTFP process, that up to £10 million funding could be allocated to lever in further LUF investment. A £5 million capital budget will be created to enable a match funding budget. It is forecast that if all Levelling Up bids are successful that a further £5 million will be required in MTFP(13). This is in addition to other Council funding, already identified and allocated, as detailed in the report.

- 39 Local authorities are the accountable body for all bids and the guidance is clear that engagement with, and the support of, the local Member of Parliament for each area is required. There is also an opportunity for a wider regional transport bid or cultural bid of up to £50 million.
- 40 Bids of up to £20 million per parliamentary constituency can include a maximum of three cohesively connected projects, must commence spend by March 2023 and be delivered with financial completion by March 2025. Business cases must demonstrate need, deliverability, strategic fit and value for money. The three priority areas for scheme investment remain as the following:
- **Transport** - public transport, active travel, bridge repairs, bus priority lanes, local road improvements, major structural maintenance, and accessibility improvements;
 - **Regeneration and town centre** - upgrade eyesore buildings and dated infrastructure, acquire and regenerate brownfield sites, invest in secure community infrastructure and crime reduction, and bring public services and safe community spaces into town and city centres; and
 - **Cultural** - regenerating, or creatively repurposing museums, galleries, visitor attractions (and associated green spaces) and heritage assets as well as creating new community-owned spaces to support the arts and serve as cultural spaces.
- 41 The Government has specified that projects should target improvements in pockets of deprivation and contribute towards carbon net zero targets.
- 42 The deadline for submitting Round 2 proposals for 2022/23 funding awards is **6 July 2022**, and priority will be given to projects that can commence capital spend on the ground in 2022/23. Successful bids will be announced in the Autumn Statement 2022.
- 43 Government has been very clear that projects must be ready to deliver and have an advanced business case for this deadline, which realistically means that only those projects that were already at an advanced stage could reasonably be submitted.
- 44 Although Government announced that there would be three bidding rounds when Round 1 was announced, the most recent Levelling Up White Paper and subsequent guidance on Round 2 are silent on the issue. The working assumption is therefore, that there will not be a Round 3.

- 45 Local authorities, as Responsible Bodies for developing the bids, have received £125,000 capacity funding to support the development of future bids, however, the development costs of a full programme of levelling up proposals will be substantially higher overall. Cabinet earmarked reserves to accommodate the estimated cost of developing robust bids. Some of this funding could be capitalised should the bids be approved and confirmation by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

Developing a Levelling Up Pipeline, Shortlist and Determining Priorities

- 46 Since July 2021, officers have considered the development of potential schemes in line with anticipated funding criteria for Round 2.
- 47 This approach has considered existing priorities, desk top review, benefits assessments, substantial masterplanning across several towns, local councillor, MP and stakeholder engagement. A range of appropriate schemes have been developed across the remaining parliamentary constituencies to support transport connectivity, culture, heritage and regeneration in the city, town centres and villages. These have accounted for the need to be aligned to the LUF criteria and gateway assessment, being able to commence delivery in 2022/23 and achieve financial completion by March 2025.
- 48 Given the tight timescales for Round 2 since the funding criteria announcement in March 2022, gateway criteria within the LUF requirements and the quantifiable economic benefits that need to be demonstrated, considerable work is underway to develop a further five bids. It is proposed that five bids are submitted by the 6 July 2022 deadline. These proposals address socio-economic needs, transport barriers and cultural ambitions within each locality. A summary of each parliamentary constituency area bid is outlined as follows:

City of Durham: Enhance and Maintain Transport Assets to Support Durham City's Economy

- 49 A £20 million Levelling Up government grant is being sought to contribute to the delivery of three schemes that will collectively enhance and maintain Durham City's economy. The schemes support economic development through transport and cultural led regeneration. The schemes proposed are:
- (a) Bowburn Relief Road – tackling traffic capacity constraints to bring forward Phase 3 of Integra 61, by reassigning traffic away from Junction 61 and Bowburn village (A177). This will be achieved with a new road, routing through the Integra Site and

routing parallel to the Leamside Line, linking the A688 south of Integra 61 and the A177 north of Bowburn village. A link will be provided under the Leamside Line connecting to Integra Phase 3;

- (b) City Centre active mode connectivity, linking new and existing cultural attractions. Cultural attractions including the DLI, Wharton Park, Crook Hall, Elvet Park, Peninsula, and the Riverbanks will be better linked for visitors. Health and wellbeing will be enhanced through active mode connectivity linking residential areas with the city centre;
- (c) Stabilisation of A690 – ensuring the A690 remains open and there are no adverse impacts on the A1(M) or the wider city.

50 The schemes have strong labour supply, transport, active mode, amenity, land value and cultural benefits. The logic chain in Appendix 3 illustrates how the levelling up proposals will tackle problems, meet strategic objectives and deliver levelling up outcomes for the constituency. The MP has shown support for economic growth and job creation within the parliamentary constituency. These proposals will enhance the county's approach and ambition to secure the City of Culture 2025 by enhancing existing cultural assets connectivity, promoting the natural environment within the city centre and boosting the riverbanks as a destination.

51 The total forecast cost for three investment is £31.5 million. There is a private sector commitment for £4 million match, with £4 million to be allocated from allocated Council Highway Maintenance funding. A further £1.5 million match is already in place for highways maintenance works on the Peninsula which will be utilised as match funding. In addition, £20 million of LUF Government grant will be bid for. The report seeks approval for a further £2 million capital investment in support of these proposals, with a MTFP12 request approved in February for this amount. The table below outlines the estimated funding profile and match funding requirements:

| Proposed Schemes | LUF Grant | DCC Match | Private Match | Total |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Bowburn relief road | £7m | | £4m | £11m |
| Active mode connectivity to cultural attractions | £8m | £1.5m* | | £9.5m |
| Stabilisation A690 | £5m | £2m + £4m** | | £11m |
| Total | £20m | £7.5m | £4m | £31.5m |

*Existing DCC Highways commitment

** DCC highways (£4m over 2 years)

52 The main issues and risks to developing and delivering these packages as part of a Round 2 submission are as follows:

- agreeing options with landowners to enable acquisition and land assembly;
- interdependencies with private landowners and developers plans.

53 A mitigation strategy is being developed and programmes for all projects will determine milestones and expenditure requirements both for development and delivery of the proposed proposal for this constituency.

Easington: Horden Regeneration - Wellbeing and Quality of Life

54 A £20 million Levelling Up grant is being sought to contribute to the delivery of three schemes that will support wellbeing and quality of life improvements as part of a longer-term approach to housing led regeneration within Horden. The schemes support regeneration through the new and enhanced community assets on brownfield land, improving local streets and enabling housing development land. The long term plan for Horden has previously enjoyed support from local residents and a detailed report on the regeneration strategy, phases to be delivered, acquisition and demolition strategy, funding opportunities and partner procurement will be presented to Cabinet in the Autumn. The Levelling Up schemes proposed are:

- (a) Enabled Residential Land to provide land for social housing and the ability to rehouse residents from existing homes in order to allow for the proposed demolition in the numbered streets area of Horden. The two sites are under consideration;
- (b) Community Assets on brownfield land. This will include a woodland plantation and a nature reserve site, linking to active

mode routes as well as the Heritage Coast. A new community building will provide flexible space and gardens for community use to enhance existing provision;

- (c) Improving local streets, which are to remain after the masterplan. This will target neighbourhoods that will benefit most from an uplift in the streets where people live. It will encourage modal shift to non private car use with active mode routes, including connectivity improvements from Horden Rail Station to Peterlee town centre. The addition of street trees and landscaping will improve environmental standards. Signing will be reviewed to reduce clutter, improve direction signing and replace street names.

55 The bid will generate strong wellbeing, cultural, active mode, amenity and land value benefits. The MP has shown strong support for housing led regeneration in Horden. These proposals will enhance the approach for longer term housing regeneration within this community, supporting the housing mix and choice available to residents. A visit from the DLUHC identified they were supportive of the approach with the LUF criteria for this Round 2 proposal.

56 The total forecast cost for these three investments is £22 million. The report seeks approval for a £2 million capital investment in support of these proposals, with a MTFP12 request approved in February 2022 for this amount. This will be in addition to a requirement for £20 million Government grant. The table below outlines the estimated funding profile and match funding requirements:

| Proposed Schemes | LUF Grant | DCC Match | Total |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Enabled residential land | £20m | £2m | £22m |
| New and Improved community assets | | | |
| Improving connectivity | | | |
| Total | £20m | £2m | £22m |

57 The main issues and risks to developing and delivering these packages as part of a Round 2 submission are as follows:

- land condition of DCC owned land to deliver enabled land;
- capacity and viability to incorporate enabled land within the Council Housing Programme to deliver social housing via this route;

- demand, operational, revenue requirements and subsidy control implications for the delivery of the new community facility;
 - community consultation, interdependencies and messaging aligned to the housing led regeneration planned for the numbered streets areas within Horden.
- 57 A mitigation strategy is being developed and programmes for all projects will determine milestones and expenditure requirements both for development and delivery of the proposed proposal for this constituency.
- 58 The Council remain committed to the longer term housing led regeneration within Horden and have committed £ 6 million toward this work. Proposals in the numbered streets include the replacement of poor quality housing with new, high quality and a better mix of homes, new community facilities, improved public spaces and better connectivity with parks, green space and walking and cycling routes. A delivery strategy that includes how best to phase the work and what the initial investment of the £ 6 million will be spent on is expected to be complete in Autumn 2022. Consultation is taking place between 26 May and 10 June 2022 to provide an update on the Levelling Up proposals and the wider housing masterplan.

North Durham: Stanley Regeneration

- 59 A £20 million Levelling Up government grant is being sought to contribute to the delivery of three schemes that will support high street regeneration, boost economic growth, encourage modal shift and tackle known congestion issues on the A693. The schemes proposed are:
- (a) High street regeneration - will bring a range of buildings back to life and into use to revitalise the town centre. Improve the wellbeing and cultural offer at the Louisa Centre, enhance public realm, provide managed workspace and flexible events space. The refurbishment of the bus station will also be included to improve public transport user journey when visiting and arriving to the town;
 - (b) Decongestion improvements along the A693, including at the Asda Roundabout and Oxhill junction, also allowing for improved public transport journey times and punctuality;
 - (c) Active mode improvements – linking key nodes such as the Academy and High Street with residential areas. The town will be better connected to the Coast 2 Coast route, promoting the town centre as a stop off point, including a new cycle hub near to the Louisa Centre.

- 60 The bid will generate significant transport, journey quality, active mode, amenity, land value, health and wellbeing and labour supply benefits. The MP has shown support for regeneration within the town. These proposals will enhance the regeneration approach outlined within the Stanley Regeneration Masterplan.
- 61 The total forecast cost for three investment is £27.9 million. This includes £4.5 million funded either as part of the Council's Accommodation Programme or from capital contingencies, £1.4 million from the Council for the maintenance of the Louisa Centre, and a £20m LUF government grant requirement. The report seeks approval for a further £2 million capital investment in support of these proposals, with a MTFP12 request approved in February for this amount. The table below outlines the estimated funding profile and match funding requirements:

| Proposed Schemes | LUF Grant | Existing DCC Match | New DCC Match | Total |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| High street regeneration | £14.25m | £4.5m* £1.4m** | | £20.15m |
| Decongestion improvements | £4.5m | | £1m | £5.5m |
| Active Mode | £1.25m | | £1m | £2.25m |
| Total | £20m | £5.9m | £2m | £27.9m |

* Funded either as part of Accommodation Programme or from capital contingencies

**Existing DCC Leisure commitment for refurbishment of Louisa Centre

- 62 The main issues and risks to developing and delivering these packages as part of a Round 2 submission are as follows:
- securing option agreements, land acquisition and land assembly to deliver high street regeneration proposals in line with delivery timescales;
 - interdependencies with the Leisure Transformation Programme delivery at the Louisa Centre;
 - package of several projects as part of the high street regeneration as opposed to one project could be viewed as a programme;
 - considering packages due to estimate costs versus benefits and therefore subject to change within the three areas outlined.

67 A mitigation strategy is being developed and programmes for all projects will determine milestones and expenditure requirements both for development and delivery of the proposed proposal for this constituency.

North West Durham: 3 Towns Regeneration - Strong, Connected and Active Towns

68 A £12 million Levelling Up government grant is being sought to contribute to the delivery of three schemes that will enhance recreational facilities, support wellbeing, improve active mode provision and boost high street regeneration across the three towns of Crook, Willington and Tow Law. The schemes proposed are:

- (a) Town Park and Leisure – improvements across the towns with a new community hub and park in Crook, new MUGA and events space at Willington Park and MUGA, football pitch improvements, BMX track and skate park at Tow Law;
- (b) Stronger Towns through High street regeneration and employment growth – enabling infrastructure to support development at Low Willington Industrial Estate, targeted improvement for the high street, wayfinding and public realm;
- (c) Active mode and sustainable streets – new and upgraded cycling and walking routes between Crook and Willington, and better connecting onto longer distance routes connecting to Durham and Bishop Auckland. Active mode improvements within each of the three settlements will also be implemented. New EV charging infrastructure in key locations across all three settlements to support and encourage sustainable travel.

69 The schemes’ designs, costs and benefits are being refined however will deliver wellbeing, active mode, amenity, land value and cultural benefits. The MP has shown support regeneration across the three towns.

70 The total forecast cost for three investments is £14 million. This report seeks approval for £2 million match funding to realise the proposed investment. The table below outlines the estimated funding profile and match funding requirements:

| Proposed Schemes | LUF Grant | DCC Match | Total |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Town Parks and Leisure | £12m | £2m | £14m |
| High Street Regeneration | | | |
| Active Mode and Sustainable Streets | | | |

| | | | |
|-------|-------------|-----|------|
| Total | £12m | £2m | £14m |
|-------|-------------|-----|------|

71 The main issues and risks to developing and delivering these packages as part of a Round 2 submission are as follows:

- thematic and packages of projects approach may weaken the bid position. Strong narrative but does look like a programme. Preferred Towns Deal approach was no longer feasible due to the omission from the Round 2 funding criteria;
- demand, operational, revenue requirements and subsidy control implications for the delivery of new community facilities.

72 A mitigation strategy is being developed and programmes for all projects will determine milestones and expenditure requirements both for development and delivery of the proposed proposal for this constituency.

Sedgefield: Newton Aycliffe Regeneration

73 A £20 million Government grant is being sought to contribute to the delivery of three schemes that will support high street regeneration, improved public transport provision, improve culture and wellbeing and enhance active mode connectivity within the town. The schemes proposed are:

- (a) High street regeneration – repurposing land and buildings within the town centre to provide improved flexible and amenity space, public transport interchange, reprovision of surface level car parking and improved commercial buildings. This will improve visibility and enhance the current inward-looking nature of the town centre;
- (b) Enhancement of active mode routes across the town linking employment locations, rail stations, green spaces, parks and residential areas;
- (c) New Cultural and Wellbeing offer within the town centre to enhance service provision, attracting more footfall and providing a cultural family attraction alongside the existing leisure and library services within the town.

74 The schemes will generate strong transport journey quality, active mode, amenity, land value and cultural benefits. The MP has shown strong support for regeneration within the town. These proposals will enhance the regeneration approach the town Masterplan.

75 The total forecast cost for three investment is £22 million. The report seeks approval for a further £2 million capital investment in support of these proposals, with a MTFP12 request approved in February 2022 for this amount. This will be in addition to a £20 million government grant requirement. The table below outlines the estimated funding profile and match funding requirements:

| Proposed Schemes | LUF Grant | DCC Match | Total |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------|
| High street regeneration | £9m | | £9m |
| Active mode | £7m | | £7m |
| Cultural and Wellbeing Hub | £4m | £2m | £2m |
| Total | £20m | £2m | £22m |

78 The main issues and risks to developing and delivering these packages as part of a Round 2 submission are as follows:

- land assembly to enable high street and cultural and wellbeing proposals within the town centre in line with the LUF delivery criteria;
- subsidy control implications and operational models to enable high street and cultural and wellbeing proposals within the town centre in line with the LUF delivery criteria;
- interdependencies with the Leisure Transformation Programme delivery at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre;
- securing delivery partners and lease arrangements to deliver a new family based cultural attraction and wellbeing services in line with the LUF delivery criteria.

79 A mitigation strategy is being developed and programmes for all projects will determine milestones and expenditure requirements both for development and delivery of the proposed proposal for this constituency.

Finalising the Funding Proposals

80 Final costings and economic analysis as part of business case development are being refined ahead of the LUF submission deadline for all five bids on **6 July 2022**. In summary, the total financial requirement and contributions across all five proposed proposals are

outlined in the table below. The potential Council match required is £10 million to lever £92 million of LUF resources.

- 81 In summary, the total financial requirement and contributions across all five proposed proposals are outlined below:

| Parliamentary Constituency | LUF Grant | Existing DCC Match | New DCC Match Requested | Private Match | Total |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------|
| City of Durham | £20m | £4m* £1.5m** | £2m | £4m | £31.5m |
| Easington | £20m | | £2m | | £22m |
| North Durham | £20m | £1.4m*** £4.5m**** | £2m | | £27.9m |
| North West Durham | £12m | | £2m | | £14m |
| Sedgefield | £20m | | £2m | TBD | £22m |
| Total | £92m | £11.4m | £10m | £4m | £117.4m |

*£4m from DCC highway maintenance allocations

** existing £1.5mm of highway maintenance funding

*** includes £1.4m of maintenance funding for the Louisa Centre

**** funded either as part of Accommodation Programme or from capital contingencies

- 82 The Council will be required to continue to develop projects at risk whilst the funding bids are assessed by Central Government. If the Council does not commit to this continued investment at risk then it may mean that the overall programme of projects is not then deliverable to the Government's timetable for implementation.
- 83 Cabinet have earmarked reserves to accommodate the estimated costs of developing robust bids. This required development funding is additional to the 10% match funding for each of the Constituency bids, with a total of £10 million. A £5 million capital budget will be created to enable a match funding budget as part of MTFP(12). It is forecast that if all Levelling Up bids are successful that a further £5 million will be required in MTFP(13).
- 84 It is not believed preparatory work to produce the bids could be claimed back, should the bids be successful. However, where possible development funding would be capitalised should the bids be successful. This would be subject to approval and confirmation by DLUHC.

Next Steps and Development Programme

- 85 The next steps are to finalise the five LUF bids and business cases, undertake briefings with Cabinet Member leads, local stakeholders, public engagement and further engagement with MPs to ensure the best possible case for the proposal is submitted ready for the Round 2 deadline on 6 July 2021. Significant detailed work will be undertaken between the Cabinet meeting and submission.
- 86 This report seeks delegated authority for the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth and Corporate Director of Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economy and Partnerships and the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Resources, Investments and Assets and Deputy Leader and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance to take all such decisions necessary to progress and finalise the Levelling Up proposal for Round 2 in advance of the 6 July 2022 submission deadline.

Background papers

Cabinet Report: 15 June 2021 – Levelling Up Fund

Other useful documents

[Levelling Up Fund Round 2: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

[Levelling Up Fund Round 2: technical note - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

[Levelling Up Fund Round 2: application guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Specialist advice for Subsidy Control has been sought across all five proposals. It is a requirement of all bids to state any subsidy control implications and as proposals incorporate private sector partners, various models of delivery and are not providing open access infrastructure, external expertise has been required.

Durham County Council does not own all the land associated with proposed LUF proposals. Consideration for land acquisitions and/or development arrangements to work alongside partners is being considered as part of each specific project proposal. Associated costs and risks to deliver desired ambitions for each specific scheme has been considered.

Demand, operational, revenue requirements and subsidy control implications for the delivery of the new community facilities are being considered as part of each specific project proposal.

Finance

The business case development process, economic modelling and financial assessment is being undertaken to ensure a robust approach to detailed costings and justifying the benefit cost ratio for the scheme proposals. Round 2 proposals need to commence capital costs in 2022/23 in order to meet gateway criteria and achieve financial completion by March 2025.

The total project costs for the five proposals is £117.4 million, inclusive of 15 percent quantified risk assessment value (consistent with project development stage) with £92 million sought through LUF and £10 million as match DCC funding.

The match funding agreed by Cabinet in February 2022 as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan (12) and this comfortably exceeds the 10 percent recommended match funding criteria set out in the LUF guidance. A £5 million capital budget will be created to enable a match funding budget. It is forecast that if all Levelling Up bids are successful that a further £5 million will be required in MTFP(13).

If the LUF grant is awarded, any eligible development costs would be included. Any overspend on the projects contained in the awarded schemes would have to be underwritten by the Council in line with other Government funded programmes. This represents a risk to the Council.

Whilst the Council has received £125,000 capacity funding to support the development of future bids, development costs of a full programme of five

Levelling Up proposals will be substantially higher overall. Earmarked reserves have been identified to support the development of the Levelling Up Fund bids. This required development funding is additional to 10% match funding for each of the Constituency bids.

Consultation

As part of the Levelling Up Fund criteria all proposals must undergo effective consultation with the local community and stakeholders.

As part of the development of proposals, Masterplan consultation has taken place with the community to consider local priorities, needs and potential improvements. Some schemes, such as Horden have undertaken consultation over a longer period and this evidence will provide further context and justification for local priorities.

Existing priorities and consultation as part of wider engagement through the Area Action Partnerships have helped to inform area proposals.

Local Councillor engagement sessions were held in September 2021 and April 2022 to consider LUF priorities, direction of travel and fit of potential proposals. Further engagement has taken place with assigned Cabinet leads for each of the proposals.

MPs have been consulted throughout the proposal development process.

Stakeholder consultation has taken place through specific stakeholder groups and will continue until the end of June 2022. Additional public engagement is underway and will conclude in June 2022, seeking further local support and demonstrating the remit of the proposals.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

The Council is committed to improving the quality of life for all. The Council will consider its Public Sector Equality Duty and how it is discharged on a proposal and project by project basis.

All design and works included will adhere to design standards and national policies for construction and highways. Consultation on proposals will seek to engage and represent a broad spectrum of stakeholders and the community.

Climate Change

The Levelling Up Fund criteria prioritises the need to contribute towards net zero carbon output. All proposals will consider a quality-built environment and seek to use clean technologies and approaches that minimise carbon emissions, encourage active travel and the reduction of motorised vehicles.

Human Rights

All tenants, landowners and existing site occupier rights will be considered in line with existing licence agreements, with appropriate consultation and notice periods provided as stipulated for each individual agreement/licence.

Crime and Disorder

No issues have been raised to date. During the master planning stages associated with project development proposals and business case development, appropriate consultation and crime and disorder risks will be considered and designed out or mitigated in conjunction with Durham Constabulary where possible.

Staffing

Project development and management resources has been provided by the Regeneration, Economy and Growth Service Grouping where possible. Associated design and management costs will be built into proposals where feasible and claimed as eligible spend if funds are awarded. Additional external expertise has been sought as needed to support masterplans, economic modelling, specialist surveys and assessment to support both the development and delivery of proposals.

Need to consider the staffing implications for delivery if proposals are successful. Some costs will be built into proposals, however there will be capacity constraints and demands on support services to facilitate delivery. This will be compounded if all 5 are successful and alongside existing delivery commitments through funded programmes such as Stronger Towns.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

A detailed project risk register will be developed for each individual Levelling Up proposal and is integral to each business case developed.

The main risks to consider for the Levelling Up approach and project development are:

- (a) financial risk to the Council if projects were to incur cost overruns. Estimates have been developed with all add on costs, including inflation and 15 percent quantified risk assessment value (consistent with project development stage) based on preliminary design and bill of quantities;
- (b) potential delays and increased costs for acquiring land if proposals are not in Council ownership, programmes allow for this and discussions

are already underway with the land owners across all scheme proposals;

- (c) reputational risk should any LUF bid that is submitted be unsuccessful;
- (d) reputational risk due to timing of submission of bids for individual areas linked to varying degrees of readiness to meet LUF bidding criteria and capacity issues to develop bids to sufficient standards within the timescales laid out in the guidance;
- (e) revenue and running costs for new cultural and community-based proposals.

Procurement

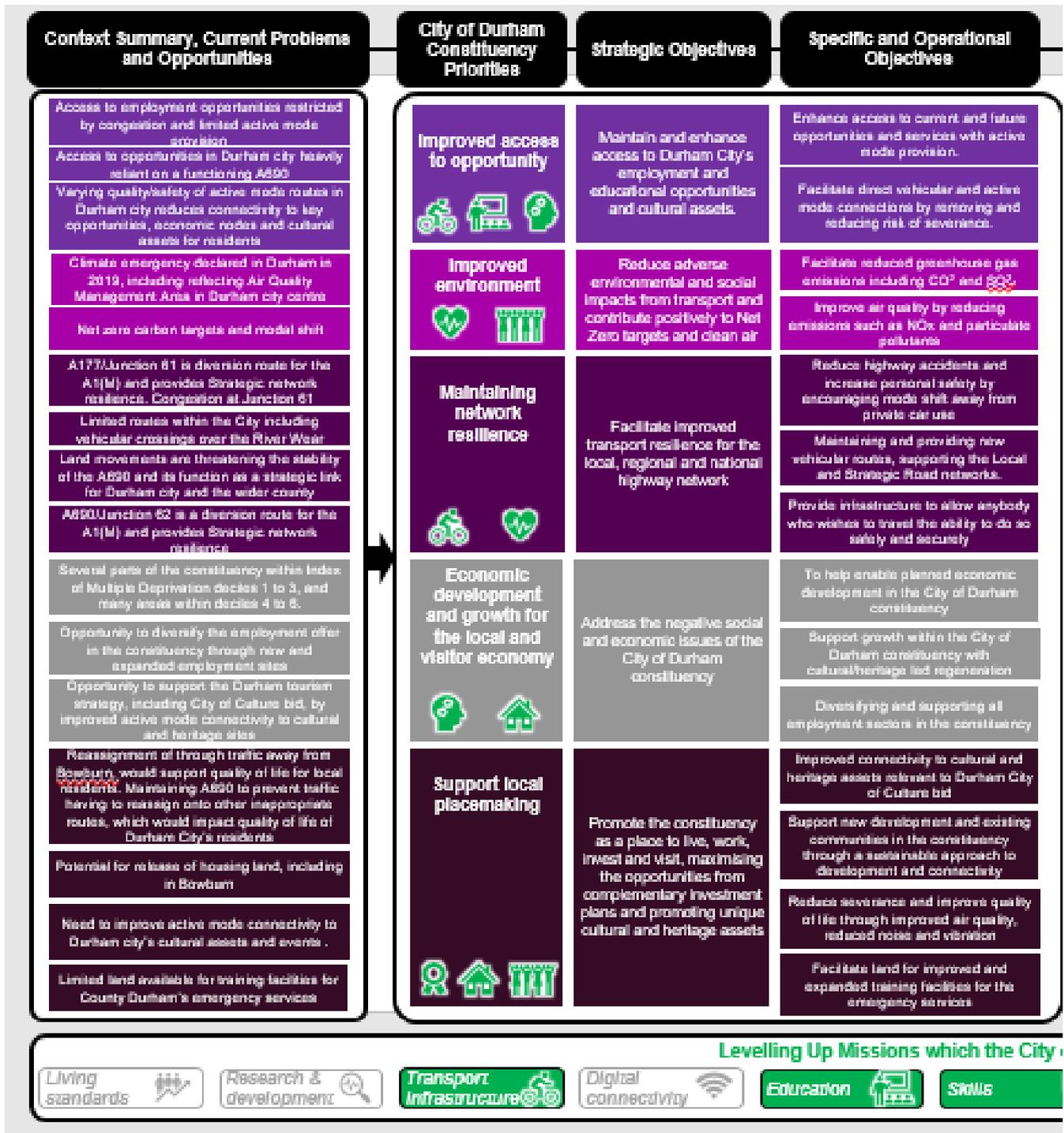
Design and delivery will be procured through either internal Council teams or established frameworks, aligned to funding timeframes and funding criteria.

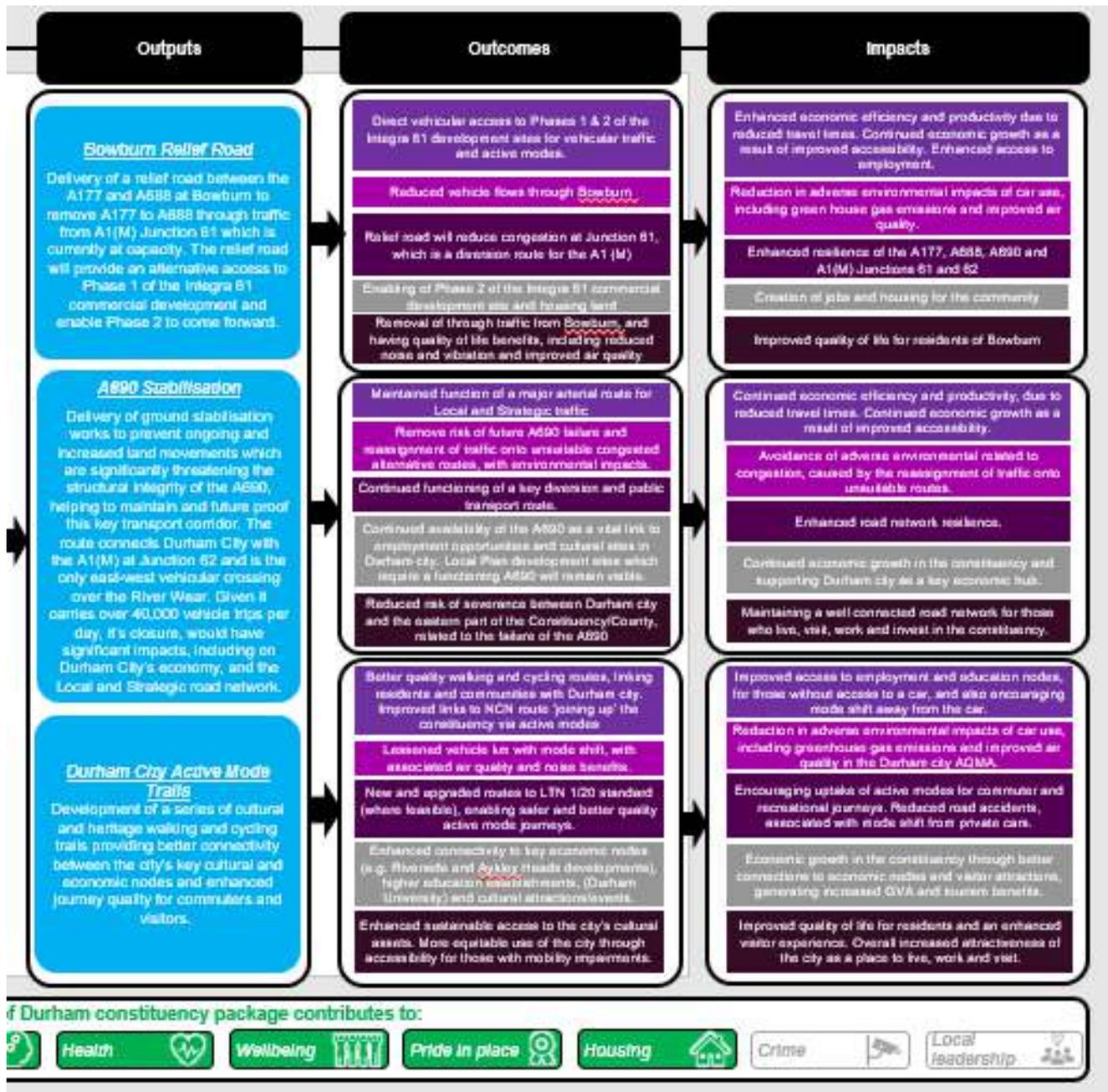
Appendix 2: Headline Levelling Up Funding Criteria

| Criteria | Levelling-Up Fund |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Timescales | Delivery to 31 March 2025 |
| Funding | £4.8bn (£4bn for England) |
| Size of bids | Up to £20m. Transport projects and large scale Cultural Projects can be above £20m and up to £50m Each local authority can submit proposal up to the number of MPs in the LA area. |
| Bidding process | Competitive; projects or packages with up to 3 complementary elements across the themes. LAs can only have one successful bid for each of their allocated number of bids over the lifecycle of the Fund. Durham can have 6 parliamentary bids. |
| Bid deadline | 6 July 2022 (successful bids announced in Autumn 2022) |
| Themes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local transport projects • Town centres / high streets • Culture |
| Assessment criteria | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need (recovery, growth, connectivity, regeneration) • Deliverability • Strategic fit • Value for money • Leverage; at least 10% of costs |
| Lead department | Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (and HM Treasury and Department for Transport) |
| Responsible bodies | Local authorities |
| County Durham status | Category 1 (highest need) of 3 |
| Spatial focus | UK-wide |

| Criteria | Levelling-Up Fund |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Additional criteria | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority will be given to delivery on ground in 2022-23. • Government expects bids to be backed by local MPs. • Bids needs to be supported by local stakeholders • Bids should target pockets of deprivation • Bids should contribute to net zero |
| More details | <p>Levelling Up Fund Round 2: prospectus - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p> <p>Levelling Up Fund Round 2: technical note - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p> <p>Levelling Up Fund Round 2: application guidance (publishing.service.gov.uk)</p> |

Appendix 3: Example Logic Chain for Durham City Bid





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Cabinet

15 June 2022

County Durham Partnership Update

Ordinary Decision



Report of Corporate Management Team

Alan Patrickson, Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change

Councillor Amanda Hopgood, Leader of the Council

Councillor Elizabeth Scott, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economy and Partnerships

Electoral division affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of the report is to update Cabinet on issues being addressed by the County Durham Partnership (CDP). The report also includes updates on other key initiatives being carried out in partnership across the county.

Executive summary

- 2 On 18 March the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport announced that County Durham is one of just four places to be shortlisted for **UK City of Culture 2025** out of the 20 locations that originally applied.
- 3 Although Durham has missed out on the title, the publicity surrounding the Durham 2025 campaign has helped strengthen its reputation as a place where creativity and innovation thrive.
- 4 At the end of January 2022, a wide-ranging consultation exercise, called the '**Big Econ-versation**' to gather views of residents, stakeholders and businesses on the development of a new County Durham Inclusive Economic Strategy was launched. A large programme of consultation events took place, and the **Economic Partnership** is supporting this to encourage businesses and partner organisations to contribute their views to the consultation which closed on 22 April 2022.

- 5 During April / May an independent review commenced of the **'Community Engagement' services** offered by DCC, including the AAP structures, governance, and funding processes to ensure it is fit for purpose moving forward. The outcome of the review is expected in the Autumn.
- 6 **All 14 Area Action Partnerships (AAPs)** have consulted their communities on what their local priorities for the 2022/23 financial year should be via the Countywide 'AAP Priority Survey'.
- 7 Durham's allocation for the **Holiday Activities with Healthy Food** programme for 2022 is **£2,338,740**.
- 8 Durham County Council along with 32 other local authorities across the North East and Yorkshire have been identified as a pilot area by the Home Office and Counter Terrorism Policing for **Publicly Accessible Locations** management in relation to protecting people and places from a terrorist attack. This is a part of the Protect Duty, expected to be enacted in 2023.
- 9 A number of schemes have been developed by the Government to support **Ukrainian Refugees** and the Humanitarian support working group is leading our response.
- 10 The **Advice in County Durham (AiCD) Partnership** is supporting residents to deal with the range of cost of living rises by undertaking a webinar with a range of organisations that can support this.
- 11 Through the work of the AAPs the Council has allocated £59.5 million to **over 10,000 community-based projects**, leveraging in £69.7 million of external matched funding. Resulting in a funding return ratio of £1.29 for every £1 of DCC investment.

Recommendation

- 12 Cabinet is recommended to:
 - (a) note the contents of this update.

Background

- 13 The **County Durham Partnership** including the board and forum (which bring together the board and local communities), five partnerships (**Health and Wellbeing Board, Safe Durham Partnership, Economic Partnership, Environment and Climate Change Partnership** and **County Durham Together Partnership**), **Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership** and the **Durham Safeguarding Adults Partnership, Better Together VCS Forum** and all **Area Action Partnerships** lead on key initiatives being carried out in partnership across the county.

County Durham Partnership board and forum

- 14 The **County Durham Partnership** Board met in January and March.
- 15 The January meeting focused on the City of Culture bid and the Armed Forces Covenant which promoted the key principles of the covenant across the County Durham Partnership, which are:
- (a) no member of the Armed Forces Community should face disadvantage in the provision of public and commercial services compared to any other citizen
 - (b) in some circumstances special treatment may be appropriate especially for the injured or bereaved.
- 16 The March meeting brought the standard agenda item for the past 18 months of Covid-19 to a close with an update about the work that is taking place on transition and living with Covid-19 at a Northeast level as well as local arrangements.
- 17 The March meeting saw the first of a series of regular updates from Thematic Chairs to focus on a key area of their work for the County Durham Partnership. The first was from the Health and Wellbeing Board and focused on the Integrated Care System including the abolition of Clinical Commissioning Groups and what that means for County Durham.

UK City of Culture 2025

- 18 On 18 March the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport announced that County Durham is one of just four places to be shortlisted for **UK City of Culture 2025** out of the 20 locations that originally applied.
- 19 Although Durham has missed out on the title, the publicity surrounding the Durham 2025 campaign has helped strengthen its reputation as a place where creativity and innovation thrive.

- 20 Partners in the bid, the Council, Durham University and Culture Durham are still committed to deliver on the ambitious plans within the bid, creating a county of culture that attracts tourists from across the UK and beyond, delivers thousands of new jobs and improves wellbeing.
- 21 As well as working with local and international artists and producers to create a spectacular programme, the partners will support communities to bring cultural regeneration to their neighbourhoods. This will ensure the whole county is connected and celebrated through art, sport, food and science.
- 22 Thousands of residents, businesses and creative practitioners were involved in the bid's development, contributing a range of ideas. This spirit of collaboration will also live on, with the bonds forged between cultural organisations during the journey stronger than ever before, and many new connections formed.
- 23 For the first time in the competition, County Durham as a runner up, will receive a grant of £125,000 to support the development of key elements in the bid.

Review of Community Engagement

- 24 An independent review is taking place to review the County Council's community engagement processes. The review will focus on assessing our current structures and governance with a view to ensuring the Council has a community engagement mechanism that provides support for our communities in line with the Council's future vision and priorities and also reflects the needs of the wider County Durham Partnership.
- 25 It is anticipated that the initial review findings will be received in Autumn 2022.

AAP priority survey

- 26 **All 14 Area Action Partnerships (AAPs)** have consulted their communities on what their local priorities for the 2022/23 financial year should be via the Countywide 'AAP Priority Survey'.
- 27 Residents have been asked if anything has changed for them where they live, work, go to school or even volunteer, and have been asked once again to help steer the AAPs' work. AAPs have additional funding to invest in towns and villages and asked what, if anything, will make life in their town or village better.
- 28 The survey took place with 2,490 responses received, numbers for each AAP are as follows: Teesdale AAP (521), East Durham AAP (226),

Durham AAP (224), Weardale AAP (199), East Durham Rural Corridor AAP (191), Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (190), Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP (142), Stanley AAP (130), Derwent Valley AAP (128), 3 Towns Partnership (114), 4 Together Partnership (112), Chester-le-Street and District AAP (99), Mid Durham (84) Spennymoor (69).

- 29 An electronic survey method was primarily used to capture views; however, individual AAPs used an array of methods to make the survey as accessible as possible. The survey was promoted countywide, by each individual AAP, through their Facebook pages, e-bulletins, and invitations to all existing AAP Forum members. AAP staff delivered paper-based versions of the survey to key local groups and also attended various local events to promote the survey. Key partner organisations and Elected Members were also engaged, on a countywide basis, to help promote the survey. Partners included: Business Durham, Durham Community Action, Countywide Youth Forum and Upper Teesdale Agricultural Support Services (UTASS).
- 30 Countywide the results of the survey highlighted that:
- (a) 81.5% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed to keep Community Recovery as a priority for AAPs;
 - (b) 7.4 % disagreed with keeping Community Recovery as a priority for AAPs;
 - (c) 11.1 % % neither agreed nor disagreed with keeping Community Recovery as a priority for AAPs.
- 31 194 people asked to join the forum of their local AAP.

10,000 AAP projects

- 32 Through the work of the AAPs the Council has allocated £59.5 million to over 10,000 community-based projects, leveraging in £69.7 million of external matched funding. Resulting in a funding return ratio of £1.29 for every £1 of DCC investment.

Holiday activities with healthy food countywide programme

- 33 At the end of 2021, the Government announced a further investment of over £200 million per year over the next three financial years for the holiday activities and food programme (HAF) which follows the successful roll out of the programme across England in 2021.
- 34 Durham's allocation for the **Holiday Activities with Healthy Food** programme for 2022 is **£2,338,740**.

- 35 A delivery plan has been submitted to DfE outlining plans for Durham's Fun and Food programme in 2022, and work continues to further develop Durham's Delivery model.
- 36 During 2021, **381** Fun and Food projects were allocated funding for the Easter (90), Summer (129) and Christmas (162) holidays through the funding from the DfE, **engaging 32,423 Children and Young People including 2355 with additional needs.**
- 37 The DfE funding does not include half term holidays, however additional funding was secured from Durham County Council to provide enriching activities and experiences with healthy food for the May and October 2021 and February 2022 holidays, funding 181 different projects in total.
- 38 A dedicated web page has been set up for the project www.durham.gov.uk/funandfood along with a Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/funandfoodcountydurham/>. Videos of previous activities can be viewed at [Videos of previous activities - Durham County Council](#)

Humanitarian Support

- 39 A number of schemes have been developed by the Government to support Ukrainian Refugees:
- (a) Sponsorship Scheme – Homes for Ukraine Scheme:
 - (i) People asked to offer Ukrainians a rent-free space in their home or a separate residence for at least six months. Each household housing a refugee will be offered £350 a month, tax-free, for up to 12 months;
 - (b) Ukrainian Family Visa Scheme:
 - (i) Family members of British nationals, UK settled persons and certain others to come to or stay in the UK;
 - (c) Supporting UK based Ukrainians to remain in the UK:
 - (i) Ukrainians already in the UK with a visa will be able to extend their stay by extending their visa or switching to another immigration route, where eligible, even if their visa does not normally allow them to do so.
- 40 The Humanitarian support working group is tasked with working on key issues as follows:
- (a) Translation services

- (b) Accommodation inspections
- (c) Wrap around support
- (d) Safeguarding
- (e) Sponsorship connection
- (f) Benefits
- (g) Language support
- (h) Education
- (i) Health care
- (j) Communications.

41 Over 130 people have currently put themselves forward for the sponsorship scheme and work is taking place to support both the sponsor and the refugees coming to County Durham.

42 The government has informed all local authority areas, including Durham, that they will be part of a wider dispersal scheme for asylum seekers across the country. To support this scheme the Home Office has committed to undertake a new burdens assessment to better understand the costs associated with asylum dispersal.

Cost of living rises

43 The **Advice in County Durham (AiCD) Partnership** is supporting residents to deal with the range of cost of living rises by undertaking a webinar with a range of organisations that can support this.

44 Due to the increase in fuel prices and other financial increases to households, the **Advice in County Durham (AiCD) Partnership** hosted a “Cost of Living” webinar for AICD members in April 2022.

45 The webinar brought key partners together to demonstrate how collaboratively those providers can support with these increased costs and to give money saving tips to individuals and families who need advice on a range of issues:

- (a) benefits;
- (b) energy bills;
- (c) employment;
- (d) housing;

- (e) debt management;
 - (f) support for those who are in fuel poverty.
- 46 The Partnership has already had a range of successful interventions that have underpinned its work to establish a coordinated referral approach in the county to ensure that there is 'no wrong door' for anyone seeking advice support. These have included the establishment of an online referral portal that supports clients to access services but also brings AiCD members together regularly to share information and best practice, improve the quality of services offered, and undertake training together.
- 47 The Partnership is also in the early stages of commissioning a Network Survey to partners across the County which is being led by Durham Community Action on behalf of the Advice Partnership. This survey will look at:
- (a) gaps in advice services;
 - (b) digital capacity and provision;
 - (c) training requirements;
 - (d) network expectations and needs.
- 48 This piece of work will form the development of the membership survey tool to ensure it provides the right information to enable AiCD to rescope or reshape the support it provides to the advice sector in County Durham and facilitates the response to the economic and social pressures it faces, particularly as we learn to live safely with Covid-19.

Covid-19

- 49 The Government published its Living with Covid-19 Guidance in April and moved to a position of managing Covid-19 like other respiratory illnesses.
- 50 The **Health and Wellbeing Board** received an update of the LA7/North East Living with Covid-19 plan which has been developed with key objectives as follows, delivered through five workstreams: settings, governance, oversight and policy, interdependencies for service response, funding, escalation and surge response:
- (a) provide strategic level co-ordination of the transitional arrangements for our response as it de-escalates into a 'Living Safely with Covid-19' approach;

- (b) embed the Covid-19 response into the wider Health Protection System;
- (c) inform wider system planning and response;
- (d) take with us the principles and goals in the Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP);
- (e) identify lessons learned and retain local expertise, good practice and stronger collaborative relationships;
- (f) build on the strengthened relationship with regional colleagues UK Health Security Agency Health Protection Team and effective regional processes;
- (g) align to regional LA7 programme of work to live safely with Covid-19.

51 **Spennymoor AAP** has provided funding to the Saint Pauls Centre to operate the Moving On project. The initiative is designed to support vulnerable people who have been isolating during the Covid-19 pandemic to start attending a range of activities to reduce social isolation and enable more social interaction to improve individuals' mental health and wellbeing. A range of monthly events have been developed to support this objective which include:

- (a) organising an exhibition of art and photography work;
- (b) games/film afternoons which will encourage people away from the support group setting by helping them to move forward into some form of normality, through building their confidence and self-esteem by participating in group activities;
- (c) bereavement support – research has shown that people who have suffered a bereavement of a close friend or family member during the pandemic, need additional support. A new group is being established with support from local health practitioners in Spennymoor to provide additional support to individuals who have been affected by a bereavement;
- (d) Supper Club – will bring people together to enjoy a meal and a local speaker will also attend these sessions.

Vision 2035: More and better jobs

52 The **Economic Partnership** has supported a wide-ranging consultation exercise, called the 'Big Econ-versation' to gather views of residents, stakeholders and businesses on the development of a new County Durham Inclusive Economic Strategy. Between January and April 2022, a large programme of over 80 consultation events for the public, businesses and partner organisations to contribute their views were attended by over 1,500 people. Survey responses included 443 from young people and 93 from businesses. These will now be analysed and used to inform the next stage of the development of the strategy.



53 A **Faith Focus Group** with representatives of different faith communities took part in a faith focus group as part of the big [Econ-versation](#). They considered the question of what an inclusive economy means and highlighted the importance of ensuring fairness, equality, social justice, and balancing growth with sustainability. A strong case was made for encouraging organisations and businesses to become accredited [real living wage](#) employers to increase job retention and enable employees to contribute more to the local economy thus making it more inclusive and sustainable.

54 Delivery of the **Towns and Villages programme** is currently accelerating with significant activity across all investment themes. Enquiries for support from retail businesses continue to rise with 192 enquiries for retail business support received by the Community Economic Development team during 2021/22. This in turn led to 19 businesses receiving building grant support, returning eight properties into productive use and supporting the creation of 39 FTE jobs. Property reuse applications remain strong, while vulnerable buildings remain a focus across the County with works to demolish the former Trust Building at Horden undertaken during quarter 1 2022/23. £625,000 has been spent to date on minor improvements to Neighbourhood Retail Parades to date with 38 areas scoped for potential improvements.

55 Repurposing property to meet current and emerging needs continues with three schemes currently being progressed to create new residential accommodation units at Shildon, Coundon Grange and Chester le Street, while work is ongoing with AAPs and Durham Community Action

to identify community facilities requiring support in order to alter their service offer to local communities as part of the Community Resilience project.

56 The Towns and Villages programme also continues to address opportunities to improve open spaces through the continuation of Enhanced Environmental Maintenance programmes in settlements including Peterlee, Coundon and Tudhoe. A significant feature of the last consultation round, undertaken through the AAPs, was a focus on creating more walking and cycling opportunities within the County, including establishing links between residential and town centre areas and the established walking and cycling network. As a result, work has now commenced on the design and delivery of a £3.75 million walking and cycling investment programme which will see new routes brought forward, improvements to existing routes and some feasibility work for new stretches of connections.

57 At a local level, the allocation of Towns and Villages funding to each AAP has led to the formation of Task and Finish groups under all 14 AAPs with a significant number of new project opportunities being identified. These will be explored for funding not only under the current AAP Towns and Village funding but also through a closer alignment with monies available through s106 planning obligations or as schemes which may fit under other emerging funding opportunities.

58 **Chester-le-Street AAP** has funded the Town Centre Marketing Project, designed to support Chester-le-Street town centre retailers as they recover from the pandemic. This project comprises of different elements:

- (a) a new town centre map and notice board;
- (b) further support for the shop Chester-le-Street campaign;
- (c) further support for the roll out of ROAM (digital tool which can be used by local businesses to promote offers and events);
- (d) a selfie wall for the town.



59 The town map will depict landmarks rather than businesses and will be professionally designed. It will be A2 for display in the notice board and could also be reproduced in smaller sizes to hand out.

60 **4 Together AAP** supported REACH (The Cornforth Partnership) to provide opportunities for individuals to access structured mentoring

support to aid them to build financial resilience, upskill, re-train and move closer to the employment market. Examples of how individuals have been supported include:

- (a) 4 participants have completed and achieved their Level 2 Working as a Door Supervisor Qualification and received their licences;
- (b) 5 participants have gained employment, 3 from completing their Security Industry Authority qualifications and obtaining their licences, and 2 in Amazon Bowburn, one of which has been given a permanent contract;
- (c) 1 participant completed their Level 2 Food Safety Qualification online. She had never used a computer before but with the support from staff managed to complete and achieve this;
- (d) 4 new participants with various support including job search, general information, advice and guidance, housing and benefit advice;
- (e) 1 Participant after helping him with moving after a relationship breakdown has moved into further education in engineering. He was also supported with household items.

61 **Stanley AAP** are supporting STEAM Ahead CIC with funding to deliver a Supporting Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) through a child-centric Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM) activities project. This six-week project, working in conjunction with a local wellbeing charity and chartered child psychologist will support children to improve their mental health and wellbeing, through the delivery of skills-focused activities within the area of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths (STEAM). The activities support children to become upskilled in considering potential careers within the Science and Technology sector, as well as improving their own skills to be the best version of themselves possible. Once successfully complete, the evidence of impact from the pilot scheme will be used to roll this out across the county into local schools, improving the support offer to children locally.

- 62 At the **Economic Partnership** meeting in March 2022, the Chair of the **Environment and Climate Change Partnership** attended for a presentation and discussion about how the two partnerships can work together to promote growth of the green economy and business participation in the environmental agenda.



- 63 A number of areas of collaboration were discussed including the development of a practical toolkit for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), opportunities for knowledge transfer from larger businesses to small companies, promotion of the Business Energy Efficiency Programme (BEEP) programme, building of capacity for future 'green' market opportunities and designing in environmental goals to mainstream business support. A small group has been convened to progress this work.
- 64 During February 2022, the Government provided pre-launch guidance for the **UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)**. The guidance confirms that all areas of the UK will receive an allocation via a funding formula rather than a competition, and local authorities will lead the management of the funds in their areas. The guidance outlines a key role for partners and stakeholders to work with local authorities to develop a local Investment Plan which will form the basis for the commissioning of UKSPF activities. The first meeting of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund subgroup took place on 22 April and membership consisted of Board member organisations', specialists in external funding, and will be used as the technical group to support the **Economic Partnership**. County Durham received £30.8 million from the UKSPF and £2.8 million Multiply which needs to be spent as part of a three-year plan in the following priority areas:
- (a) communities and place;
 - (b) supporting local businesses;
 - (c) people and skills.
- 65 A Local Investment Plan needs to be submitted by between 30 June and 1 August with an anticipated date for first Investment Plans to be approved in October 2022.
- 66 Previously, County Durham as a Transition Region. had a ring-fenced allocation of €156 million (£121.7 million) for EU funding for the 2014-2020 programme.

67 Consultation will be undertaken with key stakeholders and other existing consultation will also be used to help in developing the offers including the Big Econ-versation. Cross border collaboration and opportunities are also to be considered as part of this. The next stages for the group were agreed to form themed technical groups with members that understand funding based on subject matters:

- (a) community and place;
- (b) creating jobs and networks;
- (c) innovation;
- (d) town centre footfall and markets;
- (e) people and skills.

68 Each group will look at investment priorities using an evidenced based approach and take into account funding from elsewhere as well as balancing innovation with what we know already works.

69 In partnership with Spennymoor AAP, **Bishop Auckland and Shildon AAP** has funded the South Durham Enterprise Agency to deliver Pandemic Business Support Grant for new and existing businesses in the Bishop Auckland and Shildon and Spennymoor areas. The funding will match Community Led Local Development funding which without AAP intervention would have been lost.



Supporting business recovery following the pandemic

70 The project has created a small business Pandemic Recovery/ Restart Grant aimed at SMEs located in, and residents of the Bishop Auckland and Shildon and Spennymoor AAP areas. The grant supports businesses to recover, grow or sustain their operations and will be eligible for capital and revenue purchases. SMEs will be located in (or locating in) the AAP areas and be able to demonstrate a clear adverse effect on their business caused by the pandemic or changes in market behaviour or a clear opportunity to grow, change or pivot as a result of the same.

- 71 Individuals seeking to start small businesses will be supported with the availability of a capital and revenue grant. Programmes funded elsewhere will support the individual with a business plan and appropriate start-up support, leaving the grant fund to help the individual raise the necessary start-up capital for their venture.
- 72 The project encourages and supports sustainable businesses and sustainable business ideas. Net zero, sustainability issues and environmental stewardship will be encouraged within the support and the project will be fully committed to net-zero.
- 73 **East Durham AAP** have supported East Durham Business Service to support fledgling businesses that may have struggled as a result of the pandemic or returning to normal function afterwards. A variety of businesses have come forward for this support including a local community radio venture.
- 74 Our **Armed Forces Forum**, which brings together public sector partners with representatives of the military and charities supporting veterans, met in March. They heard from the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) which is the official provider of resettlement to the Ministry of Defence offering a comprehensive package of support to service leavers to help them make the transition into employment. Work is underway to look at how the CTP can develop better links with the council to bolster the success rate of those who apply for jobs using our guaranteed interview scheme for veterans. Links have also been established with Building Heroes to offer veterans work experience taster sessions, apprenticeships, employment support, and links to contractors of major developments across the county for onsite training and potential employment.

People live long and independent lives

- 75 Following the success of the virtual County Durham Care Partnership Executive (CDCPE) Forum on 29 November, the next meetings have been arranged for 20 June 2022, to facilitate discussions ahead of the Integrated Care System (ICS) implementation in July, and 29 November 2022, to facilitate timely discussions around winter planning / preparedness.
- 76 Plans are progressing regionally for the Integrated Care System/Integrated Care Board, and a development session took place on 15 March 2022 with **Health and Wellbeing Board** members, where Dr Neil O'Brien outlined the developing picture and presented the operating framework. Feedback from the session was fed into the ICS programme board's survey to ensure Durham's view is represented and can influence the next stage of development of the ICS at a place based

level, with strong views expressed that County Durham is not disadvantaged in the new system, that elected member engagement is extended to the sub-regional level and we ensure the future system takes account of our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The new Chief Executive for the ICB attended the Health and Wellbeing Board on 11 May to discuss her vision for the area as well as answer questions relating specifically to County Durham and our aspirations.

77 The **VCS Better Together Forum** which brings together senior leaders of countywide and specialist VCS organisations continue to meet on a regular basis to share best practice and look for opportunities to collaborate. A key focus is looking at how VCS organisations can play their part in the new Integrated Care System (ICS) and being realistic about expectations for both commissioners and providers.

78 Smoking is the single largest cause of preventable deaths and one of the largest causes of health inequalities, and a range of tobacco control work continues to support the ambition to reduce smoking prevalence across County Durham to 5% or less by 2025 (2030 for pregnant smokers, manual groups and those with mental health issues).

79 The **Health and Wellbeing Board** received a Smoking update in January 2022, which was followed in March by a presentation from FRESH asking ‘can smoking really end?’ Ten high impact actions for the local authority were presented, as well as some low-cost policy intervention suggestions to de-normalise smoking. It is felt that smoking can be addressed, however bold action will be needed. On the back of the presentations, the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board wrote to local MPs to lobby for their support for a “tobacco levy” on manufacturers to put back into the health and care system.



80 The current Children and Young People’s Strategy 2019-2022 comes to an end this year and is due for review. Coproduction sessions have taken place with children, young people, parents and carers to develop a new Children and Young People’s Strategy. The “Growing Up in County Durham” Strategy will be based on what is important to those who use and need support from services.

81 **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP** supported a project providing sports packages for teenagers at Trimdon Village Hall, which engaged with teenagers, delivering sports equipment to each household and having

access to larger sports equipment so that parents and teenagers could interact with each other more within Trimdon Village and Trimdon Grange. Each child received their own sports and healthy food pack.

82 This project engaged with over 50 individuals, supported 2 community facilities and 4 volunteers were involved in the project.

83 From 1 April 2022 the Leisure Centre discount rates already available to serving personnel and reservists was extended to include veterans of all ages. Our Public Health team are currently carrying out a Health Needs Assessment for Veterans in County Durham. We know from national research that whilst people in the military are very active it can often be a challenge to maintain physical activity on leaving the armed forces. Extending the discounts to veterans is not only an expression of our **support for the Armed Forces community** but will also encourage healthy lifestyles and thus help reduce health inequalities.

84 **Durham AAP** has supported Durham Action on Single Housing (DASH), a local organisation that help vulnerable people with housing issues. With a grant from the AAP, they have been able to provide practical workshops for their vulnerable women's group. These have proven to be very beneficial giving the young women new experiences and skills.



Enjoying a boxing session with support from DASH

The AAP are also supporting DASH to employ a volunteer coordinator, a new post that will help DASH deliver their vital work.

85 The Health and Wellbeing Board received an update on the **Ageing Well Health Needs Assessment**, which is being undertaken and focuses on people aged 50+, outlining how public health prevention can be used to help people age well in a healthy way. The Health Needs Assessment will make recommendations for this age group, which will be used to inform the Ageing Well Strategy.

86 **Derwent Valley AAP** is working with MHA Communities, a community-based organisation who provide services to enable older people to live well in later life and reduce social isolation. The project will support older people in accessing services through digital inclusion. In partnership with local social enterprise group, Digital Voice, the project

will deliver a series of workshops in group settings for residents to work on and each produce a “Digital Lifebook”. A Lifebook is a ten-week programme that allows older people to tell their life stories using ipads, music, photographs and memories. The project will enable members to grow in their digital confidence and keep connected through MHA’s weekly online activity group, titled ‘The Geordie Variety Show’, which was born out of the pandemic as a way of keeping connected and providing an array of activities.

87 The project aims to address social isolation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and improve wellbeing by organising creative, social digital storytelling workshops around life stories among peers. The project will also boost participants’ digital skills to make them more empowered, independent and resilient, and will be an inroad for some to start going online independently.

88 **Mid Durham AAP** has funded the Willowburn Hospice Alternative Therapy project to employ a Complementary Therapist two days per week at Willow Burn Hospice for day service clients and in-patients so that they can deliver therapies to enhance and develop the treatment experience for patients. National research by Kings College London found that good pain and symptom control is one of the issues that is most important to patients with an untreatable palliative diagnosis, and this is what they aim to achieve.



Staff from the Willowburn Hospice Alternative Therapy Project in their Christmas jumpers

89 It is well documented by health research organisations (e.g., Mind, Cancer Research UK, Macmillan, Marie Curie etc) that complementary therapies are beneficial in helping with depression, anxiety and stress, all conditions which are associated with living with a life limiting illness. It is also reported by patients, that following complementary therapy, they have seen the intensity of physical symptoms reduced. Willowburn did not provide these services routinely, however, they now have a volunteer reiki therapist and the patients' feedback shows great positivity for this service.

90 As well as meeting a need for patients, they have identified a gap in the current nurses and carers' skills. Training for the staff from a

complementary therapist would develop their skills and ensure the hospice always has a level of ability to deliver some kind of complementary treatments.

Connected communities

- 91 Anti-social behaviour is a key priority for the **Safe Durham Partnership**. The multi-agency Anti-Social Behaviour Strategic Group (a subgroup of Safe Durham Partnership) has been reinstated to address the increasing incidents/perceptions of anti-social behaviour across the County. The group will provide leadership, oversight and co-ordinate the response to anti-social behaviour.
- 92 To support this work, funding has been obtained via the AAPs Countywide funding pot to run the Fearless Social Media campaign which is a branch of Crime Stoppers focussing on engaging young people and encouraging anonymous reporting of crime and criminal activity. Fearless resources have been delivered by Police Community Support Officer's in early February and an invite to schools to attend a virtual workshop to promote the use of the resources in schools and also inform of Fearless Workers funded through AAPs who will be able to support schools deliver workshops to young people.
- 93 Durham County Council along with 32 other local authorities across the North East and Yorkshire has been identified as a pilot area by the Home Office and Counter Terrorism Policing for Publicly Accessible Locations/Zones management in relation to protecting people and places from a terrorist attack, which is a part of the Protect Duty expected to be enacted in 2023.
- 94 The Home Office, Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities and Counter Terrorism Policing have identified the pilot will start from 1 April and will involve identifying, risk assessing venues and locations and agreeing any actions required in order to stop or mitigate publicly accessing locations across the County from being subject to a terrorist attack.
- 95 Concerns have been expressed to the Home Office about the scale of this work for County Durham without any additional resources however a Protect and Prepare Group will be set up to take forward this work with key partners involved, for example, the police and university.
- 96 The **Horden Together Project** was launched in September 2021 and brings together a range of partners including Durham County Council, Durham Constabulary, County Durham & Darlington Fire Service, Police and Crime Commissioner, Horden Parish Council, East Durham Trust and many others to work together with the community and address the needs of residents of the County Durham village and their

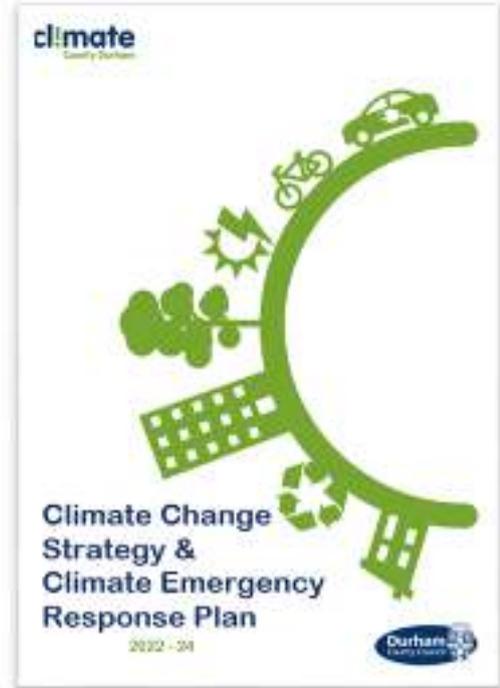
priorities. This links into the emerging **County Durham Together** approach to place-based working.

- 97 Over the next three years, the project team, based in a neighbourhood hub, within Horden village will combine efforts to tackle issues such as crime, anti-social behaviour, housing and environmental problems in the village.
- 98 The work of the partnership will complement ongoing regeneration work in the area and support the long-term aspirations of the Horden Masterplan. The masterplan, which was created in 2019, looks to address issues with poor housing, the environment and access to amenities in the village, with a particular focus on the part of the village known locally as the 'numbered streets'.
- 99 Since the launch, partners have been actively working with the local community to identify emerging issues and take action to solve the problems that people say most affect their daily lives. This community engagement has resulted in some positive interventions around the locality particularly in relation to the 'Making Every Adult Matter' (MEAM) Initiative where we are experiencing high demand for support services. In the first six months of the project, there have been over 100 referrals as part of the 'Making Every Adult Matter' (MEAM) Initiative which aims to provide support and better access to services for individuals within the area who are facing multiple disadvantages.
- 100 In addition, the Horden Together project has been chosen as a pilot place under the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities - Partnerships for People and Place programme. £100,000 of funding has been received to further develop 'Theory of Change' proposals which will identify new ways of working across local and central government to deliver innovative, locally led solutions to key challenges that communities face.



101 The **Environment and Climate Change Partnership (ECCP)** adopted the new ECCP Plan 2022-25 at its meeting in March 2022. The plan's strategic objectives are to address the climate change and ecological emergency challenges as they apply to County Durham and promote engagement and activity in our communities to improve sustainability and health and wellbeing across the county. The plan focuses on four strategic priorities:

- (a) developing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for County Durham;
- (b) actioning the partnership elements of the new countywide Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP2);
- (c) engaging with communities to promote environmental action across County Durham;
- (d) increase cross thematic partnership collaboration with the Economic Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board.



102 The **Environment and Climate Change Partnership's** Ecological Emergency workstream has started to develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for County Durham. This is a requirement of the Environment Act 2021, which became law in November last year. Whilst waiting for detailed guidance from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) following the evaluation of the results from the five pilot areas, partners have begun to prepare for the development of the strategy. Two subgroups have been set up to:

- (a) gather data and evidence to support the development of a Local Habitat Map for the LNRS;
- (b) draft material towards the statement of biodiversity priorities.

103 Durham County Council has been accepted by the Environment Secretary as the 'responsible authority' to lead on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

- 104 The Local Councils Working Group discussed the issues Climate Change and Ecology Challenges. The **County Durham Association of Local Councils** has expressed a desire to sign the Climate Change Pledge which was welcomed. This will be arranged for later this year. The County Durham Association of Local Councils is also encouraging its members to consider the sustainable management of green spaces and the group discussed the declaration of an Ecological Emergency in the county which has recently been adopted by Cabinet. Future presentations will be made to the Local Councils Working Group on the countywide Climate Emergency Response Plan and the Ecological Emergency, and it was agreed that these are key areas where both tiers of local authority can work closely together.
- 105 To keep our communities connected and support environmental sustainability for our food, **3 Towns AAP** have supported Sunnyside Community Association to set up a community Pantry for the village of Sunnyside and opening of a community café to provide not only food but also a social opportunity for those in the village. Sunnyside hilltop village does not have a shop, café or take-away and only has a limited bus service, creating challenges for some, particularly older people.
- 106 The community pantry, stocking a wide range of food items has been set up by converting storage space into a food pantry with shelves, freezer and fridge. Sunnyside Community Shop opened on 10 March 2022.
- 107 The organisation has become a member of Fareshare UK with weekly food deliveries and Fareshare go to Tesco's at Dragonville to collect food surplus 3 times a week, with a similar arrangement with Greggs.
- 108 Local residents are now able to fill a basket with food for a £1 donation and food orders can be delivered to residents who are unable to leave the home.
- 109 The project will save food from landfill, engage, and bring the community together for additional activities, and tackle food poverty whilst providing choice and reducing stigma for the increasing number of local people who now rely on foodbank deliveries to feed themselves and their families.
- 110 The community café has been serving lunches twice a week enabling people of all ages to come together for a nutritious cooked meal, chat, shop at the pantry and engage in other community activities if they wish. The café is an enormous success, and they are now excited to use food collections to maintain the café.

- 111 Funding also paid for a baking/cooking tutor, 3 hours a week and several baking classes have already ran with 3 groups in the community. It now has demand for parent/carer and child baking classes.
- 112 The **Bread-and-Butter Thing** is a food surplus redistribution charity offering an affordable food service which helps to make life more affordable for people on a low income, builds stronger communities and reduces food waste using an innovative and self-sustaining approach to the redistribution of surplus food and non-food items.
- 113 Its long-term aim is to address the premiums that people in poverty pay for everyday essentials simply because of their personal circumstances. It works in collaboration with local partners and national networks to create bespoke packages of support for our local communities - offering advice and practical solutions for dealing with debt, managing utilities, accessing mental health support and available grants and funding.
- 114 Volunteers are at the heart of the operation, with almost 200 volunteers working with it each week. This has been recognised formally by a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.
- 115 **Teesdale AAP**, provided Teesdale Sailing Club with funding along with match funding from the Council's BEEP team which will help the club provide off grid solar power to the Clubhouse. Teesdale Sailing Club is based at Grassholme Reservoir and the Clubhouse is an old stone building which was used by the construction workers of the reservoir dam wall many years ago. The facility is a well-used resource for the Dales with local groups and tourists regularly participating in water sport activities.
- 116 Junction 7 secured funding through **Great Aycliffe and Middridge AAP** to complete renovations to their garden area, with essential garden refurbishment works and providing equipment and furniture to make the space more user friendly.
- 117 Enhancing the space has provided a great place for the community to come together, to share and learn new skills, whilst also growing fresh local produce. The garden is helping to provide a multitude of therapeutic and wellbeing benefits to all residents and user groups. Junction 7 has also received support from the local Veterans Hub which made contact and offered support from its members with various skills such as carpentry, joinery and gardening, for some of the 'trickier' jobs in the garden.

- 118 Following the success of the Through Soldiers' Eyes Exhibition held last Autumn which attracted nearly 9,000 visitors, our Community Arts Team has developed an 'Art of Wellbeing' legacy programme with support from both Covid Outbreak Management Fund and the AAPs. The programme provides a range of creative engagement activities to support the transition and integration into civilian life for veterans and their families and provide engagement for family members when partners are deployed. Feedback received has included: "For me it has opened doorways to recovery and a hoped-for better life" and "it gave me a purpose and a new beginning . . . raised my sense of self-worth".
- 119 A number of AAPs have focused on community resilience work, particularly in response to recent storm events. Storm Arwen left a majority of Weardale residents without a permanent electricity supply for 10 days and to compound the lack of electricity to resident homes, communication was affected as mobile phone masts were down, with British Telecom lines and internet where also interrupted.
- 120 To support community resilience, **Weardale AAP** is currently working with four hamlets to work up a localised resilience plan, working with our Civil Contingencies Unit and Environment Agency colleagues. Working holistically and at the pace of the group, a training course has been developed working is also ongoing in engaging Village Hall committees to look at building resilience.
- 121 Partners from the **Environment and Climate Change Partnership's** Place, Health and Community workstream supported DCC to run a non-designated heritage assets project. These heritage assets are buildings, archaeological sites, street furniture, maritime, landscapes, monuments etc. that have heritage value but are not nationally designated. The group encouraged the people of County Durham to identify and tell the council what nationally unrecognised heritage was important to them, needed protecting and which they value most for inclusion on list. DCC has received £60,000 in funding to deliver the project.
- 122 The North East Community Forest Partnership, which works with the **Environment and Climate Change Partnership's** Ecological Emergency workstream has secured £480,000 from Defra's Nature for

EUSTON STATION GATES SHILDON



A non-designated heritage asset in Shildon

Climate Fund. This will enable thousands of trees to be planted across County Durham. A Forest Team, hosted by Newcastle City Council, will deliver the planting working with local partners. In addition, an extra £6,000 of funding from the Trees for Climate fund has been received to support the establishment of 10 hectares of woodland under the Durham Woodland Creation programme to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June.

- 123 A partnership made up of members from the **Environment and Climate Change Partnership's** Ecological Emergency workstream, DCC's Low Carbon Team and Durham Community Action (DCA), along with representatives of the local community in Horden, the East Durham Trust and East Durham Business Services supported a scoping study into the minewater heat at Horden to see if it could be used as a renewable heat source.



The land in Horden being investigated as a site to generate minewater renewable heat

- 124 Working with the help of a specialist consultancy, District Eating, DCA had a brief to see if it was viable to use the heat generated as an energy source for community food growing in greenhouses. It discovered that there is a substantial body of usable heat at Horden, likely to be about 1.36 MW. An action group has been formed to take the work forward.

Conclusion

- 125 As we adapt and learn to live safely with Covid-19 we will protect and enable our communities at greatest risk from Covid-19 and its consequences to live a healthy and fulfilled life. We will continue to work in partnership to enable the recovery and further progress of education, economic activity and social connectivity as well as strengthening system-wide prevention and preparedness for future waves and learn the lessons of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 126 Our relationships with other agencies and with our communities are built on a robust foundation and will continue to provide a basis for improving outcomes for our local people through this difficult time.

Background papers

- None.

Other useful documents

- None.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None.

Finance

Area and neighbourhood budgets are utilised and delivered through the 14 AAPs and ensure the Council (and AAPs) receive improved information on the outputs achieved through use of locality budgets.

Consultation

The County Durham Partnership framework is a key community engagement and consultation function of the Council and its partners. The recommendations in the report are based on extensive consultation with AAP partners.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

The actions set out in this report aim to ensure equality and diversity issues are embedded within the thematic partnerships and the working practice of AAPs.

Climate Change

This is recognised throughout partnership activities.

Human Rights

None.

Crime and Disorder

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a statutory duty on local authorities to form a Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to tackle crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment and to reduce re-offending. In County Durham, the CSP is the Safe Durham Partnership.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

None.

Procurement

None.

Cabinet

15 June 2022

**Quarter Four, 2021/22
Performance Management Report**

Ordinary Decision



Report of Corporate Management Team

Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources

Councillor Amanda Hoggood, Leader of the Council

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 four, January to March 2022.

Executive Summary

- 3 The government has now removed the last remaining COVID-19 restrictions and launched a plan for '[living with COVID](#)' based on choice and personal responsibility.
- 4 However, as we transition from the pandemic, the household budgets of many of our residents remain tight. As of January 2021, the cost of living was at a 40 year high, prices had increased by almost 6% over a 12-month period, inflation is rising faster than wages and expected to climb above 10% within the year, and private rents are 7% higher than pre-COVID levels. In addition, more financial pressures are emerging with energy bills expected to increase by 50% following the removal of the energy price cap, and a 1.5% rise in National Insurance contributions in April 2022.
- 5 The latest published data estimated that almost 15% of households across the county were experiencing fuel poverty. However, this data

relates to 2020, before the latest cost of living increases and escalation in energy prices. It is therefore expected that the actual percentage to be both higher and to increase over the coming months, with people in rural areas and/or already struggling being disproportionately affected. As fuel prices increase, the cost of transport will increase and accessibility of the poorest people to essential services is likely to decrease, again exacerbated in rural areas.

- 6 Through the Poverty Action Steering Group (PASG) we have adopted a coherent and co-ordinated strategic approach, both within the council and across our partners to address poverty across County Durham. We are currently consulting on a revised [Poverty Action Plan](#), which sets out a comprehensive response to the impacts of the wide-ranging poverty issues within the county.

More and Better Jobs

- 7 A number of macroeconomic indicators show a positive trend. Latest data (December 2021) shows that employment rate has not fallen significantly despite the government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (furlough) ending at on 30 September.
- 8 The unemployment rate has fallen to 4.1%. We have now seen 12 consecutive months of reducing unemployment since the peak of 7.3% (December 2020), levels are now lower than the pre-pandemic rate of 6.5% (March 2020). Nationally, the level of job vacancies in the labour market is still increasing although the rate has slowed.
- 9 Since May 2021 the Universal Credit claimant count has continued to fall and now stands at 4.0% (March 2022), returning to the pre-COVID position in March 2020. Both these rates show County Durham in a more positive situation when compared to England and north east rates which remain higher than pre-pandemic levels. However, as the cost of living begins to impact, we have noted an increase in demand in people wanting to access discretionary benefits such as Discretionary Housing Payments and welfare assistance.
- 10 Sub-county variations remain with Easington having the highest claimant count of the six parliamentary constituency areas. In relation to the 18-24 year olds cohort, all areas are showing rates lower than the March 2020 position, particularly Bishop Auckland. The age group with the highest proportion of claimants is the 30-34 year olds, although the largest gap between the latest position and March 2020 can be seen in the 35-39 and 40-44 year old cohorts.
- 11 Throughout the year demand has been high across the entire Business Durham portfolio and occupancy currently stands at 98.5%. Jade Business Park is now 100% occupied and accounts for 20% of the total

commercial portfolio. Work continues on the development of strategic employment sites at NETPark and Merchant Park.

- 12 Business support has performed well throughout the year with the number of inward investments, businesses intensively assisted by Business Durham and businesses engaged with the economic development team exceeding targets. To date the County Durham Growth Fund has awarded £7.7m of the £8.9m fund, creating 239 jobs; and within the year Finance Durham invested £10m in 21 companies. Additional business support through our regeneration and economic development teams have created 108 jobs through the Targeted Business Improvement scheme and 48 jobs via our Towns & Villages Programme. However, although 571 businesses were engaged during quarter four, this is 296 fewer than the same period last year (-34%).
- 13 Registrations to Employability Durham are down as fewer people require support due to the healthy labour market and more people moving into employment.
- 14 Although our tourism and cultural sector was particularly hard hit by the pandemic and we have seen a reduction in the number of core tourism business since July 2021, confidence across tourism businesses is beginning to improve and visitor numbers to core attractions and our cinemas, theatres, attractions and libraries are increasing. Although County Durham was not named UK City of Culture, we remain committed to delivering a cultural programme with a lasting legacy. As a runner-up, we received a £125,000 grant to support the development of this programme.
- 15 Of the 22 schools in the county inspected by Ofsted during the quarter, 17 now have a good or outstanding rating, an increase of six schools. The remaining five schools either require improvement to be good or are classed as inadequate, a net reduction of two schools.
- 16 Fourteen qualifying safeguarding complaints were made to Ofsted in relation to schools during quarter four. Although higher than the five received in the same period last year, it is four lower than quarter three which suggests stability might be returning to the school environment.
- 17 We have seen a year-on-year increase in children and young people electively home educated; there are 637 children in County Durham in this cohort, less than 1% of all pupils.
- 18 In the last 12 months, we have seen a 10% increase in contacts to the Housing Solutions Service, mainly due to an increase in presentations earlier in the year as a result of the eviction ban being lifted and eviction numbers returning to pre-pandemic levels, private sector properties becoming less sustainable and fuel poverty issues. We continue to see

an increase in the number of rough sleepers; as well as these cases being more complex. Throughout the year the number of new households in temporary accommodation (TA) and the average length of time placed in TA have reduced by 11% and 1.5 days respectively when compared to 2020/21.

Long and Independent Lives

- 19 Data for the period 2018-20 show a reduction in both life expectancy (LE) and healthy life expectancy (HLE) in County Durham since the previous release (2017-19), with the exception of female HLE which has increased by a full percentage point. However, HLE in both males and females continue to remain lower than national levels. It is expected that future data releases covering the period of the pandemic will demonstrate a continued negative impact on LE and HLE.
- 20 The impact of the pandemic on the mental health of the population is also demonstrated through increasing hospital admission rates for intentional self-harm, particularly in the 10-24 year-old age group. Increases in admission rates for alcohol specific conditions have also been identified for the same period. A new campaign, [‘Now You’re Talking’](#), has been developed, to encourage people to talk about their mental health. The campaign is due to roll out in spring 2022.
- 21 Data from adult social care highlight the continuing reduction in permanent admissions to residential and nursing care, with admission rates reducing by approximately 33% since the start of the pandemic. The impact of the pandemic and challenges associated with embedding a new case management system, and the associated activity data, have both impacted on this apparent reduction.
- 22 As we come through the recovery phase of COVID, competing operational pressures continue to impact negatively on services users being reviewed within 12 months. 65% of service users received an assessment or review in the last 12 months, compared to almost 90% the previous year. Following additional resources into Adult Care, and mitigating actions to address this, it is expected that performance should improve during 2023.
- 23 However, the proportion of older people who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement or rehabilitation services continues to increase. The latest position (88.7%) is the highest performance for four years.
- 24 Despite a steady increase throughout the year, in 2021/22 visitors to leisure centres were below target by 33%, with 1,163,667 fewer visitors than at the start of the pandemic. We have also seen an increase in cancellations of gym and swim memberships compared to last year with

initial indications showing that the increases in the cost of living are having an impact.

- 25 Although higher than pre-pandemic levels, the amount of household waste collected in 2021 is broadly in line with that collected in 2020 suggesting volumes are stabilising. This, combined with planned maintenance at the energy from waste plant and changing of regulations on the recycling of carpet, means a smaller proportion of waste was diverted from landfill – 89.4% compared to 93% for the same period last year. In addition, contamination of kerbside recycling bins continues to increase and is currently 33% (from a pre-COVID rate of 29%); we continue to tackle contamination, with more than 7,700 contamination notices issued in the last 12 months.

Connected Communities

- 26 Although overall reports of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) decreased by 7% over the last 12 months, they remain higher than the pre-COVID level. Personal ASB is almost 5% higher than the pre-COVID figure, and we remain concerned that the pandemic has exacerbated mental health issues and minor arguments are escalating as resilience levels remain low and people spend more time at home. Nuisance ASB decreased over the last 12 months but remains 10% higher than the pre-COVID level with noise complaints being a major factor.
- 27 We are also aware that ASB fires (deliberate primary and secondary fires) have increased over the last 12 months. Many of these incidents are confined to the east of the county.
- 28 Overall recorded crime increased 6%. Increases were noted across all crime categories except violence against the person. However, these increases are due to comparatively low levels of recorded crime for the previous year, much as a consequence of COVID-19 restrictions which limited opportunities to commit crimes due to people spending more time at home, shops and leisure facilities being closed and fewer journeys being made. If we compare the latest data with pre-COVID levels of recorded crime, we can see that overall recorded crime is 7% lower.
- 29 We continue to maximise investment in our towns and villages. County Durham has been awarded £33.6 million from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which includes £2.8 million Multiply funds, for the period April 2022 to March 2025 to be delivered around the themes of Community and Place, Supporting Local Businesses and People and Skills. However, this is estimated to be roughly half of previous European Union funding. We are also developing five proposals for County Durham worth up to £117 million for the Government's second round of Levelling Up Funding.

- 30 Construction of the new Durham Bus Station has recommenced following a temporary pause due to unforeseen structural works, and is expected to become operational in July 2023.
- 31 In response to the crisis in Ukraine, the council has established a multi-agency humanitarian support working group and an operational team scheme to assist individuals and families coming to the UK. Under the Government's Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme, as at the end of April there were over 130 residents in County Durham who had put themselves forward; we are working to support both the sponsor and the refugees.
- 32 We continue to progress schemes to deliver high quality housing and ensure high quality standards within the social and private rented sectors. 64 out of the 67 constructed Chapter Homes located at Oakerside Drive in Peterlee are sold and construction of 60 new homes at Gilesgate site is on track for completion in December 2022. Our Selective Licensing Scheme which covers 42% of the private rented sector in County Durham came into operation on 1 April 2022, and in February Cabinet approved a Council Tenancy Strategy that sets out the Council's expectations to the registered providers of social housing operating.
- 33 Phase 1 of the Council Housing Building Programme to build 155 homes across seven sites continues with financial viability assessments currently being produced which will see individual sites progressing to planning and construction.
- 34 Ofsted announced the council's inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) on 29 April 2022. The inspection is focussed on the effective of local authority services and arrangements to help and protect children, the experiences and progress of children in care wherever they live, including those children who return home, the arrangements for permanence for children who are looked after, including adoption and the experiences and progress of care leavers.
- 35 They will also evaluate the effectiveness of leaders and managers, the impact they have on the lives of children and young people and the quality of professional practice.
- 36 Demand for children's social care support remained high throughout 2021/22 despite a reduction in referrals from the 2019/20. Over pandemic period, a combination of COVID-19 and increasingly complex cases have taken longer to work to a satisfactory outcome.
- 37 This higher demand has led to sustained high caseloads over the year which in turn led a decline in performance in some key performance areas around the timeliness of our assessments and other processes.

The service continues to recruit over-establishment to mitigate these pressures.

- 38 However, the measure to track the overall quality of service, our re-referral rate, continues on a positive trajectory much reduced from pre-pandemic and now lower than all benchmarks.
- 39 Placement sufficiency for looked after children was a key challenge throughout the year. The service continues its Residential Care and Fostering Transformation Programmes intended to build capacity and choice of placement to meet the needs of all children in our care.

An Excellent Council

- 40 The council continues to face significant financial pressure resulting from the pandemic. The additional costs incurred and loss of income are forecast to be around £20.4 million this year, offset by COVID-19 related underspends (relating to closure of facilities and disruption to normal service activity as a result of the pandemic) of £5.9 million – a net overspend of £14.5 million, which is presently within the forecast circa £18.2 million the council expects to receive from the Government to cover the financial impact of the pandemic.
- 41 With the removal of the last remaining COVID-19 restrictions, our office staff returned to their workplaces on a hybrid basis, and services impacted by COVID-19 reverted to their pre-COVID position. Digital Services staff continue to provide, promote and support the use of Office 365 applications across the council to assist in the return to offices. Plans are being developed for a new civic headquarters (in support of the future commercial development of the Aykley Heads site) and office space in Stanley will provide a basis for further external investment in the town.
- 42 Having declined during the pandemic, staff turnover has increased and is currently above the pre-pandemic figure of 7.2%, at 9%. We continue to modernise our approach to recruitment to increase our appeal in a hugely competitive market. Attracting skilled workers remains a challenge, with local and national skills shortages driving competition amongst all neighbouring local authorities and other employers including the private sector.
- 43 We have launched our 2022 Apprentice Recruitment Campaign. The 97 successful candidates will join our apprenticeship programme which has helped almost 1,300 employees to develop new skills (2.3% of our workforce is currently enrolled). 647 apprenticeship standards are available (and a further 46 are in development) and have been mapped to each service area via our learning and development system.

- 44 As COVID-19 restrictions eased, both health and safety incidents and days lost to sickness increased. Our sickness rate for the last 12 months is 11.59 days per Full Time Equivalent (FTE), with circa 83% of employees recording less than five days sickness and 58% recording no sickness. If we adjust for COVID-related sickness, the rate drops to 10.31 days per FTE. This is 0.5 days lower than the rate recorded pre-pandemic. 95% of all reported accidents are either no injury or near miss.
- 45 Days lost to 'mental health and fatigue' is 14% higher than last year, and 7% higher than pre-pandemic, driven by increases in anxiety and non-work related stress. Although work related stress increased 20% compared to last year, days lost during 2021/22 is half that recorded pre-pandemic.
- 46 Our Performance Development Review process has been reinstated and is now complete for 117 leaders (100%) and 840 managers (83%). It has been rolled out to the remaining 9,967 employees for completion by 30 June 2022.
- 47 Throughout the 12 months ending 31 March 2022 we received more than 1.8 million contacts through our reported channels – an increase of 26% on the previous year. The significant increase in call volume over the last 12 months is due to transferring lines to the ACD system and reinstating lines closed due to the pandemic, such as coroners and leisure centres. More recently, the £150 energy rebate has driven increased levels of contact.
- 48 More than 164,000 households now have an online account for requesting services through the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. In addition, an increasing number of residents are setting up accounts to access council tax and housing benefit information through the Revenues and Benefits Portal.
- 49 Although we received 1% fewer service requests through our CRM system, compared to the previous year (-5,538), the number remains 28% higher than the pre-COVID level (+92,226). Almost half of these service requests are linked to a performance standard (which was met in 72% of cases) and 82% of the 20,000 respondents to the satisfaction survey stated they were satisfied with service delivery.
- 50 We received 2,466 corporate complaints, which is broadly in line with the previous year (six complaints per 1,000 service requests), and just under half were upheld. Although 128 were escalated to independent investigation (5%), analysis suggests 26% could have been avoided through either timelier or more comprehensive updates from services, and/or completion of the agreed action in the first instance. The

Ombudsman delivered decisions relating to 69 complaints – 17 were upheld, either fully or partially.

- 51 Almost two thirds of service level complaints were completed and responded to within timescale, which is broadly in line with the previous year, and the most frequent cause for complaint, representing 15% of all complaints, continues to be missed bin collections. Of those investigated in the 12 months ending 31 March 2022, 78% were upheld. However, it is important to note that whilst we received 381 missed bin complaints, the complaint to delivery ratio is just 0.003%. In addition, a smaller proportion of missed bin reports are progressing to complaints.
- 52 We are continuing to drive improvements across customer services and enhance the customer experience with a new Video Relay Service to communicate via British Sign Language, more services migrating to the ACD system, more performance standards, more processes complying with web content accessibility guidelines, and updated forms with standardised address / location search function.
- 53 The council's digital fixed penalty notice (FPN) project for littering has been including in several award nominations recently. We won Litter Initiative of the Year in the Keep Britain Tidy Awards and were awarded a certificate of excellence in the Public Sector Transformation Awards. In addition, the council has been shortlisted in the Municipal Journal awards in the digital transformation category for the Tech to Tackle Litter project.
- 54 We have also been shortlisted in the LGC Awards 2022 in the Public Health category for our work on health, especially around mental health, the results are expected in July.

Risk Management

- 55 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

- 56 That Cabinet notes 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.

Background

- 57 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.
- 58 It also includes an overview of the continuing impact of COVID-19 on council services, our staff, and residents.

Background papers

- County Durham Vision (County Council, 23 October 2019)
<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s115064/Draft%20Durham%20Vision%20v10.0.pdf>

Other useful documents

- Council Plan 2020 to 2023 (current plan)
<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2366/Council-Plan>
- Quarter Three, 2021/22 Performance Management Report
<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s152742/Performance%20Report%202021-22%20003.pdf>
- Quarter Two, 2021/22 Performance Management Report
<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s149087/Q2%20Performance%20Report%202021-22%20-%20Cabinet.pdf>
- Quarter One, 2021/22 Performance Management Report
<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s144872/Q1%20Performance%20Report%202021-22.pdf>

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¹ approved by full council October 2020

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

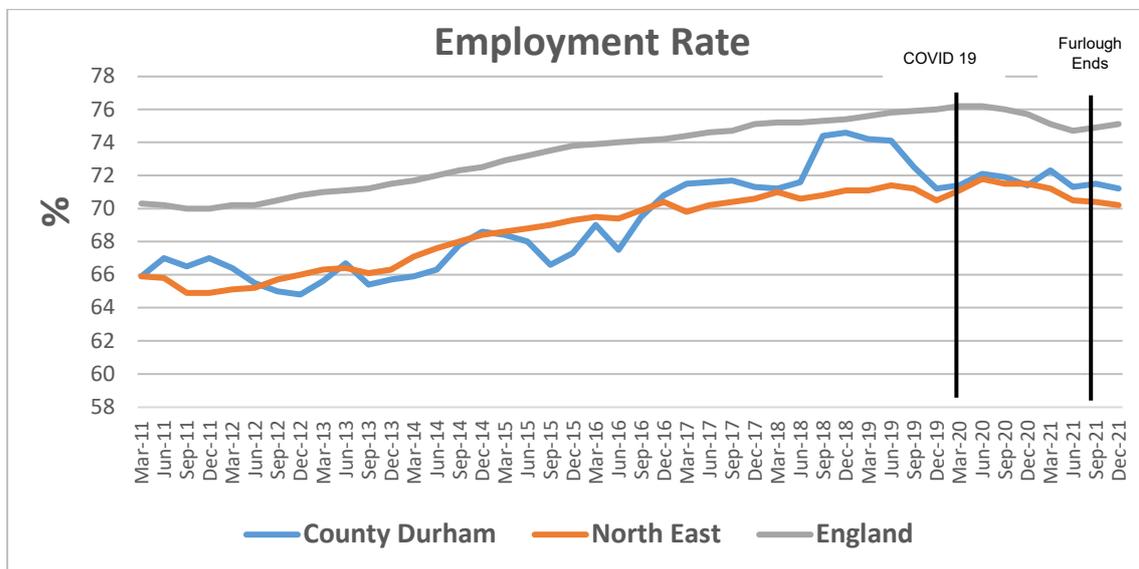
Quarter Four, 2021/22



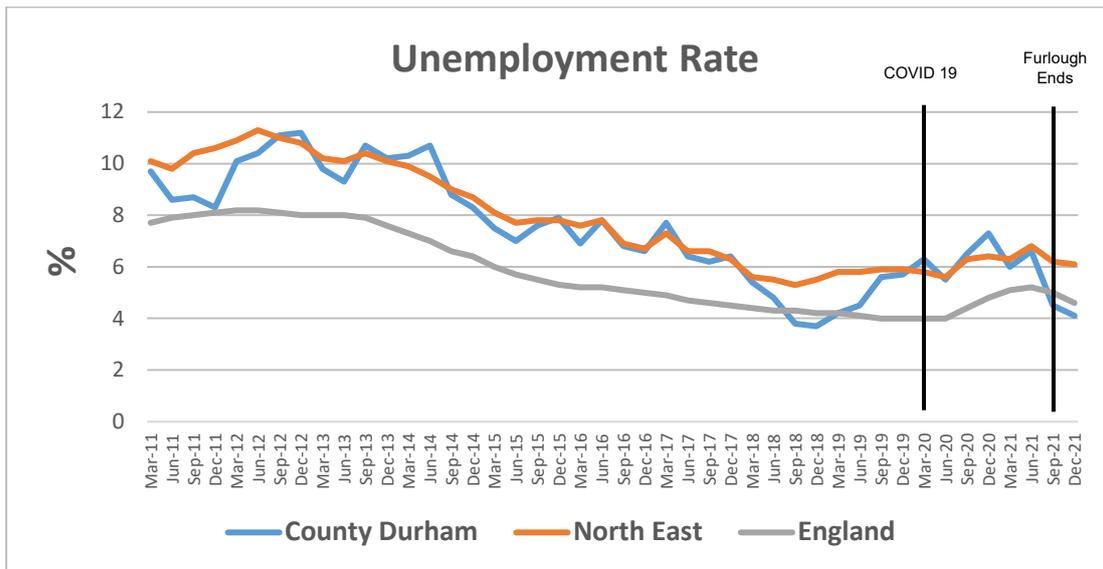
More and Better Jobs

- 1 The ambition of More and Better Jobs is linked to the following objectives:
 - Delivery of a range of employment sites across the county;
 - A strong, competitive economy where County Durham is a premier place in the north east to do business;
 - A broader experience for residents and visitors to the county;
 - Young people will have access to good quality education, training and employment;
 - Helping all people into rewarding work;
 - Fewer people will be affected by poverty and deprivation within the county.

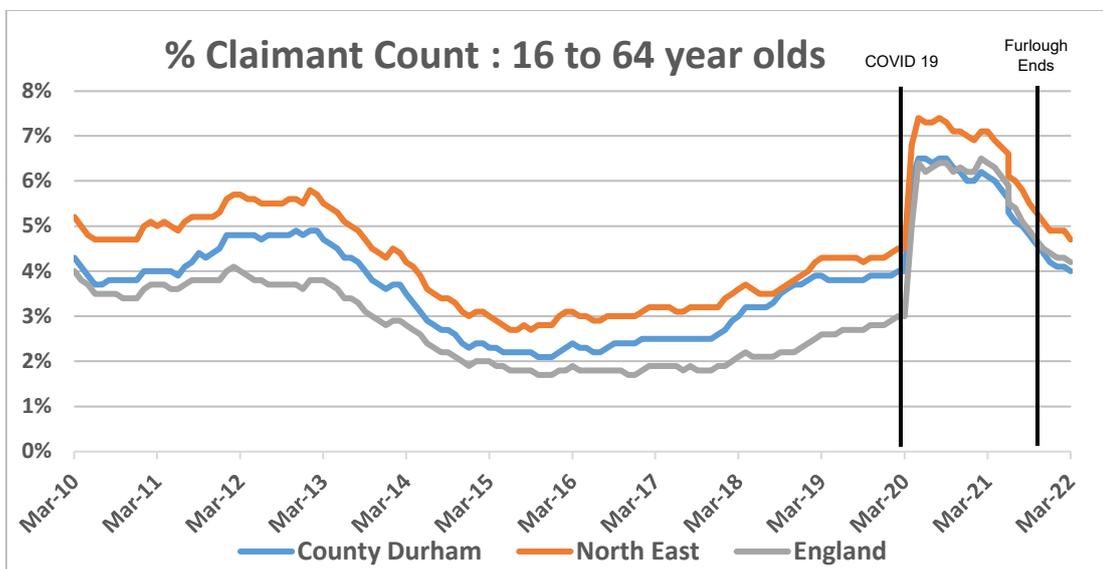
National, Regional and Local Picture



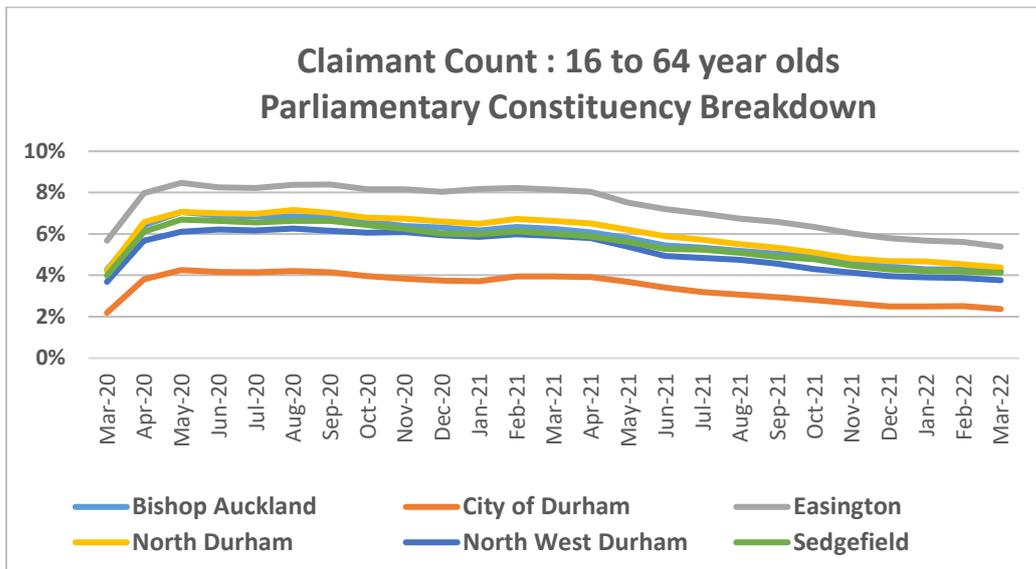
- 2 Latest data (December 2021) shows the employment rate has fallen slightly, in line with England and regional trends, but remains within the confidence levels for this data and therefore is not considered a significant change. Although the government removed its support packages (furlough and self-employment income schemes) at the end of September, we have yet to see any impact on the employment rate.



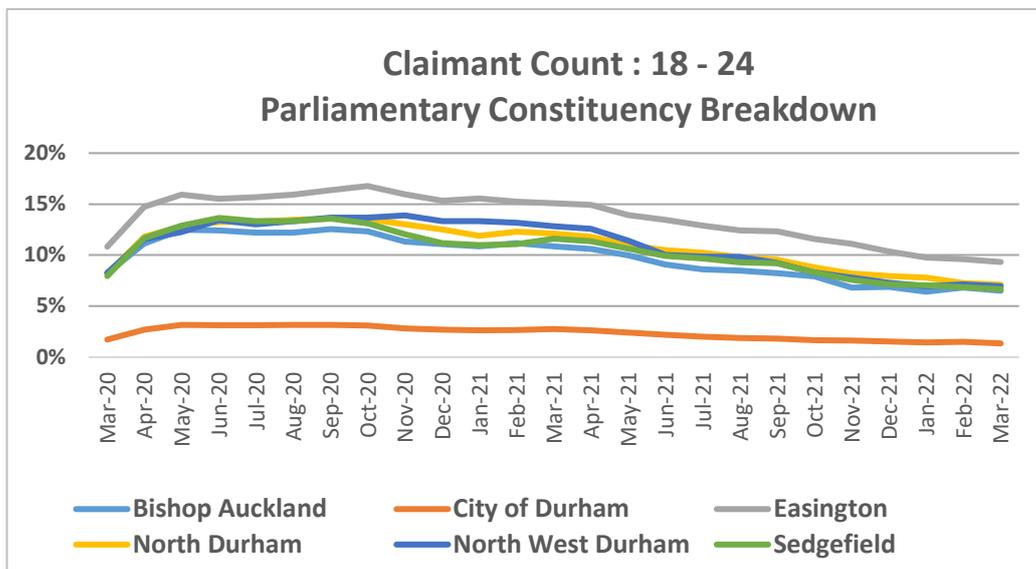
3 Similarly, the unemployment rate has fallen to 4.1% from 4.5% in the previous period, although this is within the confidence levels for this data and therefore is not a significant change. However, we have now seen a consecutive 12 months of reducing unemployment from the peak of 7.3% in December 2020 and levels are now lower than the pre-pandemic rate of 6.5% in March 2020. This shows County Durham in a more positive position compared to England and the north east which both still have higher unemployment rates than prior to the pandemic.



4 Following a significant rise in people claiming employment benefits between March and May 2020, the claimant count remained relatively static throughout 2020 and 2021 until the first notable drop in May 2021. Since this time, it has continued to fall and now stands at 4.0% (March 2022), returning to the pre-COVID position in March 2020. Again, this shows County Durham in a more positive position compared to England and the north east rates which both remain higher than prior to the pandemic.

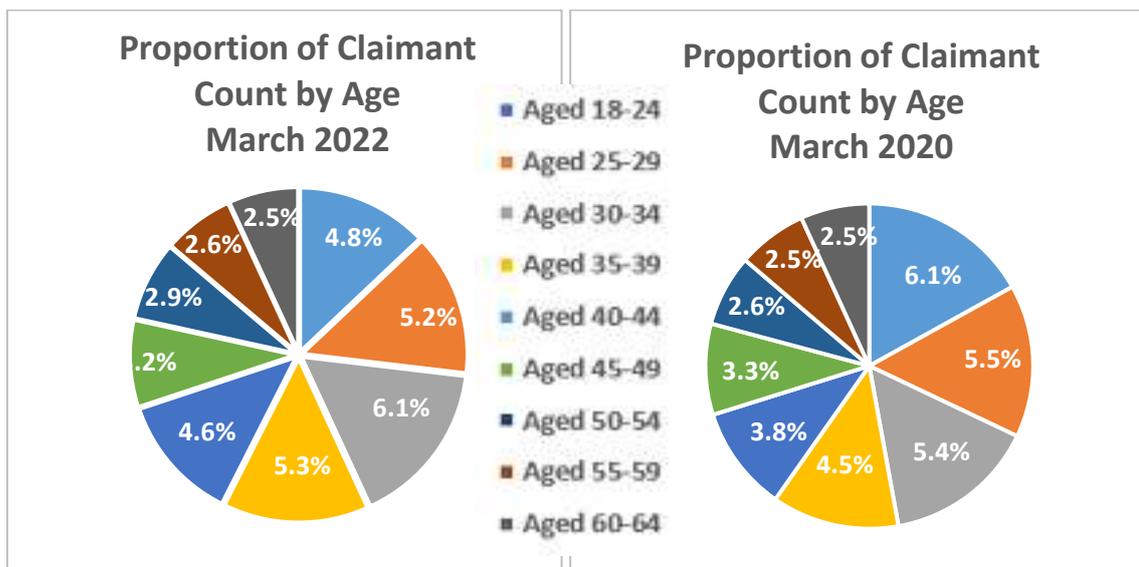


5 In relation to the 16-64 year olds cohort, Bishop Auckland and Easington areas have returned to their pre-COVID position with the rest remaining marginally higher than at March 2020. North Durham and Durham City are showing the largest difference between the latest position and March 2020, at 0.5pp and 0.3pp respectively and therefore are the furthest away from returning to their pre-COVID position.



6 However, in relation to the 18-24 year olds cohort, all areas are showing rates that are lower than the March 2020 position, particularly Bishop Auckland which at 6.4% is 2.2pp lower than March 2020.

7 Easington has the highest rate of claimants within both the 16-64 and 18-24 age groups.



- 8 The age group population with the highest proportion of claimants is the 30-34 year olds at 6.1%, 0.7pp above the pre-COVID (March 2020) position. Although, it is the 35-39 year old (5.3%) and 40-44 year old (4.6%) cohorts that are showing the largest gap between the latest position and March 2020 by 0.8pp.
- 9 Nationally there were around 1.3 million vacancies between January and March, again a record high and an increase of 492,000 from the pre-pandemic January to March 2020 position. Although vacancies are still increasing, the rate of growth has continued to fall since its peak of 43.3% in May to July 2021 to 4.1% this period, the lowest level of growth since June to August 2020.
- 10 The percentage change in the number of visitors to the core attractions² in County Durham continues an upward trend. As at the end of December 2021, there has been a 184% increase in visitors compared to the same period last year. However, it should be noted that last year many attractions were closed or offering reduced capacity entrance due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- 11 Latest data (February 2022) show that 495 young people aged 16-17 (from a cohort of 11,187) are not in employment, education or training (NEET). This equates to 4.4% of the cohort of 16-17 year-olds in County Durham, and compares to an average of 2.6% for England and an average of 4.4% for the north east.
- 12 The proportion of young people whose current destination is 'not known' in County Durham is 0.6%, which is lower than the average for England (1.7%), as well as the average for the north east (0.7%). The combined proportion of young people aged 16-17 in County Durham who are NEET or whose destination is not

² Auckland Castle; Beamish Museum; Botanic Garden; Diggerland; Killhope Museum; Oriental Museum; Palace Green Library; Raby Castle; Bowes Museum.

known is 5.1%. This compares to an average rate for England of 4.3% and an average rate for the north east of 5.1%.

Council Services

Delivery of a range of employment sites across the county

- 13 The NETPark planning application was approved in March 2022 for the third phase extension providing up to 270,000sq ft of new laboratory, office, production and storage space. The new phase could generate up to 1,250 skilled jobs and be worth up to £625m to the County Durham economy. Works are expected to start on site October 2022.
- 14 The construction of the industrial units at Station Place, Merchant Park (55,000sq ft in total) is progressing well with construction due to be complete by June 2022 when Business Durham will take responsibility for management and lettings.

| | Business Durham activity | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| | Jan-Mar 2022 | Compared to last year | |
| Floor space occupied | 98.5% | +15.5pp | ↑ |

- 15 Within the quarter we saw a 3% increase in Business Durham portfolio occupancy rates, primarily due to increased lettings at Salvus House, Aykley Heads. Throughout the year high demand has been seen across the entire portfolio but especially at NETPark and Jade Business Park, which is now 100% occupied and forms 20% of the total commercial portfolio.

A strong competitive economy and premier place to do business

| | Business Durham activity | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| | Jan-Mar 2022 | Compared to last year | |
| Inward investments secured | 7 | +4 | ↑ |
| Businesses engaged | 571 | -296 | ↓ |
| Jobs created or safeguarded | 1,269 | -292 | ↓ |
| GVA from jobs created or safeguarded (£'million) | £37.1 | -£8.7 | ↓ |

- 16 Seven inward investments were secured during the quarter, generating 222 jobs. In total for 2021/22, 18 inward investments were secured, exceeding the target of

- 10, signalling a recovery in the economy after COVID-19 and the uncertainty of Brexit.
- 17 The number of businesses engaged³ in 2021/22 totals 1,210, of which 270 were intensively assisted, exceeding the target of 140. This was driven by the number of businesses (188) intensively assisted⁴ through the Durham Business Recovery Grant. Business engagement also took place through regular networking events and large events such as the New Frontier Space Conference; as well as one to one engagement and via funded programmes.
 - 18 Now in the third year of operation the Durham Ambitious Business Start-ups (DABS) Programme, has 260 (169 pre-start clients and 91 newly-started SMEs) actively engaged on the programme; an increase of 70 from last quarter. During February and March face-to-face client engagement has increased with a new seven-week programme of support named DABS Launch.
 - 19 The County Durham Growth Fund has awarded a further £336,631 to eight businesses in quarter four. At the year-end the Fund had awarded around £2.3 million to 18 businesses, bringing the total awarded to date to £7.7 million out of the £8.9 million fund. 239 jobs have been created and private sector contributions have exceeded £10.4 million.
 - 20 At the start of the year Finance Durham had invested £6.1 million in 15 companies. At the year-end it has invested £10 million in 21 companies with £2 million in the final quarter, in four companies; there were 10 investments during the year with six being new investments and four re-investments. An exercise is underway for the re-procurement of the fund management of the Finance Durham scheme.
 - 21 During 2021/22, 31 businesses have been supported through the Targeted Business Improvement scheme (TBIs), creating 108 jobs. Additionally, we supported 22 businesses and created 48 jobs via our Towns & Villages programme, and one business via Seaham Townscape Heritage Business Improvement scheme, with four in the pipeline for grant offers. The Community Economic Development Team have also engaged with and supported 192 new businesses throughout the year which is well above our annual target (120).

³ Businesses engaged are those Business Durham engaged with through direct contact, attendance at Business Durham events, meetings or business networks or participating in business support programmes.

⁴ Businesses intensively assisted is a sub-set of businesses engaged where the assistance has been significant e.g working with the business over a period of time in relation to expansion or addressing key business needs, businesses receiving at least 12 hours support through ERDF programmes or those who have been awarded grants.

- 22 We have also delivered a package of improvements funded from the Welcome Bank Fund (£506K) and an underspend from the Re-opening High Street Safely Programme (£469K) to assist retailers in re-establishing positive trading conditions following the end of lockdown restrictions in England. The programme included positive communication messages, clean and protect works to public areas in town centres and street entertainment festivals.

Helping all people into rewarding work

- 23 Despite referrals to Employability Durham increasing between October and December, registrations onto employment programmes have decreased. This is due to a combination of a healthy labour market and people finding jobs themselves before they are registered onto programmes; and an increasing number of people not engaging as they are still not mandated by Job Centre Plus to complete employability activity.
- 24 Fewer registrations this quarter has also seen a decrease in people moving into employment, however for the period April to December figures are higher than pre-COVID levels.
- 25 Although a large proportion of our clients have limited digital skills which prevent them from doing online courses, levels of people moving into education or training is slightly higher this quarter, mainly through our delivery partners on the LINKCD programme. We anticipate figures will continue to increase due to delivery partners starting to deliver more training courses face-to-face.
- 26 Despite the impact of COVID-19, volunteering opportunities continue to grow within the council's culture and sport service, with 2,770 volunteers currently supporting the provision of these services. Since the start of the scheme in 2017, the culture and sport volunteer and skills team has also trained and supported 105 volunteers into employment. During 2021/22, 461 volunteers joined the service, and 13 were successful in gaining employment.

A broader experience for residents and visitors to the county

- 27 County Durham was one of just four locations to be shortlisted for the prestigious UK City of Culture 2025 title, following the interview and judging process the winner of UK City of Culture 2025 title was announced on the 31st May. Unfortunately we were not named UK City of Culture 2025, which went to Bradford. However as a runner-up, County Durham has received a grant of £125,000 to support the development of key elements of our City of Culture bid.
- 28 Killhope Museum was awarded £475,000 from MEND (Museum Estate and Development Fund) which we will match with £50,000 to fund the emergency works required to address structural issues and flooding at the mine entrance

allowing the full site to be reopened for public access. Works will not prevent the visitor centre from opening and a programme of activity has been planned for unaffected parts of the site.

- 29 There were 11,154 visitors to Killhope between mid-May and October 2021, this performance is above the pre-COVID level of 11,066 visitors between April and October 2019. 2021 was also a shorter season than usual and was adversely affected by inclement weather closures. Visitor feedback suggests the increased numbers are due to the removal of admission charges which had been a barrier for some, and the improvements to the food and beverage offer
- 30 At the end of quarter four, there were 545 core tourism businesses across the county, of which 43.3% (236) were actively engaged with Visit County Durham, which is on par with the baseline in July 2021. However, there has been a reduction in core businesses of 8% compared to the baseline due to some businesses ceasing to operate, being sold or using Airbnb as their sole promotional tool.
- 31 Audiences at our 2021/22 festivals are around 70% of previous figures. This is due to a combination of customer caution about returning, and restrictions put in place to create COVID-19 secure events, for example, limiting numbers to lighting installations within the peninsula as part of the Lumiere festival. However, the appetite to return to events seems to be building and we are confident of a full return in 2022/23.
- 32 Theatre audiences for 2021/22 show a reduction on 2019/20 figures due to the venues being closed for the first quarter of the year, and a slow post-COVID recovery in the second quarter. Gala figures for quarter four have shown a move towards pre-COVID levels, with the majority of performances now hitting sales targets, a greater number of sell out performances and an increasingly busy café/bar trade. Empire experienced slow sales in the opening months; however, the latest two quarters have seen attendances steadily increase.

| | Ticket Sales | | |
|--------|-----------------------|------------------------|---|
| | July 21 - March 22 | Compared to 2019/20 | |
| Gala | 83,230 | - 54% | ↓ |
| Empire | 56,399 | - 51% | ↓ |

- 33 Durham Town Hall re-opened May 2021 and delivery of a Heritage Tour offer increased from one to six days until December to encourage the return of patronage. Due to COVID-19 restrictions for large gatherings, many events were

cancelled but the Lunar New Year celebration in February saw more than 2,000 visitors over one weekend. The overall visitor number for the last financial year was 12,528. Large scale bookings are now picking up including weddings and festivals such as the week-long Durham Fringe event to be held in July and Mayor Making on 9 June.

- 34 Visitor figures to Bishop Auckland Town Hall have increased significantly since the building fully re-opened in May 2021, following the refurbishment during the first COVID-19 lockdown. In that time, the town hall had 18,800 visitors to the new gallery and café attendances have increased by 100% due to a new menu and the ground floor location. Cinema screenings have increased from one per week (pre-refurbishment) to six, with audience numbers now gradually building. Library visitors are slowly increasing. Our new arts engagement sessions attract an average of 15 participants in the weekly art group, 10 participants for the weekly creative writing group and 10+ participants each for the monthly family singing group and veterans drop-in sessions.
- 35 Visitors to Hardwick and Wharton Parks continue to be at higher levels than pre-COVID with approximately 600,000 in the last 12 months. Planning for future events and activities in the parks is underway.
- 36 There was a small increase in the number of registered members in our libraries during 2021, and we have maintained this small growth to the end of the year. Visitors to libraries pre-COVID were around 1.1 million, this dropped to just over 38,000 during 2020/21 due to closures or reduced hours, because of lockdowns and the pandemic response. Since April 2021 the number of people visiting libraries in person has increased, with 339,639 visits during 2021/22. Library events have started to resume albeit on a smaller scale at present.

Young people will have access to good education, training and employment

- 37 During quarter four, Ofsted inspected 18 primary schools, three secondary schools and one special school. Of these:

| | School type | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|----------|
| | Primary | Secondary | Special |
| moved from 'outstanding' to 'good' | 2 | | |
| maintained 'outstanding' or 'good' rating | 8 | 1 | |
| moved from 'inadequate' or 'requires improvement' to 'good' | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| Total 'outstanding' or 'good' | 14 | 2 | 1 |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|----------|----------|--|
| moved from 'good' to 'requires improvement' | 3 | 1 | |
| remained at 'requires improvement' | 1 | | |
| Total 'requires improvement' | 4 | 1 | |

- 38 Children Looked After (CLA) continue to be supported by the virtual school. There are 654 CLA of statutory age as well as 85 in early years and 119 post-16. All Personal Education Plan (PEP) meetings for the spring term took place during the period.
- 39 Attendance rates were 92.9% across all settings on 3 March 2022. This improvement in the attendance rate followed a period in January 2022 when rates declined to 84.5% around the same time as there were increases in infection rates associated with COVID-19. The decline in attendance in January 2022 was mirrored nationally. Rates of attendance for children and young people with a social worker were 88% and for those with an EHCP 91% on 3 March 2022 and the same trend was noted of declining rates in attendance for vulnerable groups in the month of January 2022.
- 40 Overall numbers of pupils electively home educated (EHE) remain low fluctuating between 0.6% and 0.8% of the school age population. Year on year, comparing similar time period markers there is an ongoing rising trend in EHE numbers. This trend has continued in the current quarter and this trend is reflected nationally. Staff continue to support families to return to school where this is the preferred choice of families and a multi-agency EHE panel continues to support EHE children and young people via meetings, safe and well calls and other checks. A newly developed business application tool adds an additional layer of oversight for the cohort, and it is anticipated that this will enable more sophisticated triaging moving forward.
- 41 During quarter four, 14 qualifying safeguarding complaints were made to Ofsted in relation to County Durham schools. This compares to five in the same period last year. This increase could be a consequence of the pandemic, given that most children and young people were accessing virtual learning rather than attending schools for large parts of 2020, so their social interaction with staff and peers was limited. During quarter three this year there were 18 qualifying complaints, which highlights that there has been a slight reduction during quarter four and may indicate that stability is returning to the school environment.
- 42 Local Authorities have a statutory responsibility to identify children missing from education in their area. With partners, a protocol is in place to establish the whereabouts of a child before the school can delete their name from the school register. The protocol includes referral to children's social care, police, NHS and

local authority services to ensure children moving between areas are tracked, in appropriate cases. In quarter four, 125 students were referred to the local authority.

| | No. of children |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Successfully tracked | 87 |
| Moved within county. School transfer discussions ongoing | 1 |
| Moved out of county. Relevant local authorities informed | 16 |
| Referred for school attendance enforcement action | 1 |
| Processing as admissions to schools in County Durham | 13 |
| Has an EHCP is and awaiting placement | 2 |
| Awaiting further information from referrer | 5 |

- 43 Our Behaviour and Inclusion Panels continue to provide support to pupils at risk of exclusion. During quarter four, 24 pupils were supported by the primary panel (none were permanently excluded) and 331 by the secondary panel (there were 24 permanently excluded pupils from panel schools and two from the two schools who do not participate within the panel arrangements and one from a Special School).
- 44 Managed moves for 57 secondary pupils and one primary pupil were arranged. Of the 24 secondary best advice transfer meetings, two moved from out of county to Durham and 22 from Durham to Durham schools. Fourteen students transferred following the meeting and the other 10 remained at their home school.
- 45 Eight quality assurance visits were carried out at alternative provision providers (providers such as pupil referral units that are used when pupils are unable to access mainstream school for reasons such as exclusion, behavioural issues or illness) and resulting action plans shared. Three students were reintegrated back into mainstream education following a permanent exclusion.
- 46 Young people aged 15-24 who are NEET / at risk of becoming NEET are supported through DurhamWorks. The original programme, which commenced in 2016, came to an end in December 2021. Overall, 8,750 young people were supported by DurhamWorks during this period, of which 55% were defined as 'vulnerable'. 6,297 (78%) young people subsequently progressed into education, employment and training or gained a qualification on completion.
- 47 The original programme achieved 94% of its target for 'starts', as well as 104% and 111% of its targets for 'completions' and 'progressions' respectively. An analysis concluded that for every £1 spent on the DurhamWorks, the social return on investment achieved was £2.78.

- 48 As a result of funding secured from the European Social Fund / Youth Employment Initiative, as well as the Youth Futures Foundation, three new DurhamWorks programmes commenced in January 2022: DurhamWorks, DurhamWorks 3 and DurhamWorks Futures. These programmes ensure that young people who are NEET / at risk of becoming NEET (including young people who are defined as 'vulnerable' and experience significant labour market disadvantage) will have access to transition support, financial support to overcome specific barriers, as well as a range of learning provision and activities to enable them to progress into education, employment and training.
- 49 As part of our statutory responsibilities, we collect the destinations of Year 11 school leavers on an annual basis. The latest report shows that of those young people who completed secondary education in June 2021, 93.3% (5,246) progressed into post-16 learning, 2.9% (162) became NEET, out of a cohort of 5,621 young people. This compares to 93.9% (4,907) of young people who completed secondary education in June 2020 who progressed into post-16 learning and 3.2% (169) who became NEET, out of a cohort of 5,228 young people.
- 50 Following collaboration with Durham University to launch Durham Global Alliance in October, we have jointly promoted the Lunar New Year celebrations, the Language Detective programme for schools and the continuing professional development event for teachers of Spanish. Working with the University's School of Modern Languages and Cultures we engaged their students in delivering activities for 1,150 County Durham pupils. We have also created opportunities for 30 international students to work as volunteers in our schools; a further 12 supported Lunar New Year and 150 pupils were engaged in the 'It's a small world' project in March.
- 51 In addition, during the year, we have delivered a successful programme of events to school audiences across County Durham and the wider north east region that helped build language and intercultural awareness skills. The programme delivered 12 events, mostly achieved online due to pandemic restrictions, and involved 3,320 learners.
- 52 Government funding for international opportunities in education and training is limited to the Turing Scheme and in 2021/22, 11 of the of the successful 114 projects nationally were from County Durham schools which received more than £300,000 in grant awards.

Fewer people will be affected by poverty and deprivation within the county

- 53 During quarter four, 3,594 households contacted Housing Solutions, an increase on the previous quarter and last year; this was mainly in relation to energy advice

linked to the current energy crises. During 2021/22, 13,493 customers contacted the service which represents a 10% increase from the previous year, mainly due to an increase in presentations earlier in the year as a result of the eviction ban being lifted, private sector properties becoming less sustainable and fuel poverty issues.

- 54 During 2021/22, 649 households were assisted via the Managing Money Better (MMB) initiative, achieving an average saving per households of £135.36. It is anticipated that requests for assistance will increase over the coming months as fuel tariffs continue to rise. The Citizens Advice Bureau is also on standby to assist if numbers become too high for the MMB service to manage at any one time.
- 55 Homeless cases may also increase as renting privately may become unaffordable for tenants in the longer term and private sector properties become less sustainable for landlords. We will be closely monitoring the position going forward and a priority-based system is currently being developed where applicants will be managed on a first come first served basis and dependent on vulnerability.
- 56 Eviction levels have now returned to pre-pandemic levels with a further increase expected as the case backlog in courts is addressed. However, difficulty remains in finding alternative properties to house homeless cases. The shortage of available property in the private rented sector means landlords can find other tenants more quickly than we can carry out an inspection and discharge our duty.
- 57 The government's Early Intervention Funding (£157,000) to address COVID-related rent arrears in the private rented sector and outstanding COVID Outbreak Management funding (COMF) monies, has been used to help avoid seven families becoming homeless and/or being housed in temporary accommodation since the start of 2022.
- 58 The number of households placed in temporary accommodation (TA) and the average length of time household are placed in TA have both increased this quarter driven by family no longer willing or able to accommodate, domestic violence cases and the end to private rented tenancies. Placements are monitored closely to ensure they are not staying for longer than is necessary, with all accommodation options considered. However, there is an issue around finding permanent accommodation in high demand areas that is affordable, therefore we are working with clients to consider widening their areas of preference.
- 59 Over the year, both the number of new households in TA and the average length of time placed in TA have reduced compared to 2020/21 by 11% and 1.5 days respectively.

- 60 We continue to see high levels of rough sleepers, with 255 reported during the quarter and 67 found and assisted. During 2021/22, the team have responded to 764 reports of rough sleeping (individuals could be reported more than once) and verified 250 rough sleepers. This is a large increase on last year's 175 total. As well as complex rough sleepers, the team are encountering more 'man in a van' cases where men are rough sleeping in vehicles following a relationship breakdown. Many of these have no previous tenancy history and/or no identification or belongings, therefore, finding suitable long-term accommodation can take time.
- 61 We have also supported more rough sleepers into long term accommodation this financial year through the County Durham Lettings Agency (CDLA) which has achieved its Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP), COMF and Buy to Lease targets, purchasing 30 properties with the majority refurbished. There are five that did not achieve practical completion, and Homes England has granted an extension to September 2022, however we envisage all works will be complete by end of April 2022.
- 62 In December 2021 Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) announced the Protect & Vaccinate (P&V) initiative, requesting where possible all rough sleepers are accommodated for at least five months and supported through the COVID-19 vaccination programme. Durham supported 40 rough sleepers through accommodation as part of this scheme, with many previously housed, taking up the vaccine for the first time due to incentive packages, including TVs, mobile phone, bus passes, additional clothing. Also, as part of moving rough sleepers into longer term accommodation through P&V we have provided an enhanced household start pack including items not currently provided through welfare assistance packs such as kitchen bins, basic food and cleaning starter packs.
- 63 Following £300,000 funding from RSAP and Homeless Support Grant, planning permission has been granted to convert Shildon People's Centre into four self-contained flats. Work has commenced and is scheduled for completion in September 2022.
- 64 CDLA is currently bidding for RSAP5 monies and is looking to purchase and repair 10 properties in 2020/23 and lease and repair a further 10 in 2023/24. This will be a joint bid with Karbon Homes who are looking to develop a Husk model for converting a former garage block into six one-bedroom bungalows. North Star are looking to develop 8-10 units in the south of the county. Further details will be provided in quarter one.
- 65 Durham County Council's bid on behalf of the Durham (joint North East Region) to the Rough Sleeping Initiative 2022-2025 (RSI5) has been successful with the

eight north east regions being allocated £3,777,842 over a three year period. Durham has been allocated £1,454,442 from the joint bid. DCC has also been awarded a three-year settlement from RSI5 of £617,462 to fund the County Durham Lettings Agency (CDLA).

MORE AND BETTER JOBS

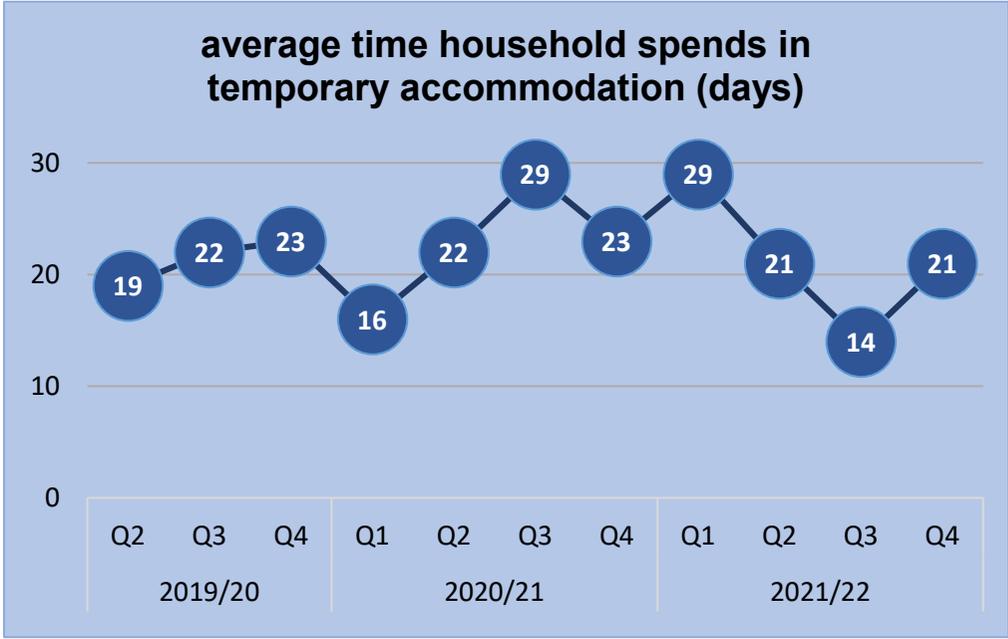
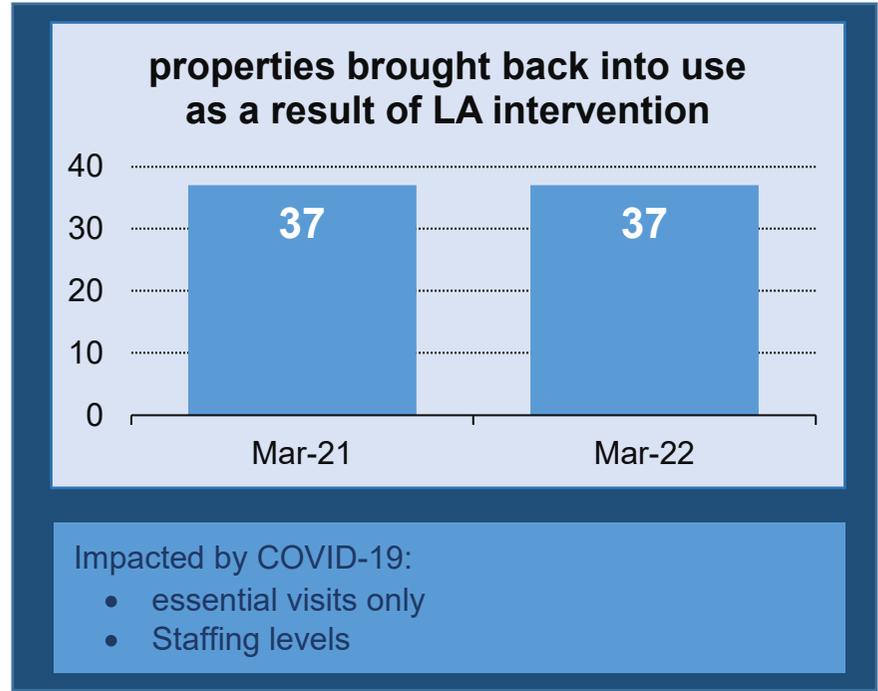
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Housing advice and support

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------|
| properties improved, adapted or brought back into use | 1,230 | up 65% |
| households accessing Housing Solutions | 3,594 | up 7% |
| households helped to move to alternative accommodation | 239 | up 9% |

386
households helped to stay in their homes
up 47% on last year

141
'new' households placed in temporary accommodation
up 66% on last year



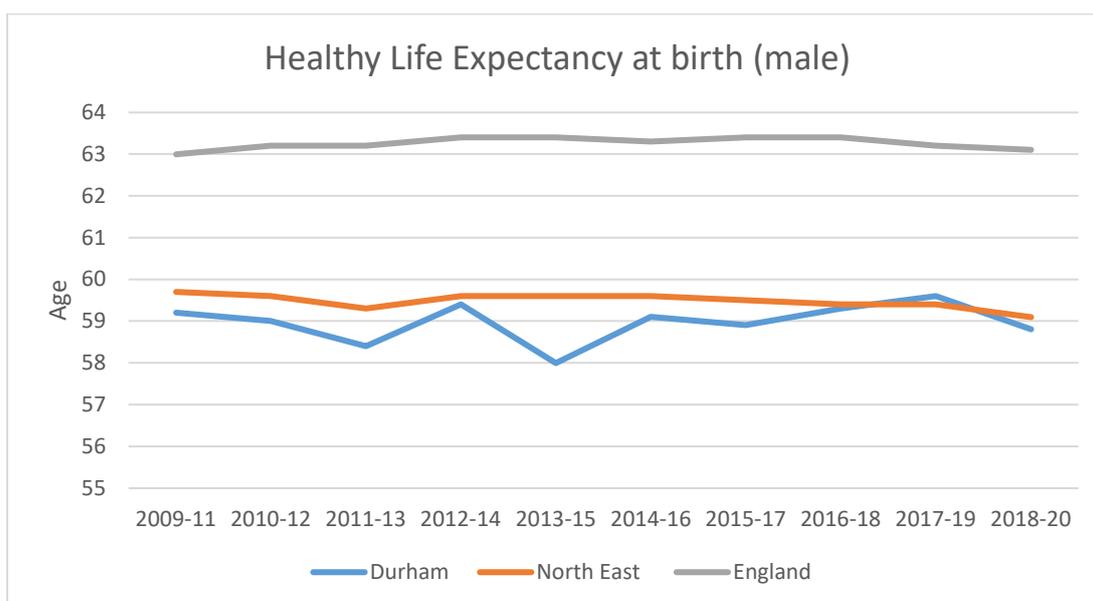
Long and Independent Lives

66 The ambition of Long and Independent Lives is linked to the following key objectives:

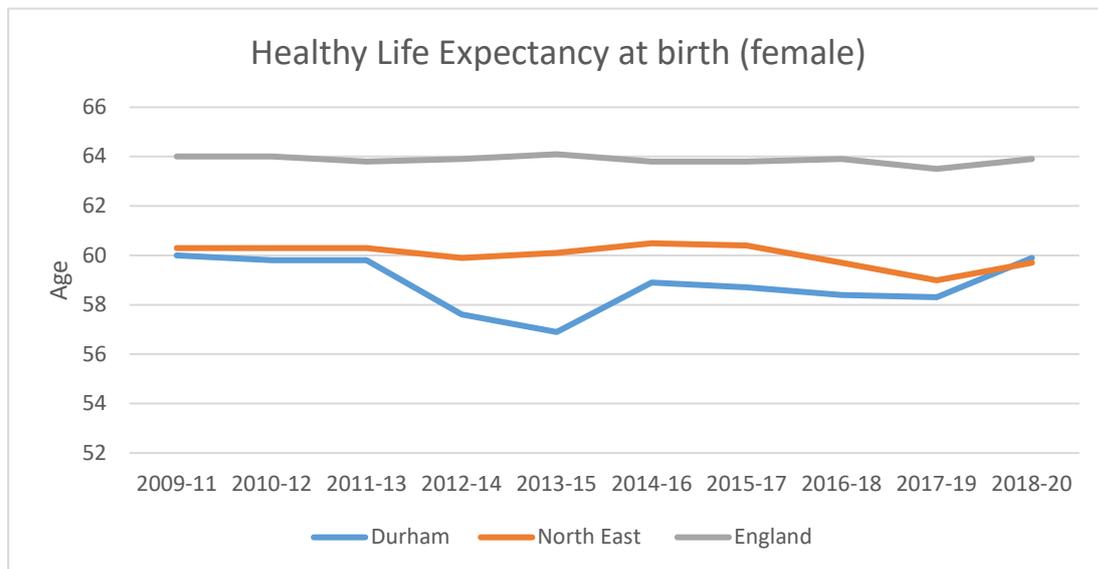
- (a) Children and young people will enjoy the best start in life, good health and emotional well-being;
- (b) Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities will achieve the best possible outcomes;
- (c) County Durham will have a physical environment that will contribute to good health;
- (d) We will promote positive behaviours;
- (e) Health and social care services will be better integrated;
- (f) People will be supported to live independently for as long as possible by delivering more homes to meet the needs of older and disabled people;
- (g) We will tackle the stigma and discrimination of poor mental health and build resilient communities.

National, Regional and Local Picture

67 Recent [data](#) (for the 3-year pooled period 2018-20) shows a reduction in male healthy life expectancy (HLE) whilst female HLE has increased by over one percentage point since the last release (2017-19). Both sets of data follow regional and national trends, with male HLE reducing at regional and national levels, while HLE for females has increased. Male HLE at birth has reduced over the last 10 years, however, the reduction is not statistically significant.



68 Whilst female HLE has increased and is now above the regional average it remains similar to 2009-11 levels. Changes to female HLE are not statistically significant.



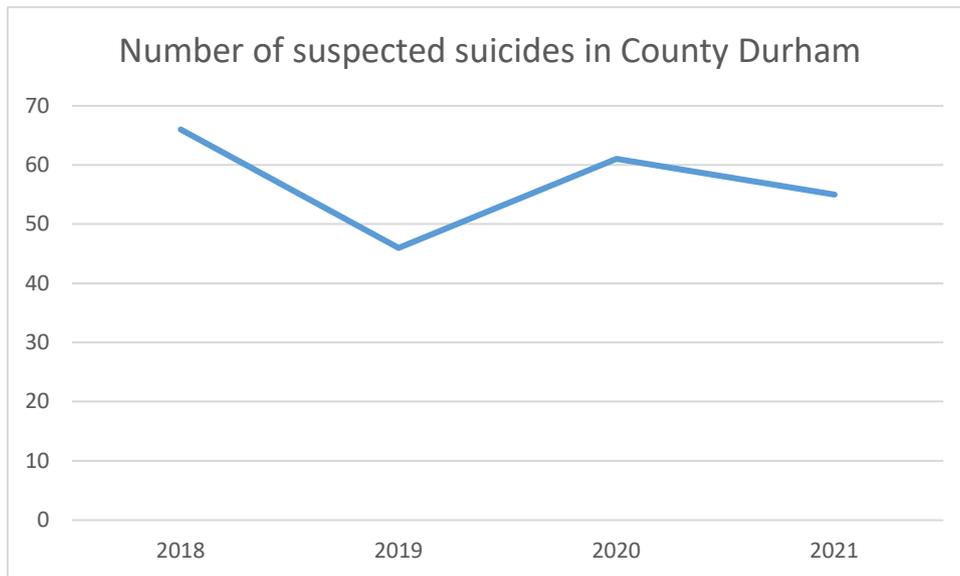
69 The gap between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy at birth for both females (59.9) and males (58.8) in County Durham remains (statistically significantly) lower than the England averages for the same period (63.9 and 63.1 respectively).

70 Data for HLE contrast with life expectancy (LE) data released last year, with both male and female LE reducing over the same period. Both sets of refreshed data (LE and HLE) are for the period (2018-20) which includes the first year of the pandemic. The [Office for National Statistics](#) highlights that the pandemic has resulted in a significant impact on LE data. Once further data are released to cover the full period (2020-22), a clear understanding of the full impact will be available.

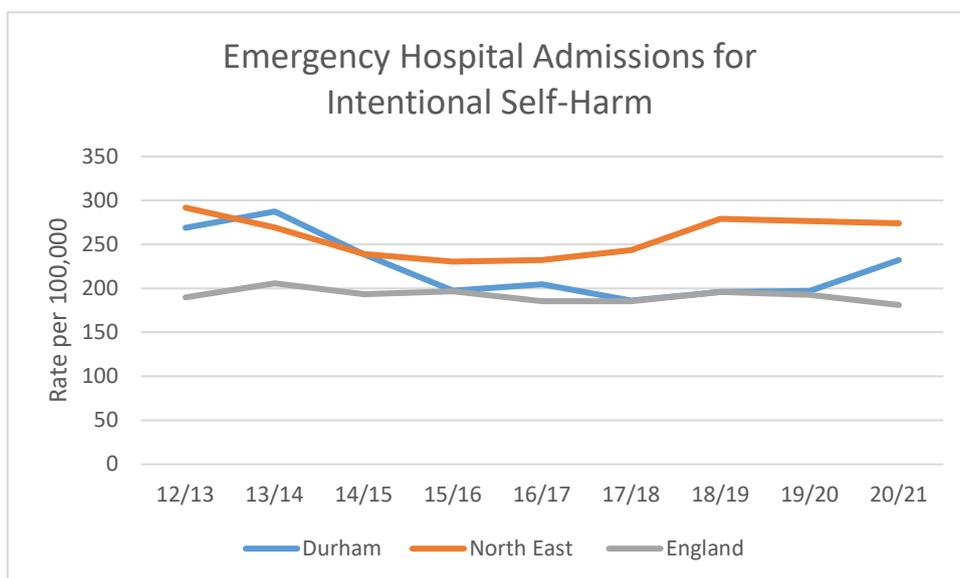
71 The recent '[Levelling Up the UK](#)' White Paper aims to reduce the gap in HLE between the lowest and highest areas, with the aim that, by 2035, HLE across the UK will have risen by five years. Analysis from the [Health Foundation](#) found that without significant resource to tackle this, these targets are unlikely to be achieved.

72 The impact of the pandemic on mental health continues, with many organisations conducting research into specific areas. The [World Health Organisation](#) (WHO) has recently concluded that 'the pandemic has led to a worldwide increase in mental health problems, including widespread depression and anxiety'.

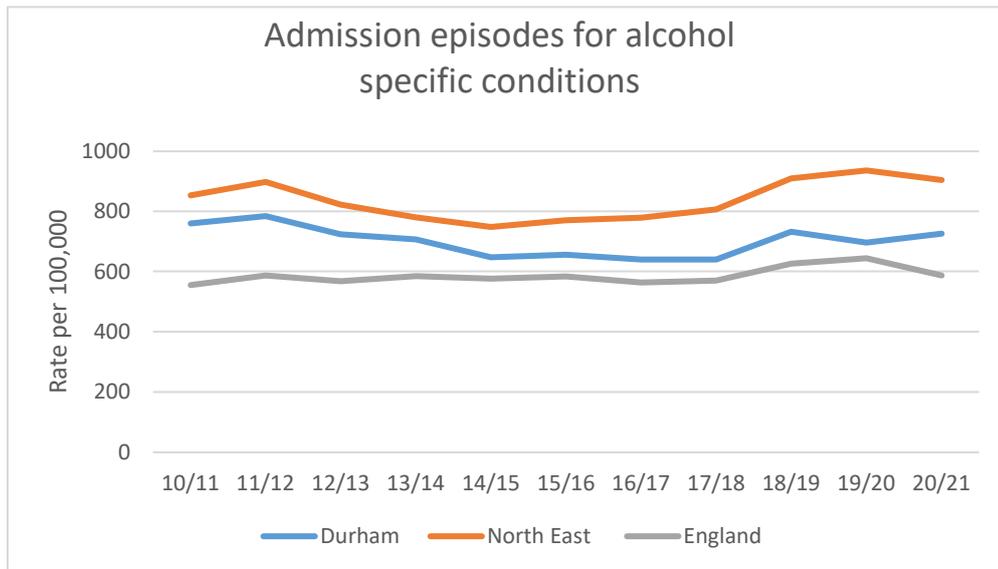
- 73 The WHO report noted that rates of suicide did not increase during the pandemic. Data from Public Health confirms this position in County Durham with a similar number of suspected suicides during the pandemic compared to previous years.



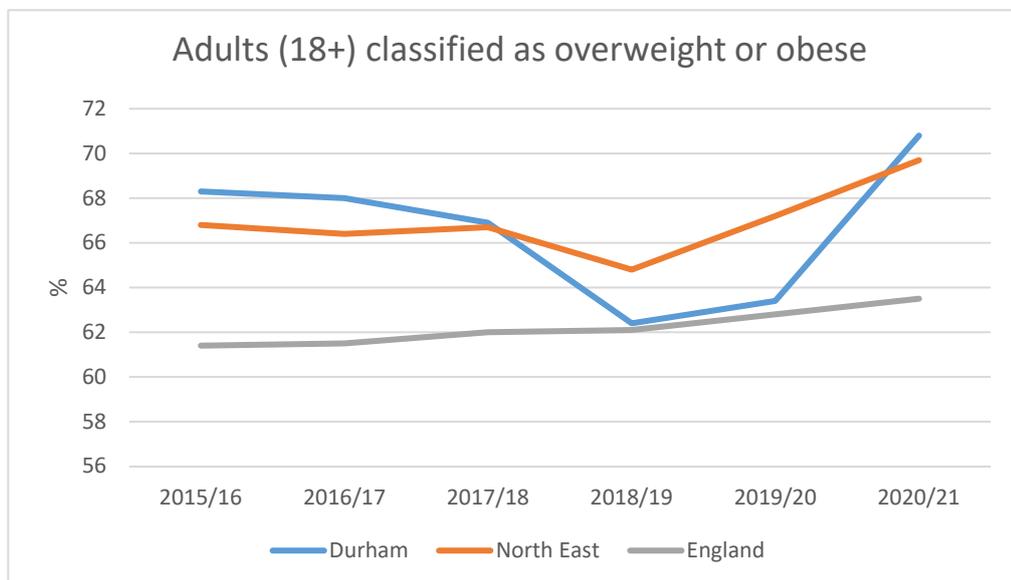
- 74 Whilst finding suicides did not increase, the report outlines that numbers of reported acts of self-harm varied. Recent data for County Durham highlight an increase in the rate of hospital admissions for intentional self-harm in the first year of the pandemic, while regional and national rates reduced.



- 75 Alongside increasing admission rates for self-harm, data for County Durham also demonstrate rising [admission rates for alcohol specific conditions](#) during the first year of the pandemic. Regional and national rates have reduced over the same period, which leads to concern that higher admissions in County Durham will reflect a greater number of people drinking at home, causing [‘silent harm’](#) to themselves, compared to other areas of the country.



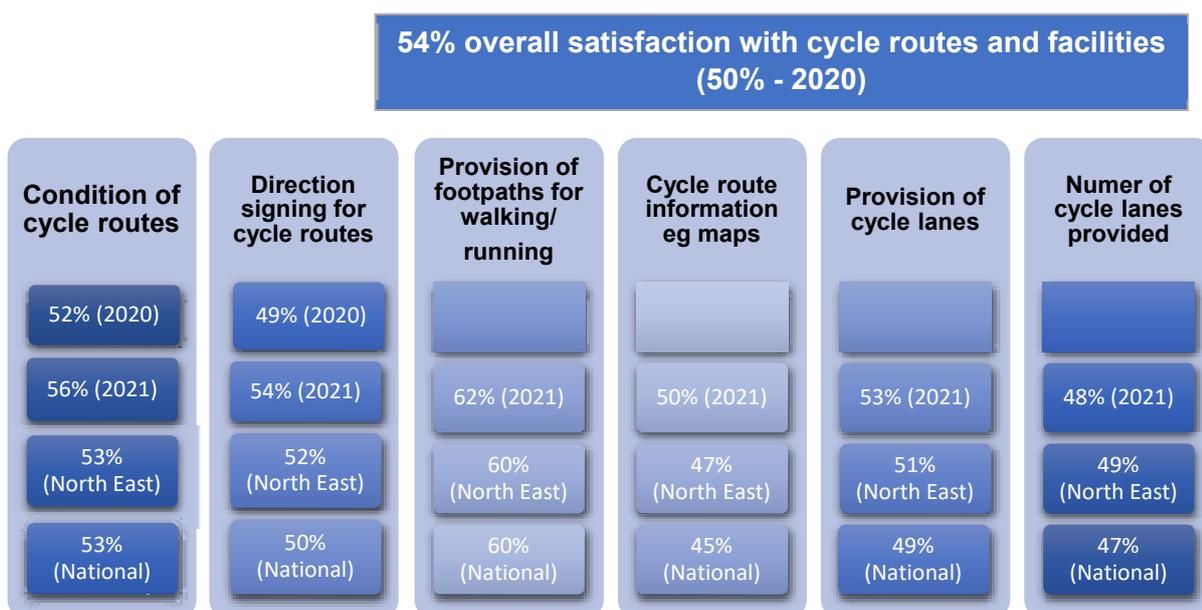
- 76 Under-18 conception data have shown a continued reduction in rates which continue to be below the north east average, although latest data do not include any period of the pandemic.
- 77 Latest regional and national data demonstrate that the percentage of adults classed as overweight or obese has been increasing over the last few years. Whilst this had been reducing in County Durham, and was very similar to the national average between 2018-2020, this increased significantly during the first year of the pandemic with 70.8% of adults classed as overweight or obese.



78 Latest data from the Active Lives survey (November 2020 to November 2021) show as the pandemic has progressed, activity levels have stabilised over the past 12 months. Levels of low or no activity for County Durham (<30 minutes a week) was on par with the previous 12 months, but above the national average. 'active' participation levels (150+ minutes per week) continue to remain relatively static but below national average.



79 The National Highways and Transport (NHT) Survey 2021 shows that overall satisfaction with cycle and walking routes and facilities has increased to 54% from 50% in the 2020 survey¹, however this is within the confidence levels for the survey.



¹NHT Survey, performance is significantly better if performance is 4pp or more above average and significantly worse if performance is 4pp or more below average.

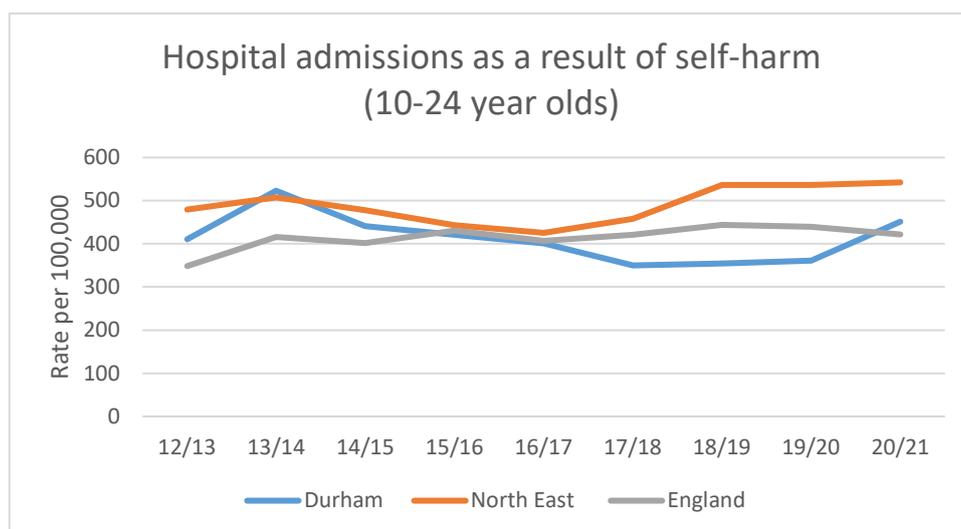
Council Services

Children and young people enjoying the best start in life, good health and emotional well-being

- 80 Work is taking place to refocus the Teenage Pregnancy and Sexual Health Steering Group, to narrow the gap and address inequalities which young people may face.
- 81 Work to support the Active 30 scheme has continued and is now embedded in the Fun and Food website to support young people to be active during holiday periods. The half term holiday in February 2022 saw an increase in people accessing the website for ideas. The public health team is exploring how the programme can further support secondary schools from September 2022.
- 82 Consultation has been undertaken in Shildon to gauge appetite for the Play Streets pilot scheme, with the pilot expected to take place during the school summer holidays. This aims to empower residents to encourage outdoor play, to support physical health and mental wellbeing.
- 83 The 2020/21 National Child Measurement Programme data collection was severely hampered by COVID, with the result being that most local authorities have no data for that year due to an insufficient sample. Analysis by NHS Digital and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, however, demonstrates that the national data is reliable and comparable to previous years.
- 84 Key points from the national release include:
- There was an unprecedented increase in the prevalence of obesity and severe obesity for Reception and Year 6, for boys and girls, between 2020 and 2021 (nationally).
 - Boys, particularly in Year 6, have experienced the largest increases in obesity and severe obesity.
 - The largest increases in the prevalence of obesity and severe obesity in boys and girls have occurred in the most deprived areas of England, resulting in the large and persistent disparities in child obesity having worsened.
- 85 In County Durham, childhood obesity has been rising over time, so we can reasonably expect that trend to continue into the pandemic period. Based on the national data we can also reasonably assume that the gap between the most and least deprived children in terms of obesity will also increase locally.
- 86 In Reception around 1 in 4 pupils is of excess weight (overweight or obese) in County Durham (24.9%, 2019/20). This means that 3 in 4 Reception pupils are of

healthy weight. For Year 6 pupils being of excess weight increases to around 1 in 3 (37.6%, 2019/20).

- 87 The increase in overall admission rates for self-harm is also reflected in data specifically for those under-18. While regional and national rates reduced or remained the same during the first year of the pandemic, admission rates for children due to self-harm in County Durham increased significantly. This also reflects studies noted in the WHO report, which found ‘a general rise in self-harm presentations among adolescents’.



- 88 Significant work has been undertaken at the request of the Children and Young People’s Mental Health Partnership, to better understand self-harm, with a particular focus on under-reporting and recording. A multi-agency Self Harm Action Plan has been developed and focuses on data, response and prevention.
- 89 In relation to the Stronger Families programme, the 2021/22 target of 760 families turned around was achieved. Overall, between April 2015 and March 2022, 6,077 families have been turned around, out of 14,444 eligible families identified through the programme to date.

Children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities will achieve the best possible outcomes

- 90 We have continued to see an increase in new requests for education, health and care plan (EHCP) assessments. For the period January to March 2022, there has been a 73% increase in the number of requests compared to 2021, which is also an increase of 45% since 2019 (pre-pandemic). 53% of assessments completed in the period (excluding exceptions) were within the 20 week timescale which is lower than for the same period last year although there has been a 13% increase in the total number of assessments completed in the period following the embedding of a new casework team.

LONG AND INDEPENDENT LIVES

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Stronger Families

6,077 families turned around

(2015 – March 2022)

following intervention...

2,525 workless families progressed to work

3,513 families reported reduced mental health issues

1,697 families reported reduced substance misuse

% EHCP completed within 20 week time period



Adult Social Care

513.3

per 100,000 adults aged 65+ admitted to residential or nursing care
(April 21 - March 22)

88.7%

of patients discharged into reablement/
rehabilitation services still at home after 91
days
(Jan-Dec 2021)

65.0%

of service users receiving an assessment or
review within the last 12 months
(April 21 - March 22)

92.2%

of individuals achieved their desired outcomes
from the adult safeguarding process
(April 21 - March 22)

worse than
last year

better than
last year

similar to
last year

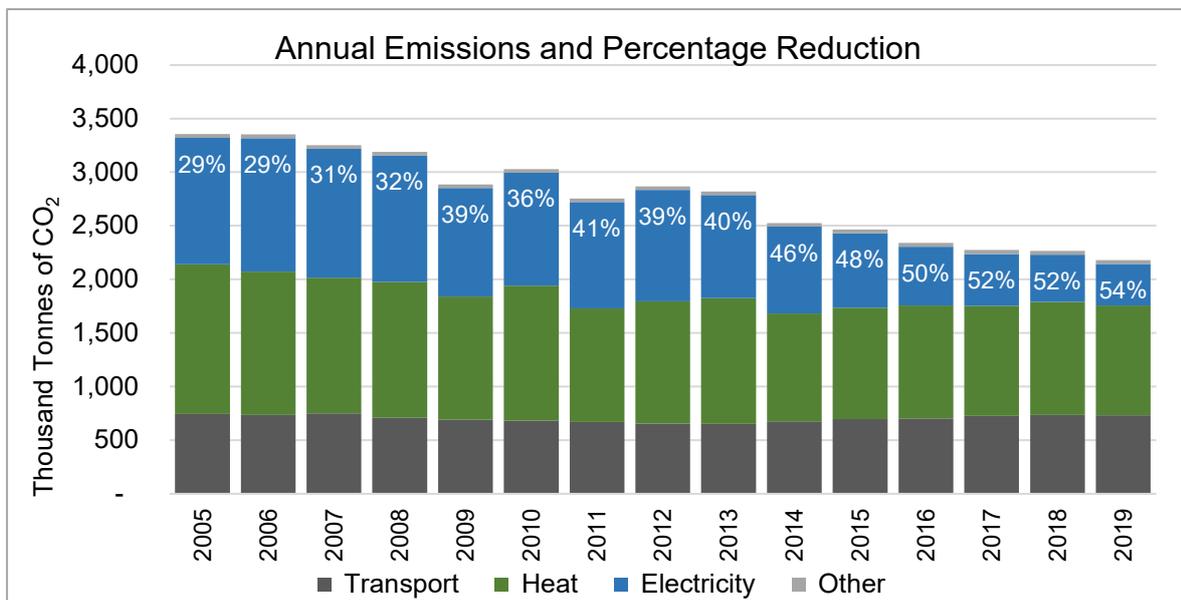
Not
comparable

A physical environment contributing to good health

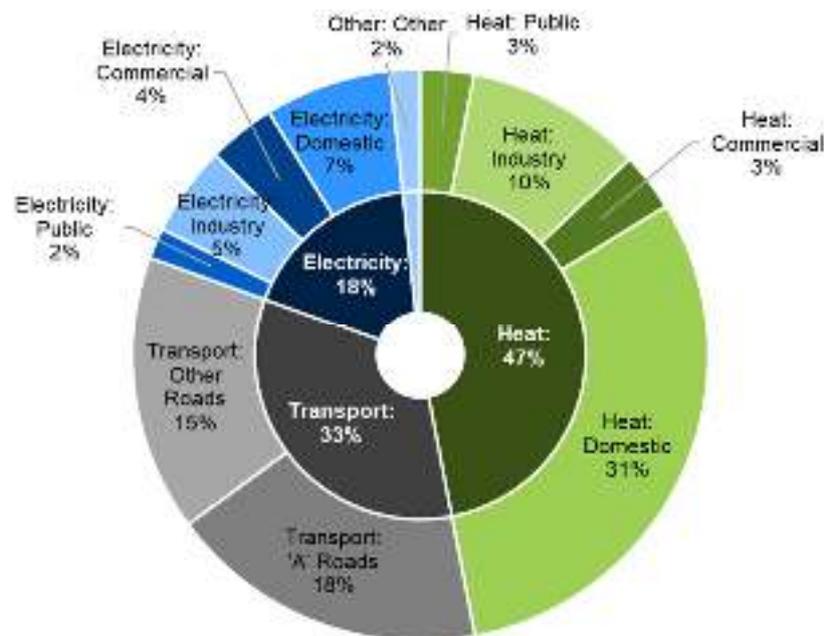
- 91 A £2.8 million grant from National Lottery Heritage Fund is being used to showcase coastal and marine heritage in the North of England between the Tyne and the Tees. A partnership scheme called SeaScapes has been established. SeaScapes works to improve access to beaches, explore the shipwrecks and habitats beneath the waves, improve biological recording, tackle marine litter and create opportunities for local people and visitors to enjoy. Currently, SeaScapes is liaising with Newcastle University Beneath the Waves (shipwrecks) project, which is attracting interest from the diving community. A short film in collaboration with the East Durham Artists Network, Durham University, Sunderland University and former miners has been made, based on Blast Beach. A “Source to Sea” workshop on the issue of plastic pollution for the River Wear has also been held.
- 92 Additional resources have been secured for both tree inspections and the provision of new trees and woodland. Initiatives are underway to increase tree coverage and improve woodland across the county, including the Urban Tree Challenge Fund, the North East Community Forest, Trees for Children and Durham Woodland Revival (DWR). We are working with landowners on the potential creation of woodland and have provided training to landowners and community groups, with contractor training planned for the autumn. DWR has also planted 1.9km of hedging and in the last year 37,368 trees have been planted across all the initiatives.
- 93 We continue to offer free walking, running and cycling activities. During 2021/22, 6,097 people attended our Walk Durham programme across 47 different venues ranging from Gentle Steps to 90 minute Wellbeing Walks; and 218 people joined our Run Durham ‘get into running’ courses. We also provide a wide range of community-based wellbeing activities. During the year, 2,332 people took part in 280 sessions across 22 different venues and 111 sessions were also delivered across our library sites, attended by 1,111 people. Ten people also accessed the Borrow a Bike scheme.
- 94 Leisure centre visitor numbers have increased this quarter, mainly due to the MOVE campaign. However, despite a steady increase quarter on quarter, the year-end position shows visitor numbers are below target by 33%, with 1,163,667 fewer visitors than at the start of the pandemic (end of March 2020). Gym memberships have also increased steadily throughout the year, with 17,202 at the end of March. Although memberships are higher than pre-COVID levels, figures are inflated due to three additional leisure centres in-sourced post-COVID and if the new sites are excluded, actual comparable figures are still below pre-COVID levels. During March 2022, gym memberships experienced the highest cancellations this financial year, with initial indication that the cost of living crisis has led to cancellations. Similarly, swim membership cancellations have also

increased compared to last year. However, actual swim memberships are performing well, with 1,460 members at the end of March. Although the year-end position includes members from two new sites (Peterlee and Wolsingham), swim memberships are above pre-COVID levels even without those two sites included. We will continue to monitor gym and swim memberships closely, however the service is targeting a full recovery by the end of March 2023.

- 95 Our MOVE pilot finished at the end of March with final memberships totalling 3,193 which is well above target of 1,750 memberships. 230 memberships were issued to young people aged 11 to 15 years. A final report is being produced that will set out the full monitoring and evaluation of the pilot scheme. The support element of this initiative, including one-to-one appointments and signposting, will continue to the end of September to allow a full 12-month pilot to ascertain impact. The MOVE programme was funded by the government (£1.2 million) to provide free gym or swim memberships to encourage people to get moving and keep moving as part of their everyday lives.
- 96 The latest CO₂ emission results released for 2019 show a reduction across the county of 54% on 1990 levels. The CO₂ tonnage on a per person basis shows that County Durham equates to 4.11 tonnes per person; lower than the North East at 4.49 tonnes and England at 4.24 tonnes.
- 97 The greatest source of emissions is heat at 47%; with domestic heating being the highest sub-category at 31%. To contribute to achieving our carbon emissions targets, households across the county must reduce their gas use, this could be achieved by the equivalent of around 20,000 households fully decarbonising, or everyone using about 8% less coal, gas or oil; this is achievable in part through improved home insulation.



- 98 Emissions from transport has reduced slightly since 2005. Transport emissions make up 33% of the county's total carbon emissions. Replacing around 24,000 vehicles with ULEV or reducing fossil fuel vehicle mileage by 8% over two years would keep us on track to achieve our carbon neutral county target. This could be achieved if everyone reduced their personal vehicle use, walked, cycled or used public transport more and avoided unnecessary travel through use of remote working and video conferencing.
- 99 Emissions from electricity have reduced from 35% in 2005 to 18% in 2019. In the main this is due to the decarbonisation of the grid moving from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources.



Promoting positive behaviours

- 100 During the pandemic Public Health has continued to work on key areas to improve the health of the population including the aim to reduce smoking prevalence and to increase healthy eating opportunities whilst encouraging increasing levels of physical activity.
- 101 To increase awareness, the Health and Wellbeing Board received a [presentation](#) outlining the latest position to tackle smoking and encouraged the partnership to endorse the work of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Smoking, including a [commitment](#) to securing the government's goal of a smokefree country by 2030. This included the relaunch of the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control and the NHS Smokefree Pledge, to celebrate No Smoking Day on 9 March 2022.
- 102 Public Health has been working closely with independent takeaway food outlets to promote healthy cooking practices and menu options. This involves the offer of

training sessions for staff in these outlets and should lead to healthier options for residents of County Durham. It is expected that the training will take place later this year.

- 103 A new physical activity strategy is under development, based on feedback from partner workshops held at the end of 2021. The strategy aims to provide a high level overview of the importance of physical activity, with a draft to be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board in July 2022.

Better integration of health and social care services

- 104 Work continues to support the developing integration structures for health and social care across County Durham. The Health and Wellbeing Board received a recent [presentation](#) outlining the implications of the government’s Health and Social Care Integration [White Paper](#) and the developing place-based governance across the county. The shared vision for integration in County Durham was agreed as: ‘To bring together health and social care as well as voluntary organisations to achieve improved health and wellbeing for the people of County Durham’. Integration programme principles and workstreams were also confirmed.

People will be supported to live independently for as long as possible

- 105 Ongoing issues associated with the impact of the pandemic and the change to a new case management system in June 2021 are evident in the continuing reduction in permanent admissions to residential and nursing care. Due to administrative pressures created by the implementation of our new case management system however, we are currently unable to identify whether the reduction in permanent admissions reported is a true reduction, or is an artificially low figure that will be rectified once the system issues are addressed.

| Permanent admissions to residential and nursing care (rate per 100,000 population) | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2019/20 (pre-COVID) | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
| 757.3 | 625.8 | 513.3 |
| | 145 fewer people from 2019/20 | 124 fewer people from 2020/21 |

- 106 The proportion of older people who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement or rehabilitation services continues to increase. The latest position (88.7%) is the highest performance for four years.
- 107 In relation to the adult safeguarding process, 92.2% of individuals achieved their desired outcomes during quarter four. This is a slight reduction since the previous

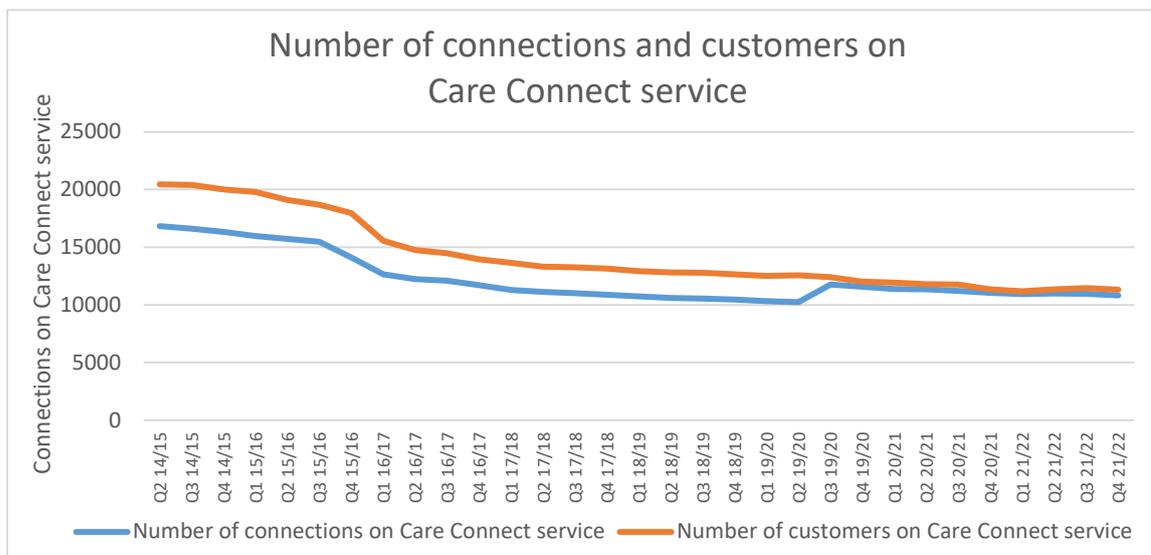
quarter and is also lower than the same period last year (95.0%). Performance for the last two quarters is the lowest since this indicator was recorded in 2016/17.

- 108 The change to a new case management system, which has increased the administrative burden for the recording of reviews, has continued to impact negatively the percentage of service users assessed or reviewed within the last 12 months.

| Service users assessed or reviewed within the last 12 months | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| 2019/20 (pre-COVID) | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
| 87.8% | 89.9% | 65.0% |

- 109 The administrative burden in recording reviews will last until the first 12 month cycle is complete, following implementation of the new system. This has also been compounded by the need to reprioritise work due to operational pressures as we come out of the pandemic. Adult Care has provided further resource to support the mitigation of these issues and it is expected that performance for these indicators will improve during the course of 2023.

- 110 During quarter four, Care Connect answered 97.6% of calls within a minute, showing an improvement on the previous quarter (97.5%) and slightly higher than the service target (97.5%). The Care Connect emergency response rate (arriving at the property within 45 minutes of a call) is consistently above the 90% target and this quarter was 97.7%, with 3,952 calls responded to within 20 minutes.



- 111 There has been a reduction in the number of Care Connect customers this quarter, reflecting the longer term downward trend in both the number of customers and connections. At year end, the number of connections decreased by 2.1% and the number of customers by 0.25% compared to 2020/21, The full

reason for the decline in use is not fully understood, however, there have been numerous impacts as a result of the pandemic. This may be indicative of various changes including patterns of behaviour, changing needs, cost of living increases, the emergence of mobile phone and associated digital technologies in the market place.

Tackling the stigma of poor mental health and building resilient communities

- 112 To support mental health in County Durham, the Health and Wellbeing Board reviewed the work of the Mental Health Strategic Partnership and the Mental Health Strategy and Concordat 2018-21, with the aim of revising governance arrangements across the county. This has been particularly important in light of the pandemic's impact on mental health and the ongoing integration of mental health provision through the Integrated Care System (ICS).
- 113 The Health and Wellbeing Board agreed to support the development of a new system-wide approach to mental health and wellbeing, which will provide strategic governance for approaches representing prevention, early intervention and specialist delivery across the life course.
- 114 A new campaign, '[Now You're Talking](#)', has been developed, to encourage people in County Durham to talk about their mental health. Consultation has taken place during quarter four, with the campaign due to roll out in spring 2022 across various local media outlets and on public transport.
- 115 To improve access to employment opportunities, three Mental Health Employment Practitioners have been appointed. The posts are hosted by [Durham Enable](#) and work with clients requiring mental health support, by offering advice, guidance, signposting and training. This ensures that people receive appropriate information and resources to improve their mental health and to support access to paid employment.
- 116 In January 2022, Durham County Council was awarded the Better Health at Work 'Maintaining Excellence' Award, which recognises the council's ongoing commitment towards achieving and maintaining excellent workplace health and wellbeing. Throughout 2022/23, the council will continue to promote good workplace health and wellbeing through targeted staff campaigns on matters such as mental health, financial wellbeing, menopause, healthy eating, musculoskeletal issues and cancer awareness.
- 117 The council has also been shortlisted for the LGC Award 2022 in the Public Health category for our work on health, especially mental health. The winners will be announced July.

Connected Communities

118 The ambition of Connected Communities is linked to the following key objectives:

- All children and young people will have a safe childhood;
- Standards will be maintained or improved across County Durham's housing stock;
- Our towns and villages will be vibrant, well-used, clean, attractive and safe;
- People will have good access to workplaces, services, retail and leisure opportunities;
- Communities will come together and support each other;
- Delivery of new high-quality housing which is accessible and meets the needs of our residents.

National, Regional and Local Picture

119 Recorded crime increased 6% during the 12 months ending 31 March 2022, compared to the previous year. Increases were noted across all crime categories except violence against the person. The main increases were across the categories of theft related offences (+20%), burglary (+15%), vehicle crime (+5%) and criminal damage (+22% to vehicles and +15% to dwellings).

120 However, these increases are due to comparatively low levels of recorded crime for the previous year, much as a consequence of COVID-19 restrictions which limited opportunities to commit crimes due to people spending more time at home, shops and leisure facilities being closed and fewer journeys being made. If we compare the latest data with pre-COVID levels of recorded crime, we can see that overall recorded crime is 7% lower.

121 Between 2019/20 (start of the pandemic) and 2020/21, reports of anti-social behaviour (ASB) increased by almost 15%. The driver for this increase was people spending more time at home or in their local area, and mainly impacted environmental ASB (for example, more reports of littering and dog-fouling) and nuisance ASB (for example, more reports of noise and breaching COVID restrictions). Although overall reports of ASB decreased by 7% over the last 12 months, they remain higher than the pre-COVID level.

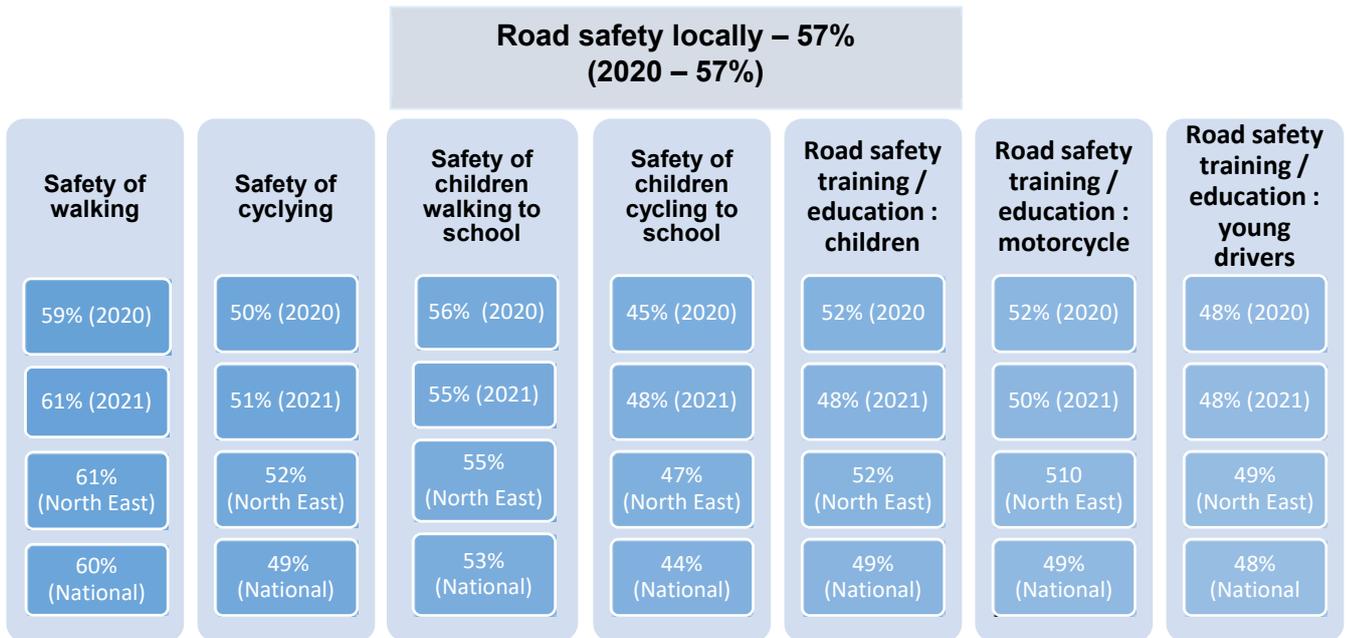
122 More detailed analysis of ASB shows that only environmental ASB is broadly returning to pre-pandemic levels. Personal ASB has shown a further slight increase and is now almost 5% higher than the pre-COVID figure. We remain concerned that the pandemic has exacerbated mental health issues and minor arguments are escalating as resilience levels remain low and people spend more time at home. Although nuisance ASB has decreased over the last 12 months, it

remains 10% higher than the pre-COVID level with noise complaints being a major factor.

- 123 We are also aware that ASB fires (deliberate primary and secondary fires) have increased over the last 12 months. Many of these incidents are confined to the east of the county. These reports are currently not included in the overall reports of ASB. However, work by the Safe Durham Partnership to agree a shared definition (across the police, fire, registered housing providers and council) and shared data pool, will soon be complete and will give us a countywide view of ASB as reported to all agencies. An update will be provided in the next performance report.
- 124 Within the last 12 months personal incidents have reduced by 28.1%. Enviro-crime accounts for 59.7% of all council related ASB incidents, with those relating to litter accounting for 26.2% of this; and Nuisance 37.3% of which 24.4% is noise related.
- 125 Due to an issue in our customer relationship management system we are currently unable to report the latest numbers of fly-tipping incidents that have been resolved. Software specialists are working to rectify the problem.
- 126 Over the five year period 2017–2021 the main causation factors for collisions within County Durham is ‘failure to look properly’ followed by ‘drink/drug driving’. During the same period, this latter category and ‘impaired by alcohol’ have shown the greatest increases in the proportion of collision they are attributed to.

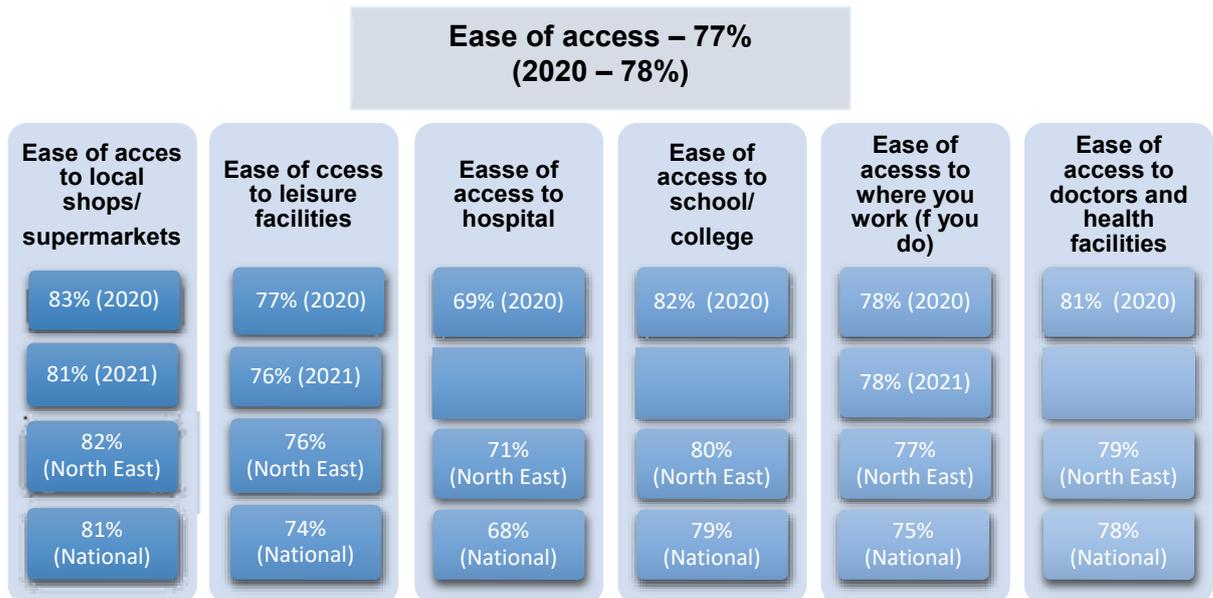
| Contributory Factor | Fatal | Serious | Slight | Total | 2017 | 2021 |
|--------------------------|-------|---------|--------|-------|------|------|
| Failure to look properly | 36% | 44% | 50% | 48% | 6% | 15% |
| Speeding | 21% | 19% | 15% | 16% | 20% | 16% |
| Impaired by alcohol | 11% | 12% | 9% | 10% | 6% | 15% |
| Distraction | 13% | 4% | 5% | 5% | 9% | 7% |
| No seatbelt | 20% | 10% | 5% | 5% | 6% | 8% |
| Drink / drug driving | 13% | 15% | 11% | 12% | 7% | 17% |

- 127 The National Highways and Transport (NHT) Survey 2021 indicates that overall satisfaction with road safety locally has remained unchanged from 2020 at 57%, with the majority of categories being in line with the 2020 results and above national levels¹.



¹NHT Survey, performance is significantly better if performance is 4pp or more above average and significantly worse if performance is 4pp or more below average.

128 The survey also indicates that ease of access to leisure, shops, work and health facilities in line with regional and national averages and the 2020 survey results¹.



¹NHT Survey, performance is significantly better if performance is 4pp or more above average and significantly worse if performance is 4pp or more below average.

129 Results from the 2020 National Highways and Transport Survey (NHT) indicates that satisfaction continues to be in line with national levels¹. Satisfaction with the condition of our highways, was higher than the average.

| | 2018 | | 2020 | | 2021 | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------------------|
| | Durham | NHT Average | Durham | NHT Average | Durham | NHT Average | North East Average |
| Overall | 57% | 53% | 55% | 52% | 54% | 51% | 51% |
| Condition of highways | 38% | 31% | 41% | 36% | 37% | 32% | 33% |
| Highway maintenance | 51% | 49% | 51% | 50% | 44% | 42% | 42% |
| Highway enforcement/ obstructions | 51% | 49% | 47% | 45% | 47% | 43% | 45% |
| Provision of street lighting | 62% | 65% | 57% | 62% | 57% | 60% | 61% |
| Public rights of way (overall) | 58% | 57% | 58% | 57% | 58% | 56% | 57% |

¹NHT Survey, performance is significantly better if performance is 4pp or more above average and significantly worse if performance is 4pp or more below average.

Council Services

Victims of crime will have access to the right level of support, with services available to address their needs

- 130 Further funding has been secured to continue the Safety of Women At Night (SWAN) project which provides a staffed night-time safe hub for women who feel vulnerable or at risk and is based at St Nicholas' Church in Durham City until July. We are currently exploring further funding options to continue the scheme past this date.

All children and young people will enjoy a safe childhood

- 131 In 2021/22, we received almost 5,000 safeguarding referrals into our children's social care teams. Domestic abuse remains the most common reason for referrals into children's social care, followed by neglect and sexual abuse. Both COVID-19 and complexity of cases has led to around 3,500 children and young people open to statutory social care teams in County Durham at any one time.
- 132 This has impacted on social worker caseloads, and some have higher caseloads than we would want. Due to demand pressures on our frontline teams some key areas of performance have decreased in recent months, for example the proportion of our assessments which are completed within a 45 working day timescale and timeliness of initial child protection conferences. Senior managers are aiming to address this with service redesign and continued close work with colleagues in early help. The council continues to support children's social care to recruit staff over-establishment.

- 133 A key area for improvement which we have focused on since 2019/20 was reducing the re-referral rate. This means children who are referred back into children's social care who had a previous referral in the last 12 months. This has decreased to 19% from 28% in 2019/20, and is now lower than in our national, statistical and regional neighbours.
- 134 Whilst the number of children in care across the county reduced following increases during COVID, primarily due to the inability for children to leave care due to court closures etc., we have experienced a recent increase and although this has not reached levels during COVID we are facing significant placement pressures. This is not just an issue local to County Durham but is also being experienced regionally and nationally.
- 135 We are working closely with colleagues in County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust's Children Looked After Team to ensure our children in care receive timely health assessments and at least annual dental checks. This is closely monitored through the Corporate Parenting Panel.
- 136 We continue to progress our Residential Care and Fostering Transformation Programmes with the aim of increasing in-house capacity through recruitment and retention of foster carers and longer-term development of new council-run children's residential homes.
- 137 We have rebranded marketing materials, reviewed social media campaigns, and launched targeted campaigns to attract foster carers with the skills and expertise to care for children with disabilities and sibling groups. We have also increased capacity in the recruitment team to increase assessments and their timeliness, and developed a new training programme for our foster carers.
- 138 The current residential care transformation work programme includes one new children's home delivered in 2021/22, five homes planned for 2022/23 and two future children's homes identified for 2023/24. There may be some slippage of future projects, dependent on our ability to develop these at pace and we are working closely with colleagues across the council in regeneration, legal and finance.
- 139 Ofsted announced the council's Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) on 29 April 2022. The inspection focussed on the effectiveness of local authority services and arrangements:
- to help and protect children;
 - the experiences and progress of children in care wherever they live, including those children who return home;
 - the arrangements for permanence for children who are looked after, including adoption;

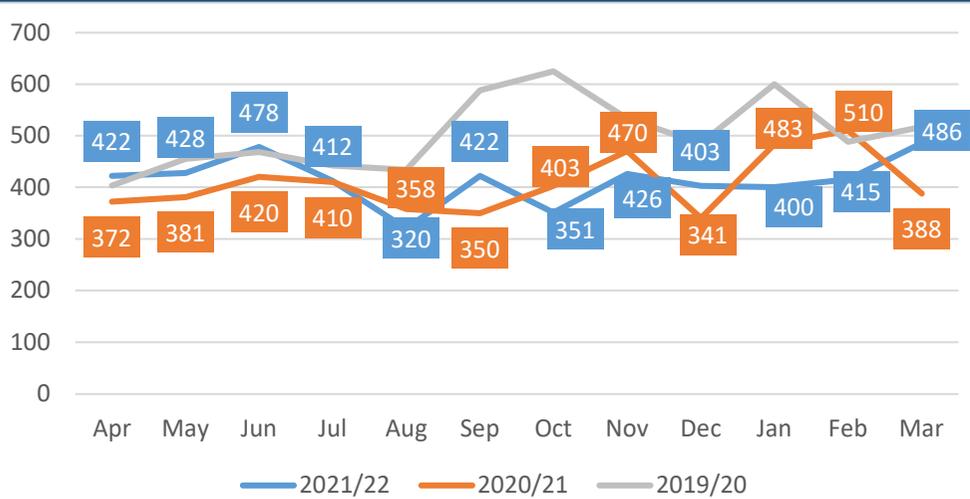
- the experiences and progress of care leavers.
- 140 They will also evaluate the effectiveness of leaders and managers; the impact they have on the lives of children and young people and the quality of professional practice.

Our towns and villages will be vibrant, well-used, clean, attractive and safe

- 141 The government announced in April that County Durham has been awarded £33.6 million from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), which includes £2.8 million Multiplier funds. The allocation is for a three-year period (April 2022 to March 2025) and covers three themes, Community and Place, Supporting Local Businesses and People and Skills. Investment Plans are to be submitted by August 2022 with the first payments expected from October 2022. Meetings have taken place with partners to start planning programme of activity to engage stakeholders and develop UKSPF Investment Plan.
- 142 An approximate calculation based on an average 3 year ESIF allocation, suggests that the SPF allocation is estimated to be roughly half of previous European Union (EU) funding. It is worth noting that had the UK remained within the EU we would now be classed as a 'less developed' region benefitting from a greater share of funding, greater flexibilities and intervention rate; and therefore has also lost this opportunity of increased investment.
- 143 The government has launched its second round of Levelling Up Funding, a £4.8 billion pot that will support transport, town centre regeneration and cultural investment. We are developing five proposals for County Durham covering five parliamentary constituency areas worth £117 million, with up to £20 million per area being sought from the Levelling Up Fund and the remaining from match funding. Business cases will consider the best opportunity for investment in line with the fund criteria and local priorities. Timescales are tight with proposals to be considered by Cabinet in June 2022 ahead of submission by 6 July. If successful, the bids will be awarded funds as part of the 2022 Autumn Statement.
- 144 Sixteen physical improvements have been completed across the county during the year; five from the Town Centre Capital Programme, seven from Towns & Villages Programme and four from the Seaham Townscape Heritage Programme. Schemes include a new town centre car park in Spennymoor that complements the wider Festival Walk Retail Site, memorial project and community centre project in Wingate, widening of footway at North Terrace, Seaham to help improve the café culture and the re-provision of car parking bays at Terrace Green, Seaham.

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

Referrals



No. of open cases



% Initial Child Protection Conferences held within 15 days of S.47 investigation commencing

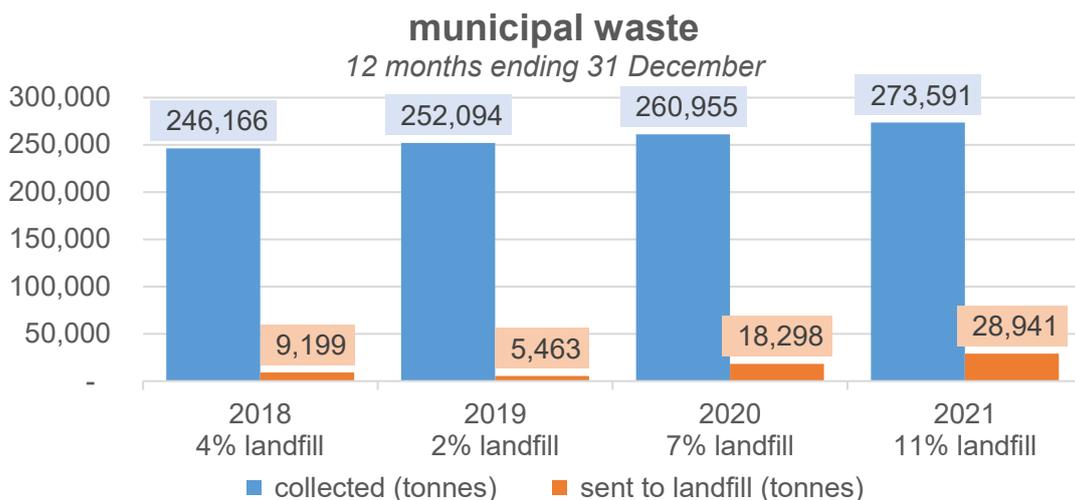


No. of children subject to a child protection plan

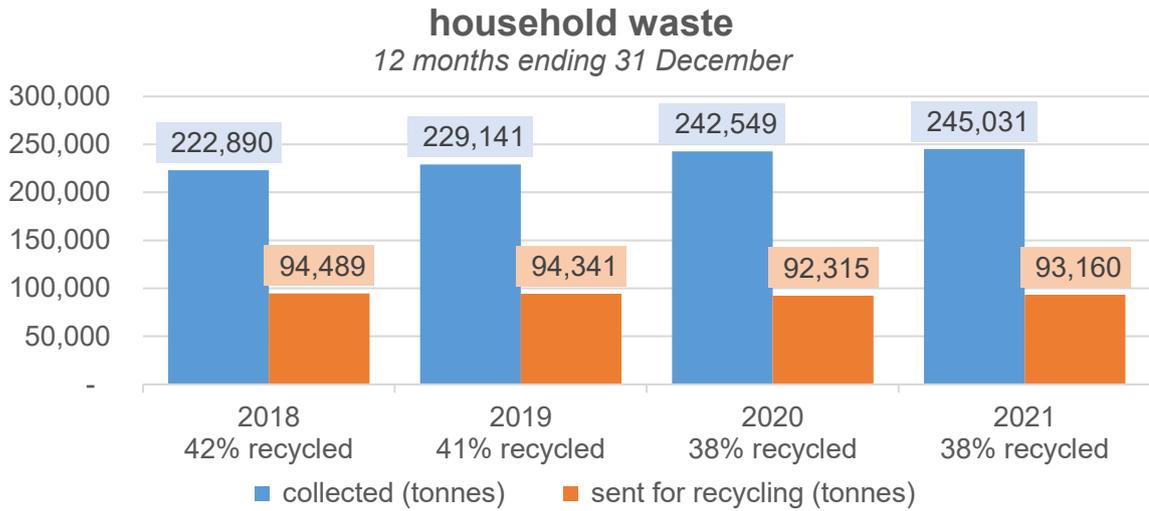


- 145 The installation of free w-fi in Crook, Spennymoor and Consett has been delayed due a global shortage of hardware. Expected delivery date for hardware is November 2022, with implementation scheduled for December 2022. Installation of free wi-fi in Durham City has also been delayed, with implementation date to be confirmed, as part of the network is being re-designed due to an issue with third party licence agreements that need to be in place prior to installation. The scheme is to encourage people to spend more time in our town centres and boost the local economy as well as providing valuable information through the anonymous footfall data to identify trends and monitor the impact of changes to the high street, which can then be used to shape future regeneration projects.
- 146 2,640 fly-tipping enforcement actions were undertaken during 2021/22 which is an increase of 14.7%. This included further investigations, deployment of cameras, stop and search operations and the use of Fixed Penalty Notices.
- 147 During quarter four, our Find and Fix programme continued to clear shrubs and vegetation, plant, edge pavements, paint street furniture, repair and replace fences, bins and play equipment, and remove fly-tipping and graffiti. The team also supported the wider clean-up following the winter storms, removing fallen trees, repairing fencing and tidying affected areas.
- 148 During quarter four, our Community Action Team reviewed previous projects in Shildon, South Moor and Blackhall Colliery and also at Horden collaborating with the Horden Together team. The review walkabouts identified 264 issues with 168 legal notices served. Issues included fly-tipping, dog fouling, untidy yards and gardens and problem commercial property. The latest CAT project has started in Easington Colliery.
- 149 We continue to deliver road safety education and training in relation to communities and with individuals with road safety delivery, the School Crossing Patrol service, Bikeability training and SAGE all operating normally following 'living with COVID-safe guidelines'. However, school based road safety education continues to be offered virtually as many schools continue to be focused on catching up with core curriculum learning that was missed during COVID-lockdowns.
- 150 We are now providing professional support in terms of driving assessments as part of the Taxi Driver Refresher Training Scheme, with the first clients receiving training in April 2022. We are also working with Durham Constabulary to deliver a motorcycle safety initiative for spring/summer 2022.
- 151 Both water safety forums, responsible for managing water safety in the city centre and countywide, met during quarter four. The multi-agency groups reviewed risk assessments and planned controls for open water across the county, including Durham city centre.

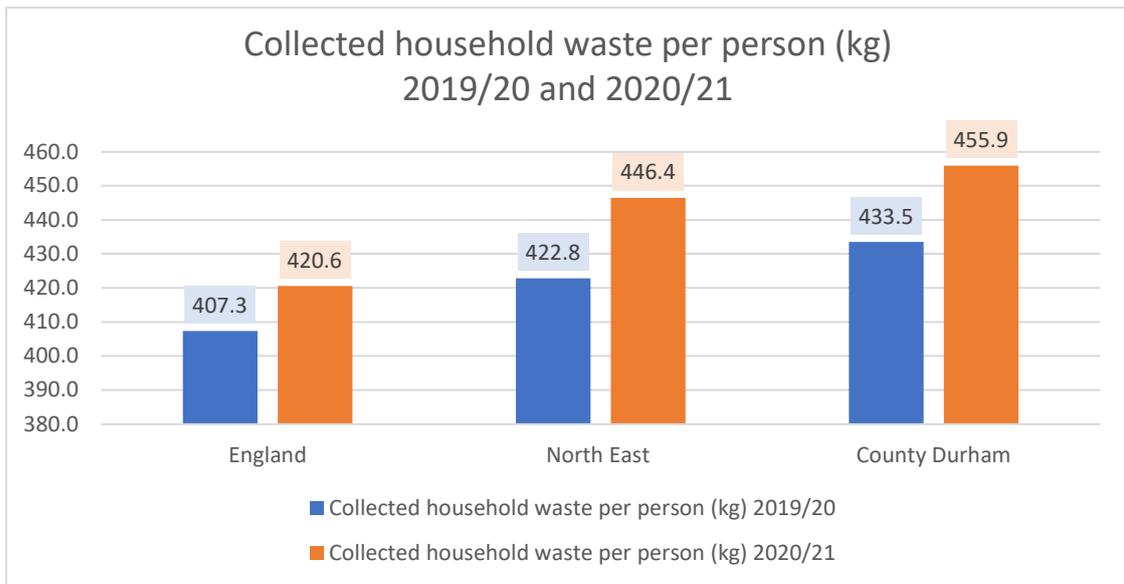
- 152 The City Safety Group made further progress against its action plan and the independent RoSPA river corridor safety report was tabled for consideration (following previous assessments in 2015 and 2018).
- 153 The countywide group continued to plan for future activities and interventions. The group identified the national open water safety campaigns and awareness raising initiatives which are to be utilised across the county in 2022.
- 154 Further interventions, particularly regarding education and awareness for young people in the Chester-le-Street riverside complex area were progressed. A further meeting was convened at the request of local councillors and residents group leaders and plans were finalised to provide all schools in this area with the opportunity to have open water safety assemblies, delivered by emergency services and featuring the council's 'dying to be cool' campaign.
- 155 Plans were also put in place to reassess priority open water safety sites prior to peak periods of footfall and warmer weather.
- 156 During the 12 months ending 31 December 2021, 273,591 tonnes of municipal waste was collected and disposed of, 4.8% more than the previous year. The increased volume of waste reduced the spare capacity within the waste disposal system so, when planned maintenance at the energy from waste plant was required, more waste had to be sent to landfill. The issue has been further compounded due to the changing of regulations on the recycling of carpet. This decreased our landfill diversion rate to 89.4%, less than the 93% of last year.



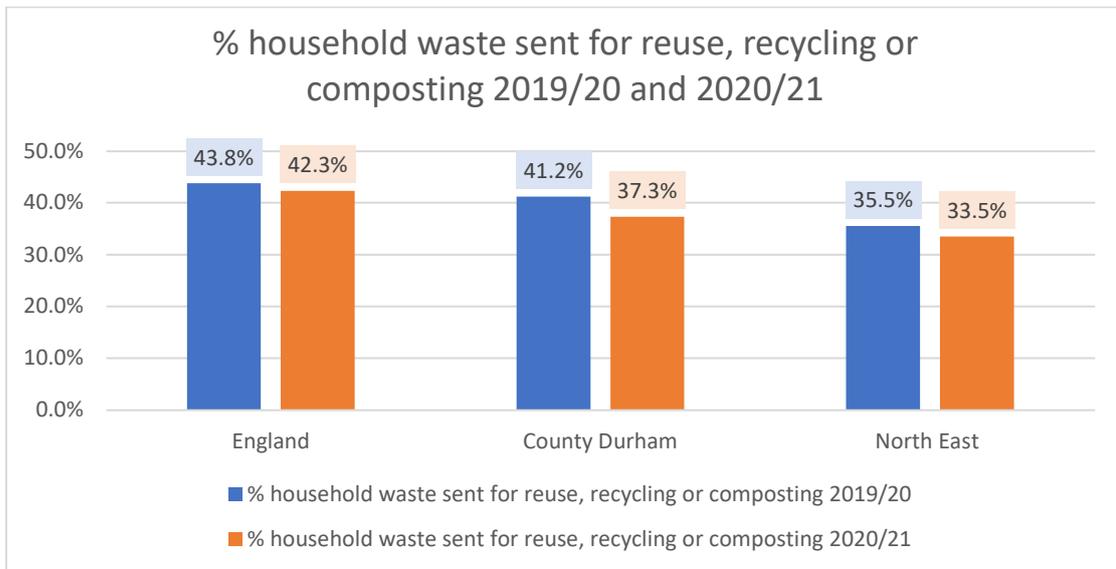
- 157 During the same period, 245,031 tonnes of household waste was collected and disposed of, an increase of 1% on the previous year and 6.9% higher than the same period pre-COVID. However, the increase is reducing suggesting a return to more normal levels.



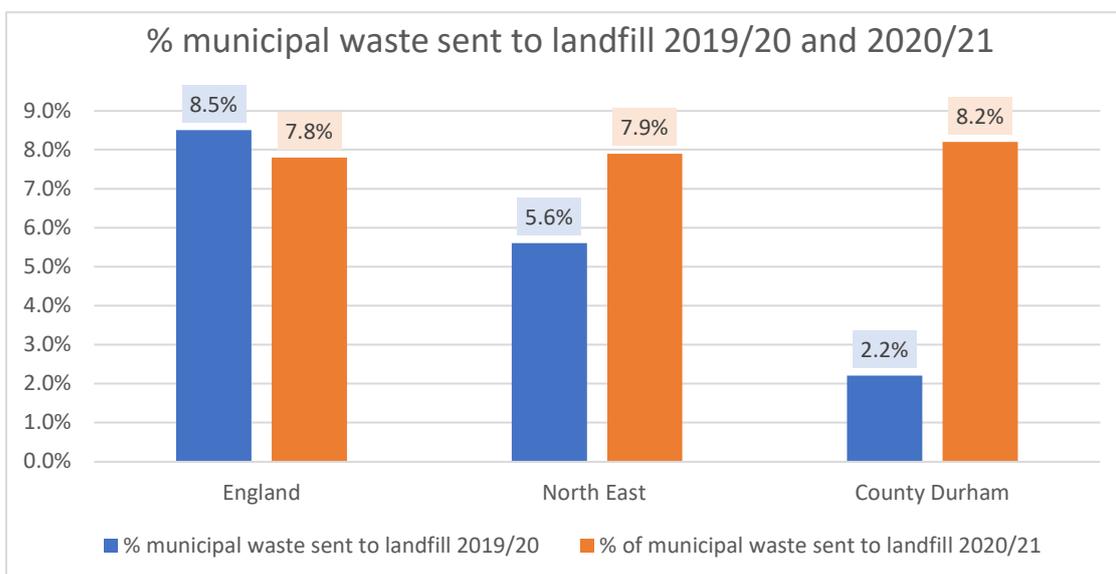
158 Benchmarking data for 2020/21 saw an increase in the amount of household waste collected per person in most local authority areas. County Durham saw a greater increase (+5.2%) compared to the national level (+3.3%) but lower than the regional increase (+5.6%).



159 In relation to the recycling rate, deterioration was seen at both national and regional levels (-1.5pp and -2pp respectively) but to a greater extent within County Durham (-3.9pp).



160 The landfill rate shows a differing picture. Nationally, there was a slight improvement in the rate and a deterioration at the regional level and within County Durham, bringing the rate locally above both the regional and national averages, where previously it had been significantly below. This places us within the 3rd quartile of the 122 local authorities who have responsibility for the disposal of waste. Waste disposal arrangements differ across local authorities, with some having their own 'energy from waste' facilities; where others, like ourselves, have contracts with large waste companies. The latter of which can be affected when there is an increase in tonnage from a number of local authorities, impacting on the capacity in the system particularly when routine maintenance is needed. The change in the national rate suggests an increase in the amount of waste sent to 'energy from waste' sites, given the decrease in the recycling rate and the increase in the amount of waste collected; and the latest benchmarking data overall reflect the changes in behaviours due to the first year of COVID-19 restrictions.



- 161 The levels of contamination of waste such as black bags, wood, food waste, nappies and textiles in household blue bins continues to be higher than pre-covid levels. The 12 months to the end of December 2021 showed contamination levels of 33.4%, lower than the previous 12 month figure of 34.4% but still over 2,000 tonnes more than pre-covid levels.
- 162 We continue to tackle contamination, with more than 7,700 contamination notices issued in the last 12 months, and have also undertaken door knocking of targeted households. A countywide contamination campaign is planned for the summer.
- 163 The small electrical recycling project continues to grow. Over 100 collection points are located in community buildings and schools across the county. Waste awareness events have taken place within schools, community groups and residents' groups.
- 164 16,877 tonnes of green waste was collected at the kerbside during 2021 and sent to the Joint Stocks composting site. Garden waste collections re-commenced on 29 March 2022.

Communities will come together to support each other

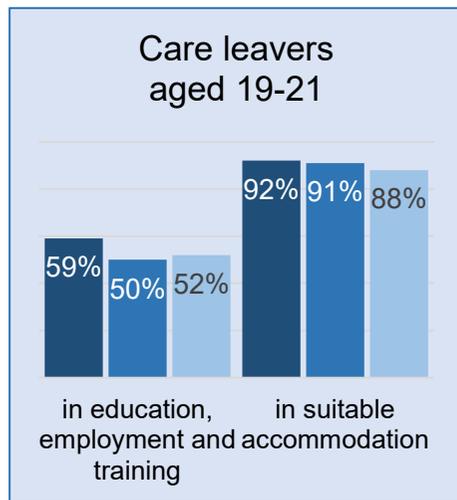
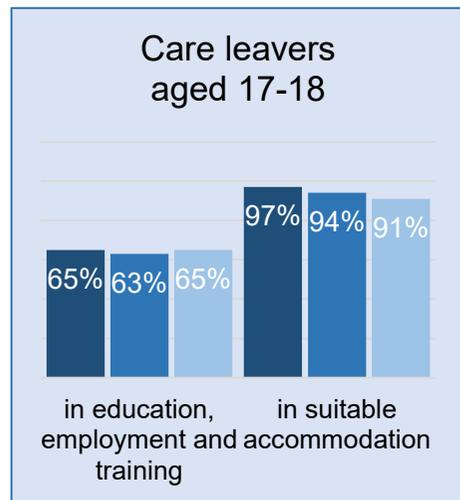
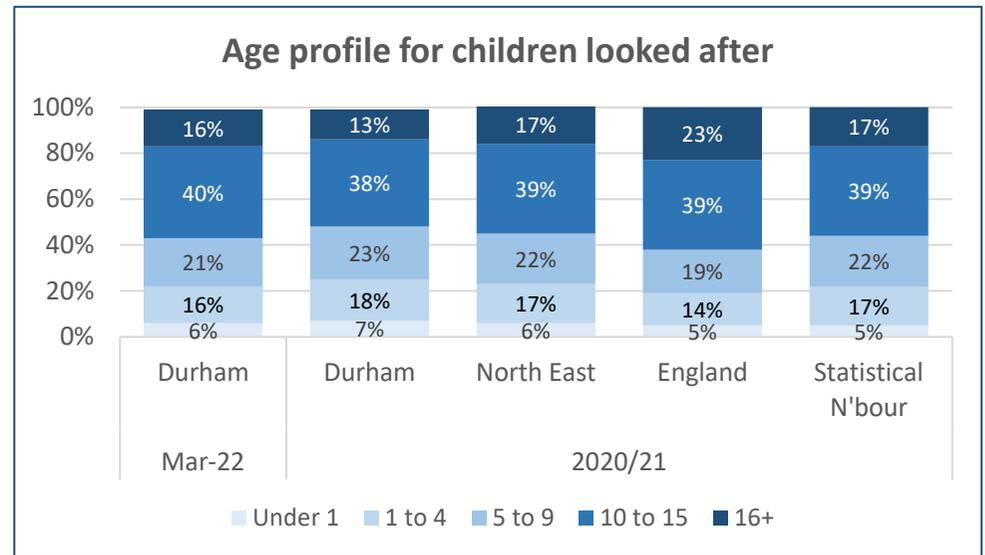
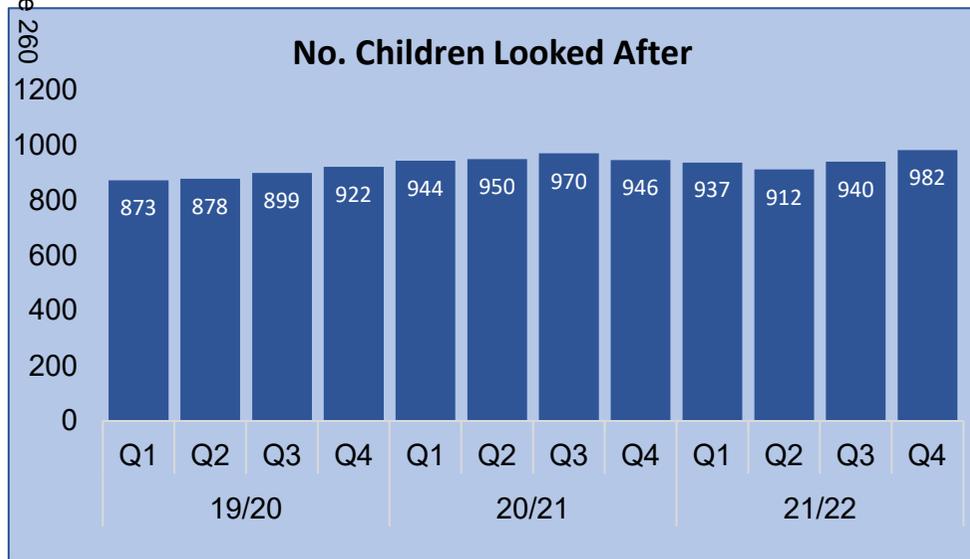
- 165 The Horden Together project which is a placed-based partnership that aims to improve public safety by offering support with a broad range of issues commenced in September 2021 and to date has made over 150 referrals through Making Every Adult Matter and served more than 180 notices through Environmental Health regulations. A multi-use games area has also recently been re-opened for use by children and young people.
- 166 A wide range of activity has been undertaken through the multi-agency problem solving (MAPS) teams across the county. Examples of these include working with partners to deal with off road/quad vehicle nuisance including the seizure of vehicles, the issuing of notices and target hardening hotspot areas and the use of drones and other technology to help identify offenders; liaising and walkabouts with partners, residents and elected members over local concerns across the county; liaising with partners to target harden areas being used for fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour.
- 167 In response to the crisis in Ukraine, the council has established a multi-agency humanitarian support working group and an operational team focussing on safeguarding and accommodation inspections, wrap around support and translation services, health, education and welfare benefits for individuals and families arriving under the government's schemes to assist Ukrainians to come to the UK, the Ukraine Family Visa Scheme and the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme. In relation to the latter, as at the end of April there were over 130

residents who had put themselves forward and work is taking place to support both the sponsor and the refugees coming to County Durham.

Delivery of new high-quality housing which is accessible and meets the needs of our residents

- 168 Phase 1 of the Council Housing Building Programme to deliver 155 homes across seven sites has been delayed pending approval to proceed to RIBA Stage 3 (Detailed and Technical Design), once received the programme will be updated. Soft market testing is currently underway, and the outcome will inform the next steps in developing tender stage documents.
- 169 Viability assessments have been undertaken for each scheme within Phase 2, apart from the sites which have been brought in to replace sites withdrawn from the Programme. Once instructions are received on brief and sites, a programme will be developed to Stage 3.
- 170 Work continues to deliver the Chapter Homes business plan. Following the construction of 67 new homes located at Oakerside Drive in Peterlee, 64 properties have now been sold, with the remaining three properties scheduled for completion in April. Construction of 60 new homes at Gilesgate site is on track for completion December 2022, and at the end of March, 18 reservations have been received.
- 171 Work continues to deliver the Seaham Garden Village project and a further £135,000 has been secured from Homes England, however ongoing issues with s73 planning application around the Wellbeing Hub, alongside the Innovation Hub, means a further s73 application has been submitted and is being considered.
- 172 Delays in determining s73 planning application for the Seaham Garden Village Scheme has had an impact on the delivery of the Geothermal Minewater Heat Scheme in Seaham with completion of negotiations on land acquisition, easements and non-statutory rights over highway; and the land purchase from the Coal Authority to build the Energy Centre being delayed to August 2022 from March 2022.

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES



As at 31 Mar 2022

■ County Durham ■ North East ■ England

Where our children in care live

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------|-------|
| In-house foster care | 41% | Independent living (incl. supported lodgings) | 4% |
| Independent fostering agency | 18% | Placed for adoption | 4% |
| Friends and family | 15% | In-house children's homes | 3% |
| Placed with parents | 7% | NHS/ Health Trust | <0.5% |
| External residential (incl. children's homes and res school) | 7% | Secure (incl. YOI and prison) | <0.5% |

173 Lunson Mitchenall has been appointed as commercial agent for the redevelopment of Milburngate. However, appointment of a Residential Manager is delayed pending the developer entering into a pre-construction services agreement with LIV, the housing management company. Completion of legals for tenants has also been delayed due to complexities in relation to the fire ventilation and extractions system, however, side letters are in the process of being agreed with tenants to allow the leases to be entered into. Work is ongoing to establish the Housing Company with marketing of the residual units expected to commence in May.

Standards will be maintained or improved across County Durham's housing stock

174 The Selective Licensing Scheme that will cover 42% of the private sector rented sector in County Durham went live on 1 April. The application process opened 1 February and 1,500 applications have been received, however it is anticipated that this will increase dramatically as the early bird discount draws to a close in July. An inspection programme will commence in August with all licensed areas being visited on a monthly programme in the first two years. A form is available on our website for the public to report landlords without a licence or who breach their conditions.

175 Additionally, promotional work continues on the implementation of the hybrid accreditation scheme, 'The Durham Rental Standard' and it is anticipated the scheme will go live before the end of May.

176 A Council Tenancy Strategy was approved by Cabinet in February that sets out the Council's expectations to the registered providers of social housing operating within the County regarding the types of tenancy they should offer to their tenants. Cabinet also approved the adoption of an Introductory Tenancy Scheme for all new council tenancies, that provides a probationary tenancy for the 12 months for all new tenants, and a Council House Secure and Introductory Tenancy Agreements that sets out contractual relationships between the Council as landlord and the tenant.

177 During the quarter, 37 empty properties were brought back into use, bringing the total for 2021/22 to 155, below the target of 200. The challenges throughout the year in response to ongoing Government restrictions around COVID-19 has impacted on delivery, especially during quarter one and again in quarter three due to the Omicron variant. However, the main challenges have been the complexities involved and the nature of the work required due to the length of time properties have been empty or in identifying ownership.

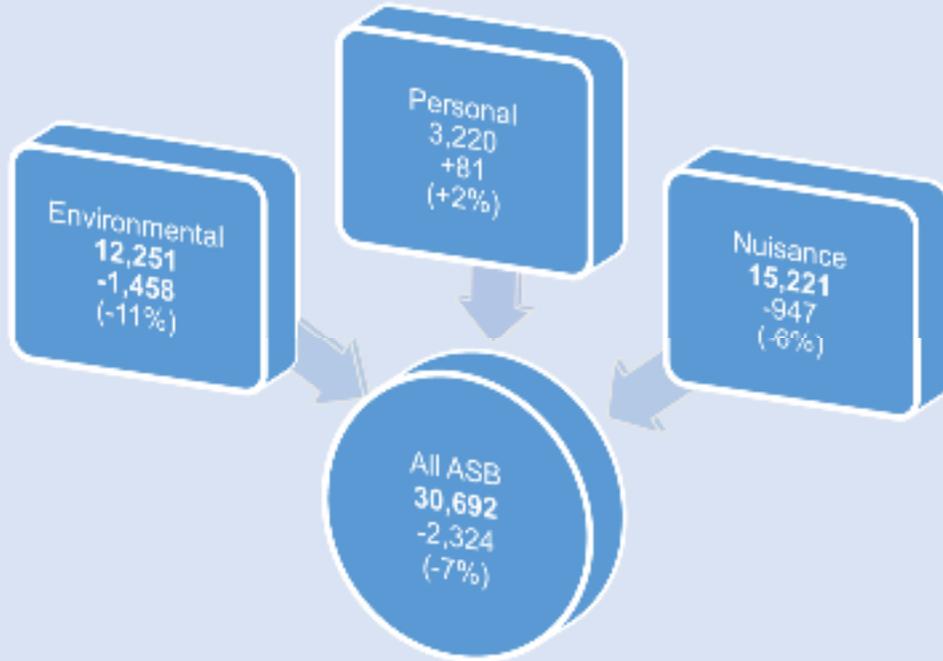
- 178 During 2021/22, 3,341 properties have been improved or adapted as a result of energy efficiency measures, regeneration initiatives, disabled facilities grants or via the financial assistance policy. This represents an increase of 76% (1,448 properties) compared to 2020/21, mainly due to an increase in properties benefitting from an energy efficiency measure.
- 179 At the end of this financial year, 1,961 households benefitted from an energy efficiency measure compared to 1,183 last year. This included 1,364 households benefitting from energy efficiency measures via the Warm Homes scheme, including boiler grants and Energy Company Obligation (ECO) insulation grants totalling £2,332,100. 597 households benefitting from regeneration energy efficiency measure through the Local Authority Delivery scheme (LAD).

People will have good access to workplaces, services, retail and leisure opportunities

- 180 Construction of the new Durham Bus Station recommenced in March/April 2022 following a temporary pause at the end of 2021 due to unforeseen structural works being required to the gable end of the Grade 2 Listed Manse, which were identified following demolition of the bus station. The bus station is now still likely to become operational to passengers in July 2023.
- 181 In March 2022, Cabinet agreed to redirect £2 million of savings from the Concessionary Fares budget to support bus services across the County to maintain access to employment, education and essential services, give passenger numbers more time to recover and allow time for clarification of future Government support and for the true state of a post-COVID transport system to emerge.
- 182 In April 2022 the Department for Transport (DfT) awarded £163.5 million to the north east region for its Bus Service Improvement Plan. While the allocation is among the highest in the country it is lower than the original £804 million funding bid submitted in October last year. Improvements under the areas' bus service improvement plans include making services more frequent, better reliability, cheaper fares, and greener vehicles.
- 183 The 2021/22 winter maintenance plan has been successfully delivered with in-house driver shortages covered by sub-contractors which has resulted in extra costs, salt and fuel costs have also increased. The overall cost of the provision has exceeded the base budget, and this has been covered by an existing reserve.
- 184 The review of the Winter Maintenance Plan and Policy for the winter season 2021/22 was complete and published in March 2022.

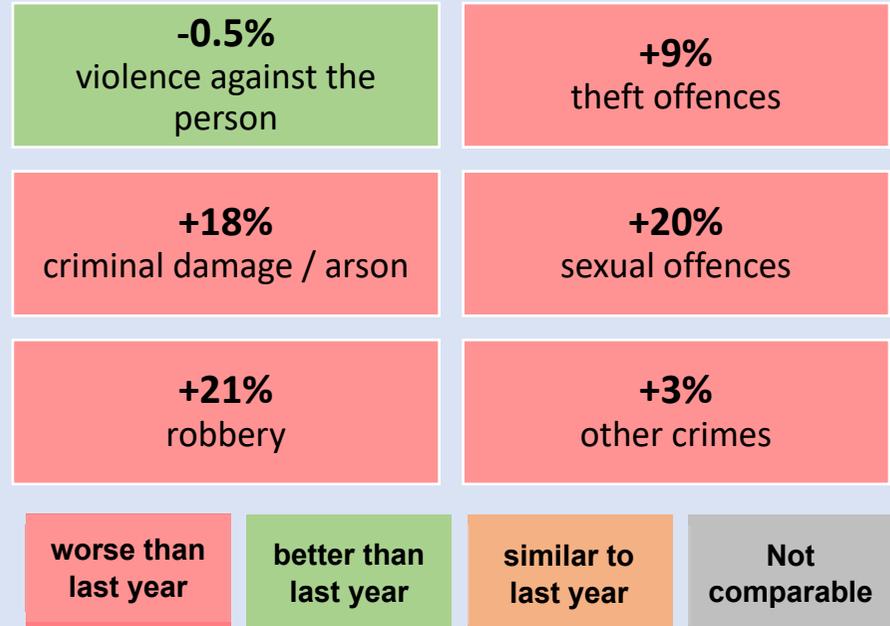
CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

Police and council reported ASB



Crime

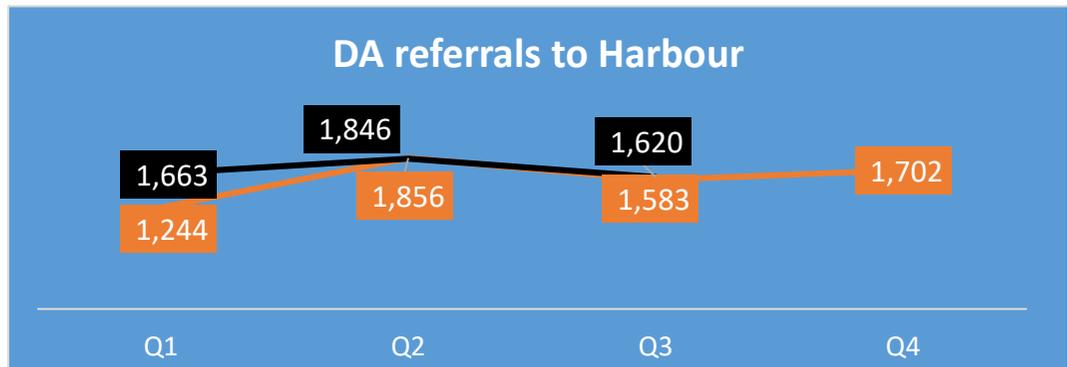
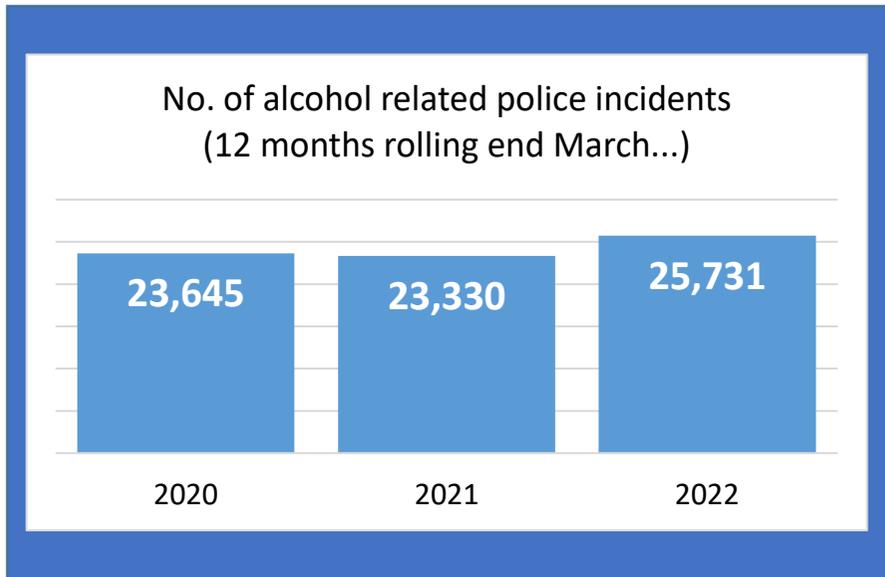
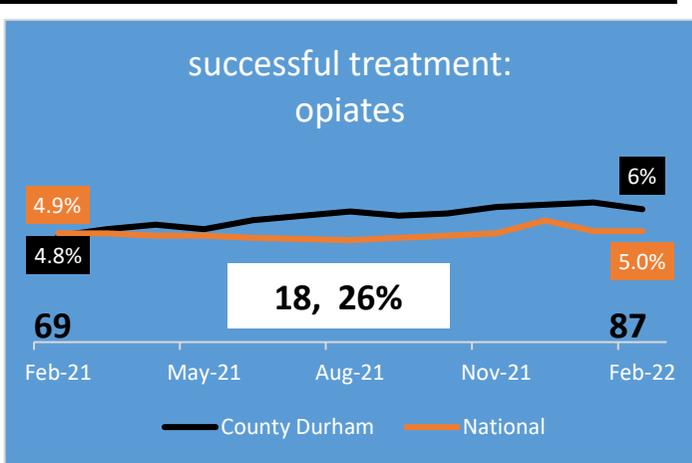
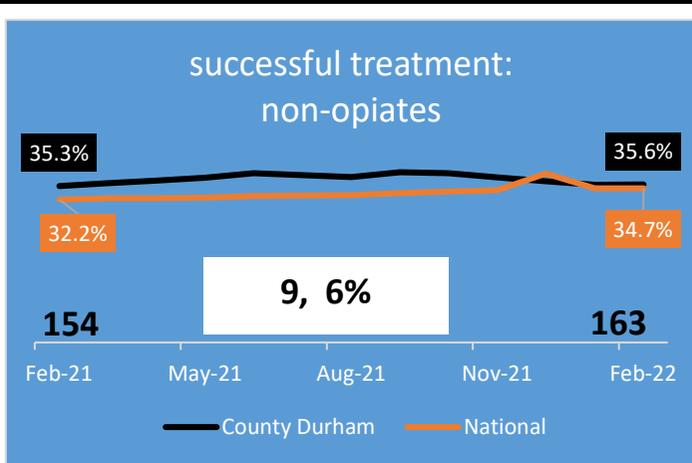
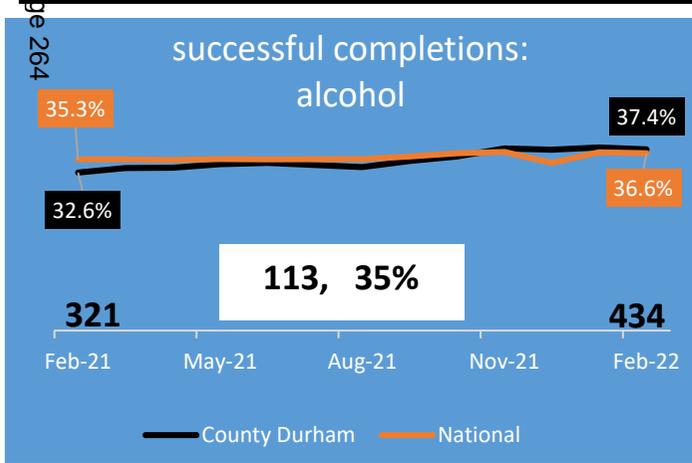
47,780 crimes (↑ 6%)
89.6 per 1,000 population



ASB incidents (12 month rolling)



CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

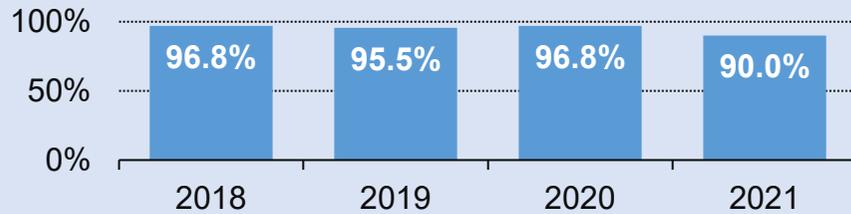


CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

reported fly-tipping incidents
(12 months ending 31 December)



municipal waste diverted from landfill



household waste re-used, recycled or composted



dry recyclable household waste collected from the kerbside that is contaminated



Road traffic collisions

Killed

Seriously injured

Slightly injured

All casualties
21/22
(20/21)

16
(16)

190
(152)

534
(467)

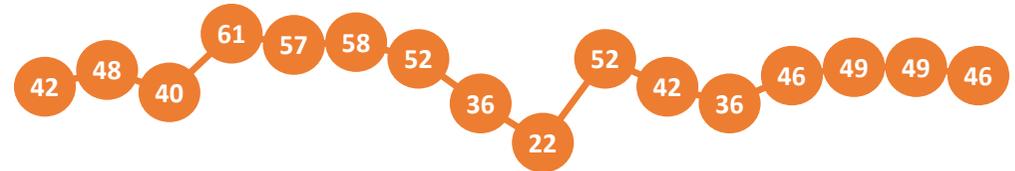
Children
21/22
(20/21)

1
(1)

25
(17)

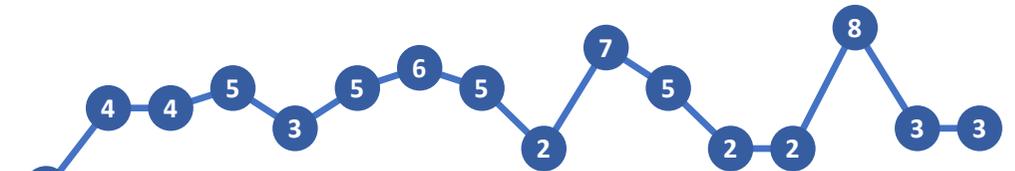
57
(53)

Serious Injuries



| Year | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
|---------|----|----|----|----|
| 2018/19 | | | | |
| 2019/20 | | | | |
| 2020/21 | | | | |
| 2021/22 | | | | |

Fatalities



| Year | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
|---------|----|----|----|----|
| 2018/19 | | | | |
| 2019/20 | | | | |
| 2020/21 | | | | |
| 2021/22 | | | | |

An Excellent Council

- 185 The ambition of an excellent council is structured around the following key objectives:
- (a) Our resources will be managed effectively;
 - (b) We will create a workforce for the future;
 - (c) We will design our services with service users;
 - (d) We will use data and technology more effectively
 - (e) We will actively performance manage our services.

The impact of COVID-19

- 186 The council continues to face significant financial pressure resulting from the pandemic. The additional costs incurred and loss of income are forecast to be around £20.4 million this year, offset by COVID-19 related underspends (relating to closure of facilities and disruption to normal service activity as a result of the pandemic) of £5.9 million – a net overspend of £14.5 million, which is presently within the forecast circa £18.2 million the council expects to receive from the Government to cover the financial impact of the pandemic.
- 187 The government has now removed the last remaining COVID-19 restrictions and launched a plan for [‘living with COVID’](#) based on choice and personal responsibility. Consequently, our teams have returned to their workplaces on a hybrid basis. Spending at least 60% of their working hours in their workplace will especially benefit new employees and those younger and/or less experienced. A permanent hybrid policy and amended home working policy are being developed.
- 188 Employee support continues as staff return to their workplaces, with reasonable adjustments for staff struggling with long-COVID or who are clinically vulnerable. In addition, practical advice and information is available on the [COVID-19 pages of our intranet](#), alongside access to support mechanisms which increase emotional resilience, protect health and well-being and reduce anxiety when returning to the workplace⁵.
- 189 All non-essential face-to-face training has been reinstated as part of a blended approach, and lead officers for recruitment have the option of undertaking virtual or face-to-face recruitment.

⁵ e.g., [employee well-being guide](#), [Employee Assistance Programme](#), ‘mental health awareness for managers’ training, well-being portal, CMT vlogs, e-learning courses (including building personal resilience; how to be effective, productive and maintain your resilience; managing remote teams; leading and managing dispersed teams; working at home in extraordinary circumstances)

Our resources will be managed effectively

- 190 Durham University has agreed to buy the new building at The Sands in Durham City, and the council will develop a new civic headquarters as part of plans supporting the future commercial development of the Aykley Heads site. In addition, office space in Stanley will provide a basis for further external investment in the town⁶.
- 191 Although the pandemic continued to impact the collection of both council tax and business rates during 2021/22, year-end collection rates were higher than both the same period last year and the north east average. Pre-pandemic council tax collection rates ranged from 96-97%; business rates were around 98%. 17.5% of the council tax collectable charge is offset by council tax reduction, which is less than same period last year (18.3%). The net charge of business rate was nearly 50% more than in 2020/21 reflecting the end of COVID reliefs. The council is continuing to offer flexible and supportive options which proactively support residents and businesses whilst steadily increasing collection rates.
- 192 All Customer Access Points (CAPs) have now re-opened on an appointment basis and all committee meetings have returned to County Hall with the Council Chamber once again used for full council meetings.
- 193 We are continuing our work to reduce carbon emissions: various decarbonisation schemes, including lighting improvements, heating replacements and solar installations, have been implemented at council buildings, four electric vans have been purchased as part of the “try before you buy” scheme, and a new mandatory e-learning module for all staff on climate change has been launched.
- 194 Digital Services teams continue to provide, promote, and support the use of Office 365 applications across the council (such as Teams, SharePoint and OneDrive), and increases in usage across all applications have been noted in the last quarter. There has been a significant increase in the use of Yammer⁷ as part of initial design and prototyping work for the Intranet project. The outcomes of this project will inform the use of Yammer in the future.
- 195 The government is committed to providing gigabit-capable broadband coverage⁸ to a minimum of 85% of properties by 2025. Commercial plans by network infrastructure providers are expected to reach 80% of UK properties and public sector intervention under Project Gigabit, overseen by the Department for Digital,

⁶ [Report to Cabinet of 27 April 2022](#)

⁷ A Microsoft tool that allows people to connect, build communities, share knowledge and engage

⁸ Gigabit-capable broadband can provide broadband speeds of at least 1,000 Megabits per second (Mbps), for comparison superfast broadband is just 30Mbps.

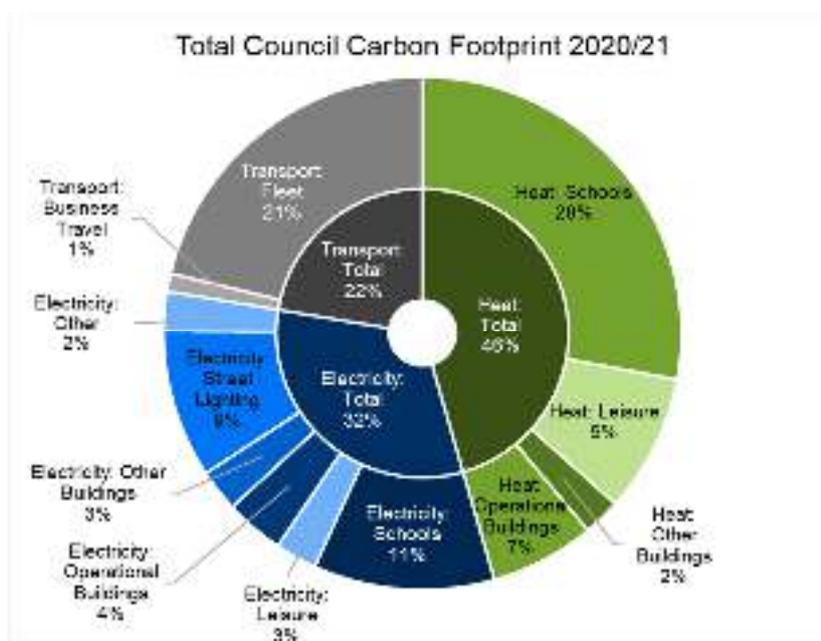
Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), is expected to support the harder to reach final 20%.

196 Gigabit coverage in County Durham currently stands at 46% which is a 22% increase in the last 12 months. Superfast is 97% which is in line with the UK average.

197 Every week the council is subjected to around 12.5 million cyber reconnaissance attacks, of which 2,500 are targeted attempts to breach council services. In addition, 72,000 SPAM emails are handled and discarded automatically. To better protect council services, we have brought together various documents to create a single overarching Cyber Security Strategy for the council. The strategy which will focus on developing a baseline, training support staff and reviewing our security model, is being designed for publication. Associated policies have already been published on the council's intranet.

198 Most devices replaced under the council's replacement programme are not suitable for recycling, However, a small number of iPads and laptops have been donated to charities supporting Ukrainian refugees to help them keep in touch with friends and family and assist with continued education for children.

199 The council's 2020/21 carbon footprint is made up as follows:



200 We continue to tackle heating issues with better heating controls, insulation, and low carbon heating systems. Fleet emissions will be addressed in coming years as we transition to electric vehicles.

201 The following table shows the changes in emissions from the 2009 baseline:

| CO₂ emissions from council activity | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|----------|
| | Tonnes | | % change |
| | 2008/09 | 2020/21 | |
| Social care | 6,125 | 597 | -90% |
| Business mileage | 4,083 | 499 | -88% |
| Street lighting | 17,353 | 4,133 | -76% |
| Electricity distribution | 3,996 | 1,127 | -72% |
| Secondary schools | 17,353 | 5,835 | -66% |
| Leisure and culture | 13,270 | 5,008 | -62% |
| Operational buildings | 11,229 | 4,538 | -60% |
| Primary schools | 16,332 | 9,710 | -41% |
| Other schools | 3,062 | 1,850 | -40% |
| Miscellaneous | 2,042 | 1,613 | -21% |
| Fleet | 11,229 | 9,409 | -16% |

- 202 Our buildings mainly use gas for heating and electricity to operate. Electricity in the grid is becoming less carbon intensive, and we have worked to improve the efficiency of equipment in our buildings including gas boilers. It has been more difficult to drive reductions within schools as they have their own delegated budgets. A proportion of the reduction across social care is due to outsourcing (as more services are outsourced, we will adjust the baseline).
- 203 The reduction in street lighting has been achieved through decarbonisation of the electricity grid and replacing almost all of our street lights with LED lighting through the street lighting energy reduction project.
- 204 Miscellaneous includes a number of very small buildings such as community rooms. In the past, we prioritised larger buildings such as offices and leisure centres for energy efficiency works as it is more cost effective.

We will create a workforce for the future

- 205 Significant work has already been undertaken to modernise our approach to recruitment to increase our appeal in a hugely competitive market; including branding and reach through social media. The attraction of employees remains an ongoing and increasing challenge for the council; local and national skills shortages are impacting heavily and driving competition for skilled workers amongst all neighbouring local authorities and other employers including the private sector.

206 Understanding employee turnover is intrinsically linked to the modernisation work being undertaken on recruitment and the issues impacting wider workforce stabilisation. Whilst our turnover rates have not dramatically increased, further action is required to gather insights from employees who leave employment with a view to maximise retention of our best employees.

207 A review of the exit interview process was therefore undertaken to streamline the existing process and ultimately increase completion rates. This will then enable effective reporting to inform targeted support and intervention for teams and services. The purpose of an exit interview is to gain a better understanding of an individual’s motivations for leaving their role. When used effectively, the data collected will help inform and appropriately direct support, for example, higher than average retirement levels leading to gaps in knowledge/reduction in skill level and/or ageing workforce.

208 The council continues to provide many learning and development opportunities to staff to help them further develop their knowledge, skills and abilities, and ensure they are appropriately equipped to undertake their role.

209 The following are the latest additions to our mandatory e-learning programme:

| E-learning course <i>(required completion date)</i> | Total | Completed | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------|-----|
| General Data Protection Regulation <i>(31 March 2022)</i> | 8,531 | 5,583 | 65% |
| Climate Change <i>(30 September 2022)</i> | 8,531 | 1,970 | 23% |

210 Since May 2017, we have spent almost half of the £9.4 million invested into the apprentice levy. £916,800 has expired (i.e., not used within 24 months of entering our digital account) so has been transferred to central government to fund apprenticeships for small employers.

211 647 apprenticeship standards have now been approved for delivery, with a further 46 standards in development. Full details of the standards available and those being developed are available via the following [link](#).

212 Suitable apprenticeship standards have been mapped to each service area on the Durham Learning and Development System to support employee upskilling and workforce planning,

213 385 employees are currently enrolled in the apprenticeship programme. This equates to around 2.3% of our workforce.

| | In service areas | In schools | Total |
|----------------------|------------------|------------|-------|
| Apprentices employed | 113 | 99 | 212 |
| Employees upskilling | 145 | 28 | 173 |

214 385 employees are currently enrolled in the apprenticeship programme. This equates to around 2.3% of our workforce.

215 Since the programme started in 2017, 1,266 employees have enrolled on our apprenticeship programme:

| Year | apprentices employed | employees upskilling | Total |
|---------|----------------------|----------------------|-------|
| 2017/18 | 106 | 94 | 200 |
| 2018/19 | 154 | 177 | 331 |
| 2019/20 | 140 | 154 | 294 |
| 2020/21 | 87 | 107 | 194 |
| 2021/22 | 142 | 105 | 247 |
| Total | 629 | 637 | 1,266 |

216 Between 1 October 2021 and 31 March 2022, 40 apprentices in service areas moved on from their apprenticeship post – of these 30 moved to permanent employment and seven to temporary employment.

217 The 2022 Apprentice Recruitment Campaign is now underway with interviews planned for end of June and start dates of September. 97 apprenticeship opportunities are available.

218 The council is developing a policy to support skills development across local businesses through a levy transfer.

219 We have started surveying our staff to assess the organisation's current digital skills and confidence levels. The results will not only help us shape the future of our digital training offer, and maximise the benefit of technology at both work and home, it will also inform other key pieces of work such as IT licence renewals, IT user profiles, hardware requirements and recruitment processes. More than 1,100 employees have responded to the survey to date.

220 As a consequence of the restrictions put in place throughout the pandemic (working from home, hand-washing, social distancing) both health and safety

incidents and days lost to sickness remained low. However, as restrictions have eased, both health and safety incidents and days lost to sickness have increased. However, 95% of all reported accidents are either no injury or near miss.

- 221 Throughout the pandemic, our sickness rate showed a steady decline, reaching its lowest level since 2010/11 at year-end 2020/21. But, over the last 12 months our sickness rate has increased and is now above pre-COVID levels.
- 222 Of the days lost due to sickness during the 12 months ending 31 March, 11% was COVID-related (8,818 days) compared to 9% during the same period the previous year (5,690 days). Therefore, if we adjust our sickness rate by extracting sickness due to COVID-19 then our rate remains comparatively low (albeit increased over the last year) at just over 10.31 days per full time equivalent (FTE).
- 223 Days lost has increased across all sickness types over the 12 months ending 31 March 2022, most notably cold and flu infections (excl. those which are COVID related), mental health, most notably stress (both work and non-work related), and anxiety disorders. Musculo-skeletal absence has also increased, this includes back problems, knee replacements and injury to muscles/joints.
- 224 During the 12 months ending 31 March 2022, there were 1,166 clinical consultations with our Occupational Health Service (OHS), 534 routine physiotherapy session and 364 counselling sessions.
- 225 Of the employees referred to OHS during quarter four, 99 related to long term sickness absence and 77 to management concern. In 16% of cases (29) the employee stated the underlying cause was work-related.
- 226 The project to digitise and archive paper occupational health records is continuing. However, due to the scale of the project and delays caused by the pandemic, completion has been delayed until December 2022.
- 227 Our Health, Safety and Wellbeing Strategy for 2022-25 was revised during quarter four. The revised strategy focuses on the six key areas of control, compliance, culture, co-operation, competence and communication.
- 228 We have reinstated our Performance Development Review (PDR) process on a phased top down approach (leaders, managers then core employees). The process is now complete for 117 leaders (100%) and 840 managers (83%), and has been rolled out to the remaining 9,967 employees for completion by 30 June 2022 (8,415 will be digitally and 1,552 paper based).
- 229 To support the process, we continue to hold PDR briefing sessions. 96% of leaders and 84% of managers have attended the sessions. Sessions for core

employees are currently being rolled out and as at mid-May, 1,312 employees had enrolled on the sessions.

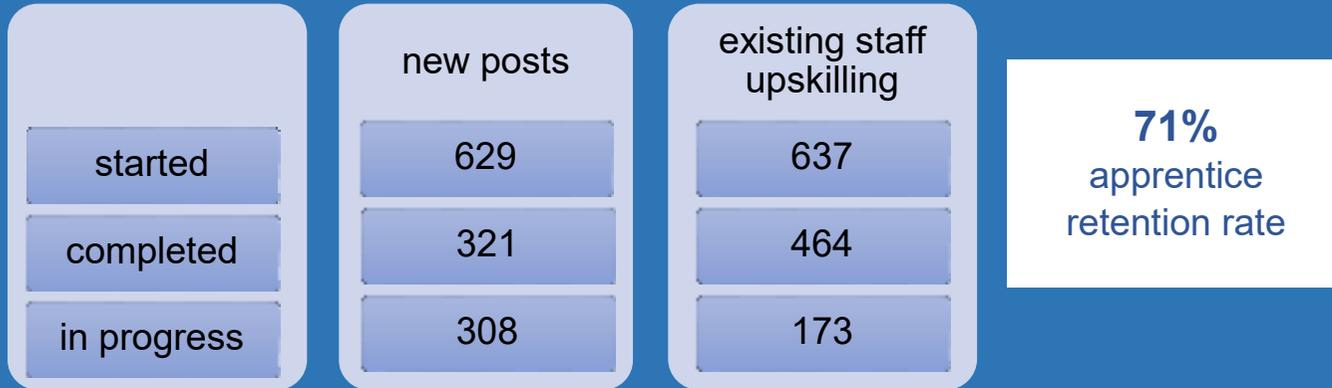
- 230 Further engagement will take place with all leaders and managers to assess the effectiveness of both the PDR system and the digitised process.
- 231 The council staff networks which include LGBT+, disability, carers and Black, Minority and Ethnic now have more than 200 members in total. Members have recently provided feedback in relation to our HR policy (including our hybrid working model, reasonable adjustments, and how we can attract and retain a diverse workforce) and the prototype for the new staff intranet.
- 232 Our gender pay gap is much lower than pay gaps in some other sectors and is one of the lowest of local authorities across the north east.

| | % gap lower for women | | | | |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
| Mean (average of the salaries) | 3.4 | 1.9 | 3.6 | 2.6 | 1.9 |
| Median (the middle salary) | 4.3 | 4.8 | 4.3 | 4.9 | 3.9 |

- 233 To help us better monitor and analyse workforce diversity, we are continuing to encourage staff to update their personal information in relation to protected characteristics within our HR system. We will provide an update in quarter one.

Training & Development

1,266 apprenticeships started since 2017



Health & Wellbeing support

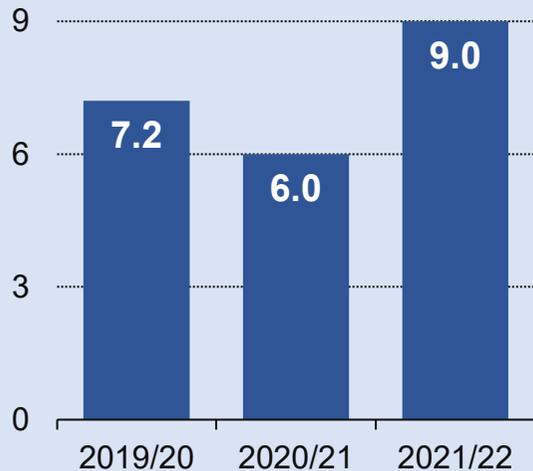
188 routine physiotherapy sessions

217 Mental Health First Aiders

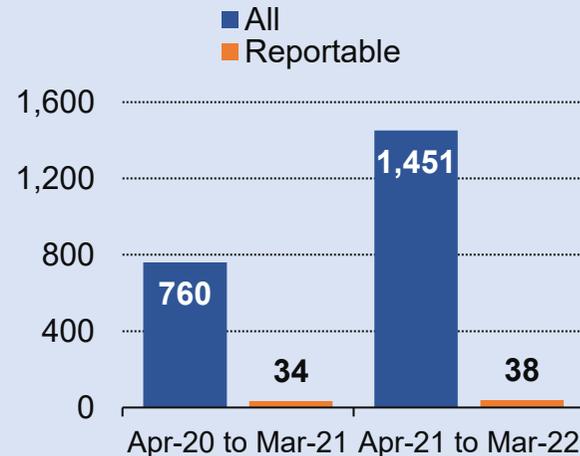
54 Health advocates

73 Anti-Stigma Ambassadors

Staff Turnover (excl. school staff)

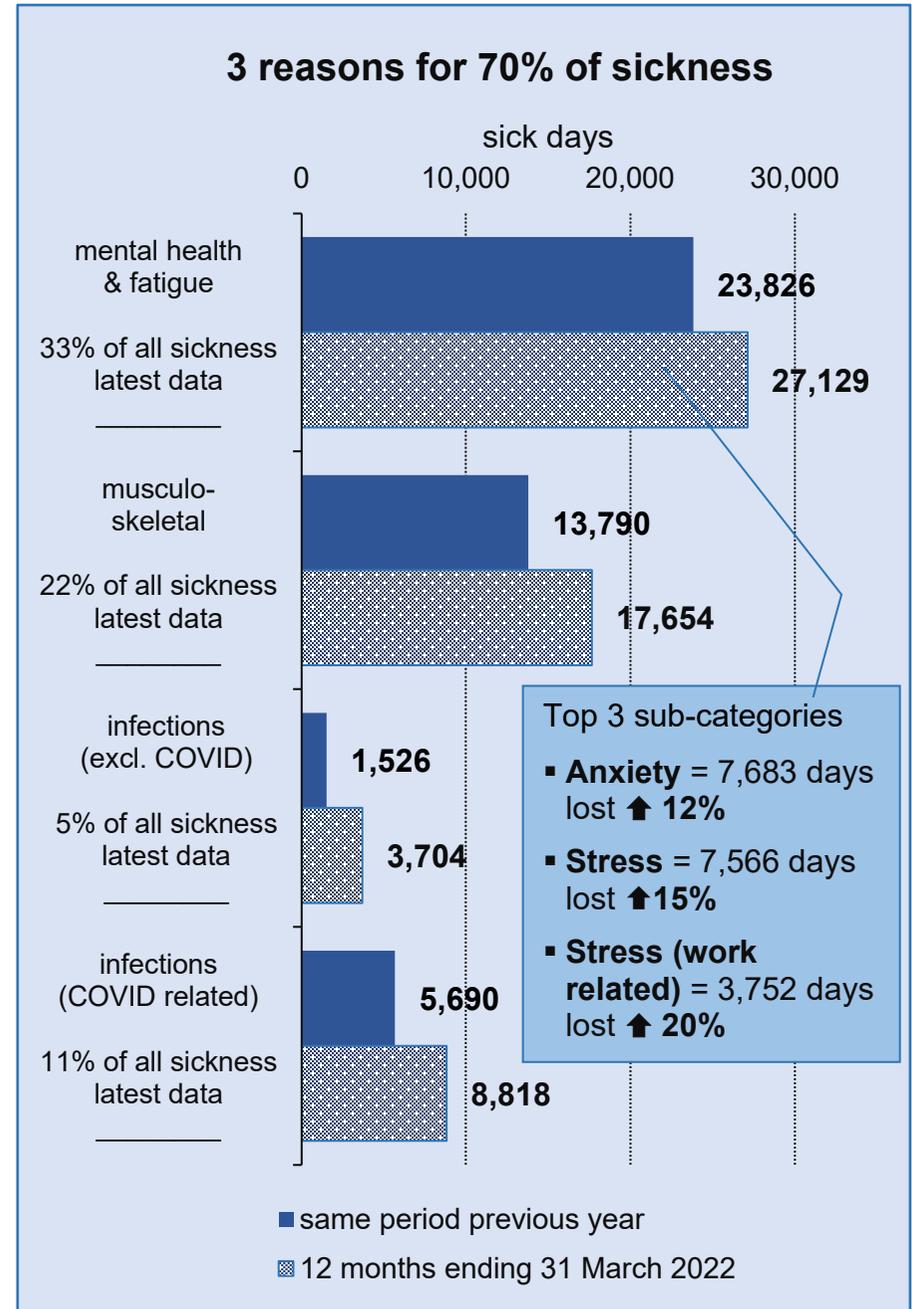
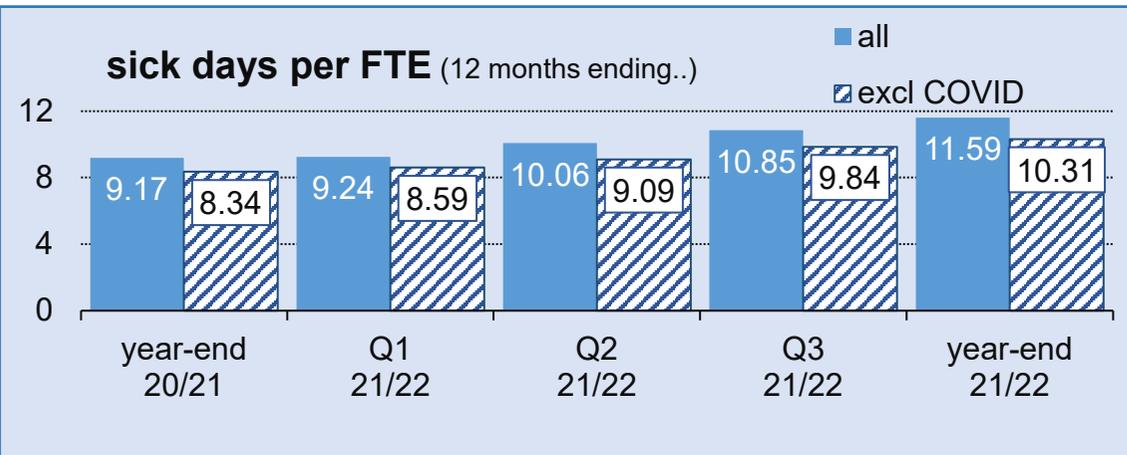


work related accidents/incidents



94% average compliance score
from 148 audits carried out during quarter four

AN EXCELLENT COUNCIL



81,464 days lost to sickness (↑7.8%)
11.59 days per FTE (↑0.74 days)

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>22% short-term (5 days or less)</p> | <p>17% medium-term (6 to 19 days)</p> | <p>61%* long term (20 days or more)</p> |
| <p>58% staff with no sickness</p> | <p>83% staff with less than 5 days sickness</p> | <p>17%* staff with more than 5 days sickness</p> |

*of the 23 cases in March, 7 have been dismissed and are on notice.

worse than last year

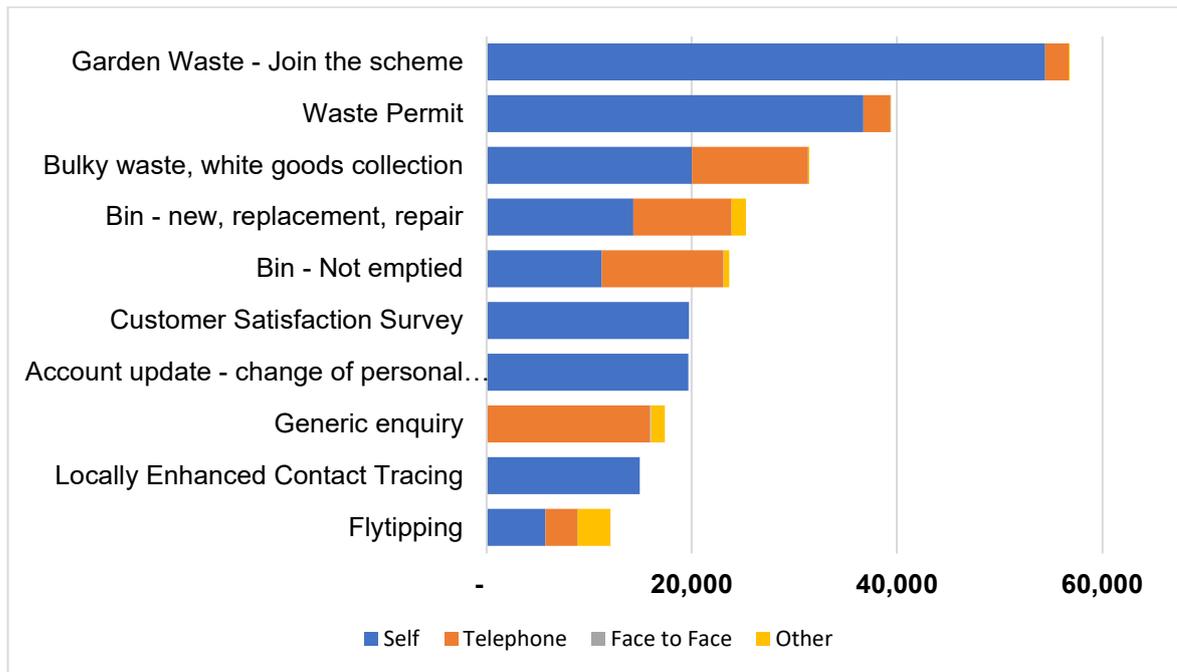
better than last year

similar to last year

Not comparable

We will design our services with service users and will use data and technology more effectively

- 234 Throughout the 12 months ending 31 March 2022 we received more than 1.8 million contacts through our reported channels – an increase of 26% on the previous year. All channels, except social media, showed increased contact, but the telephone remained the most frequently used channel for contacting us.
- 235 The increased call volume over the last 12 months is due to a combination of transferring lines to the ACD system, and reinstating lines closed due to the pandemic, such as coroners and leisure centres.
- 236 More recently, the £150 energy rebate has driven increased levels of telephone contact (more than 6,400 contacts were received, 3,500 via telephone, the remainder through our digital channels).
- 237 More than 164,000 households now have an online account for requesting services through the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. In addition, an increasing number of residents are setting up accounts to access council tax and housing benefit information through the Revenues and Benefits Portal.
- 238 In line with previous reports, around a quarter of all contact led to the creation of a service request in our Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. The remaining three quarters were from customers seeking advice, information, wanting to be transferred to another team, book an appointment, or request a progress update.
- 239 Since the start of the pandemic, there has been a steady increase in the number of service requests received. Although, over the 12 months ending 31 March 2022, we received 1% fewer compared to the previous year (5,538 fewer), the number remains 28% higher than the pre-COVID level (additional 92,226).
- 240 During the 12 months ending 31 March 2022, the ten most frequently requested services were:



241 Notable changes during this period included:

- 2% reduction in requests to join the garden waste scheme (-1,370). However, it should be noted that there remain 56,835 subscribers to the scheme which is around 80% higher than the pre-COVID number of 31,247.
- 27% reduction in reports of fly-tips (-4,560). This means that the number of reported fly-tips has returned to its pre-COVID number of around 12,000 per year.
- 23% reduction in missed bin collections (-7,379). However, the number of missed collections remains 40% higher than the pre-COVID number of almost 17,000.
- 11% increase in bulky waste collections (+3,108) with more than 31,000 collections requested, 23% higher than the pre-COVID number.
- 17% increase in requests for a waste permit (+5,759) with more than 39,000 requests received, 14% higher than the pre-COVID number.

242 These changes have had a knock-on effect to our customer satisfaction survey, with more surveys distributed and almost 6,500 additional people responding (up 49% to almost 20,000).

243 To help monitor delivery timescales of service requests logged within our CRM system, we have applied performance standards within the system where possible. A reportable and accurate performance standard has been applied to 58 service request types (a further eight have been identified and we are working to

implement) which accounts for almost half of all service requests received during the 12 months ending 31 March 2022 – the standard was met in 72% of cases.

- 244 Our CRM system enables customer satisfaction surveys (CSS) to be automatically sent to the customer when their service request (SR) is closed. During the 12 months ending 31 March 2022, we emailed almost 172,000 surveys to our customers and received almost 20,000 responses (11%) which is almost 6,500 more than the previous year (+49%).
- 245 Although the satisfaction survey is linked to 127 service request types, eight service request types, summarised in the table below, made up 60% of total responses.

| | Response Rate | |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Surveys returned / total SRs 12 months ending 31 March... | |
| | 2021 | 2022 |
| Bin: missed collection | 10.0% 4,327 / 31,042 | 18.2% 4,311 / 23,663 |
| Bulky Waste | 0.1% 21 / 28,351 | 12.1% 3,820 / 31,459 |
| Complaint | 11.8% 552 / 4,692 | 18.6% 794 / 4,257 |
| Council tax – change of payment method | 12% 642 / 5,342 | 5.9% 428 / 7,302 |
| Fly-tipping | 6.1% 1,015 / 16,654 | 6.7% 811 / 12,094 |
| Join the garden waste scheme | 1.0% 576 / 58,205 | 0.7% 401 / 56,835 |
| Road or footpath | 7.6% 568 / 7,488 | 7.4% 507 / 6,852 |
| Street lighting | 12.2% 790 / 6,470 | 10.5% 7016,703 |

- 246 Satisfaction rates vary significantly across different service request types. Analysis of satisfaction with service delivery shows seven areas attained satisfaction ratings of at least 90%: early help (94%), bulky waste collections (97%), waste permit requests (97%), birth death and marriage certificate requests (98%), joining the garden waste scheme (95%), applying for free school travel (96%), and changing the payment method for council tax (91%).
- 247 Six areas recorded a satisfaction level of less than 70%: requesting a new, replacement, or repair to bin (39%), service complaints (51%), dog and litter bins

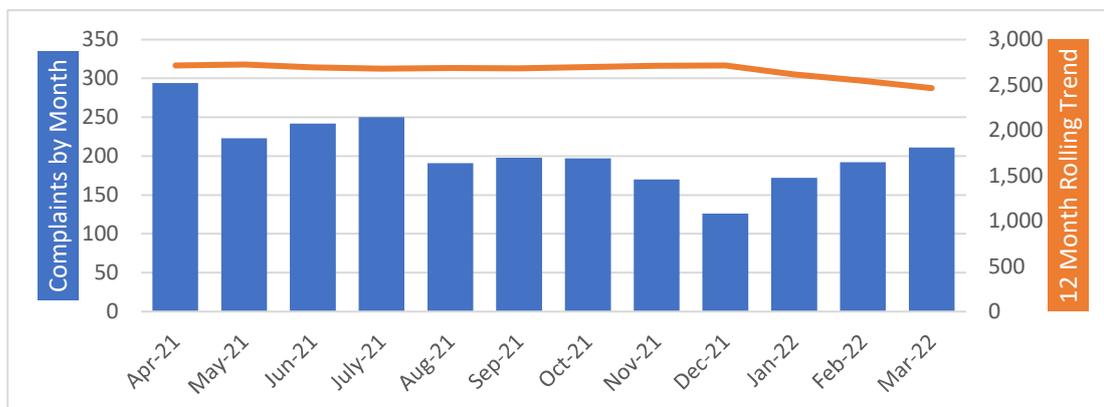
(62%), drainage and flooding (70%), clearing litter (67%) and tree or hedge pruning / removal (67%).

248 We have investigated the reasons for these low satisfaction levels:

- **New, replacement or repair to bins:** although supply issues relating to new and replacement bins have now been resolved, we now have issues with the supply of bin lids. Therefore, we are now unable to fulfil requests for lid repairs / replacements. We expect new stock to arrive in June 2022. In addition, throughout the year staffing levels were impacted by COVID-19 so the service prioritised essential activity such as refuse collection over bin repair and replacement activity.
- **Dog and litter bins:** requests at the beginning of the year were impacted by the bin supply issue. Although we have now received stock (prices have increased by 30%) and lead in times have reduced, the time to action requests is longer than we would have like.
- **Drainage and flooding:** A series of storms and heavy rain brought challenges to the service and unprecedented demand, all service requests were prioritised and dealt with in accordance of priority.
- **Service level complaints:** timeliness of both acknowledgement and responses is the biggest driver for dissatisfaction.
- **Clearing litter:** Throughout the year, staffing levels were impacted by COVID. However, our teams are now back to normal working.
- **Tree or hedge pruning/removal:** there three storms between December and February had a significant impact on our works and we are currently catching up with the programme.

249 During the 12 months ending 31 March 2022, we received 2,466 corporate complaints (68 fewer than the previous year), and of those investigated, 48% were upheld.

250 It is worth noting that the ratio of complaints received during the latest 12 months to service requests was 0.6% or six complaints for every 1,000 service requests. This is the same as the previous year.



251 Almost two thirds of service level complaints were completed and responded to within timescale, which is broadly in line with the previous year.

252 During quarter four, the following service areas recorded the best performance: 76% of planning complaints were completed and responded to within timescale, 73% of social services complaints and 67% of parking complaints.

253 In line with previous reports, the most frequent cause for complaint, representing 15% of all complaints, was missed bin collections. Of those investigated in the 12 months ending 31 March 2022, 78% were upheld.

254 However, it is important to note that whilst we received 381 missed bin complaints over this period, we collected 13 million bins, a complaint to delivery ratio of just 0.003%. In addition, a smaller proportion of service requests due to missed collection are progressing to complaints.

| | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | change |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------------|
| service requests (SR) | 31,042 | 23,663 | -7,379 (-24%) |
| No. complaints | 578 | 381 | -197 (-34%) |
| % of SRs | 1.9% | 1.6% | |

255 During this same period, 128 complainants stated they were dissatisfied with the response to their complaint and asked for it to be escalated to independent investigation by the Customer Feedback Team. Analysis shows that 26% could have been avoided through either timelier or more comprehensive updates from services, and/or completion of the agreed action in the first instance.

256 55 complaints were escalated to the independent investigation during quarter four:



*45 investigations were completed during quarter four - 14 were received before quarter four. Nine outcomes were delivered – five related to complaints received before quarter four.

257 In addition, the Ombudsman delivered decisions relating to 69 complaints. Of the 22 decisions delivered during the latest quarter, seven (32%) were upheld. Additional information regarding complaints escalated to the Ombudsman is available [here](#).

258 Throughout the reporting period, we also received 770 compliments, 305 fewer (-28%) than the same period the previous year. In line with previous reports, most of the compliments related to satisfaction with service provision – although we did also receive praise due to the actions of specific individuals.

259 In addition to compliments, we collect star ratings from customers who request a service via an online form. The rating helps us understand the customer’s experience when logging their request and identifies opportunities for improvement.

| All Service Request Types 12 months ending 31 March... | Star ratings received | Proportion of star ratings received | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | 5-star | 4-star | 3-star | 2-star | 1-star |
| 2021 | 104,869 | 65% | 17% | 10% | 2% | 5% |
| 2022 | 85,739 | 69% | 17% | 7% | 2% | 5% |

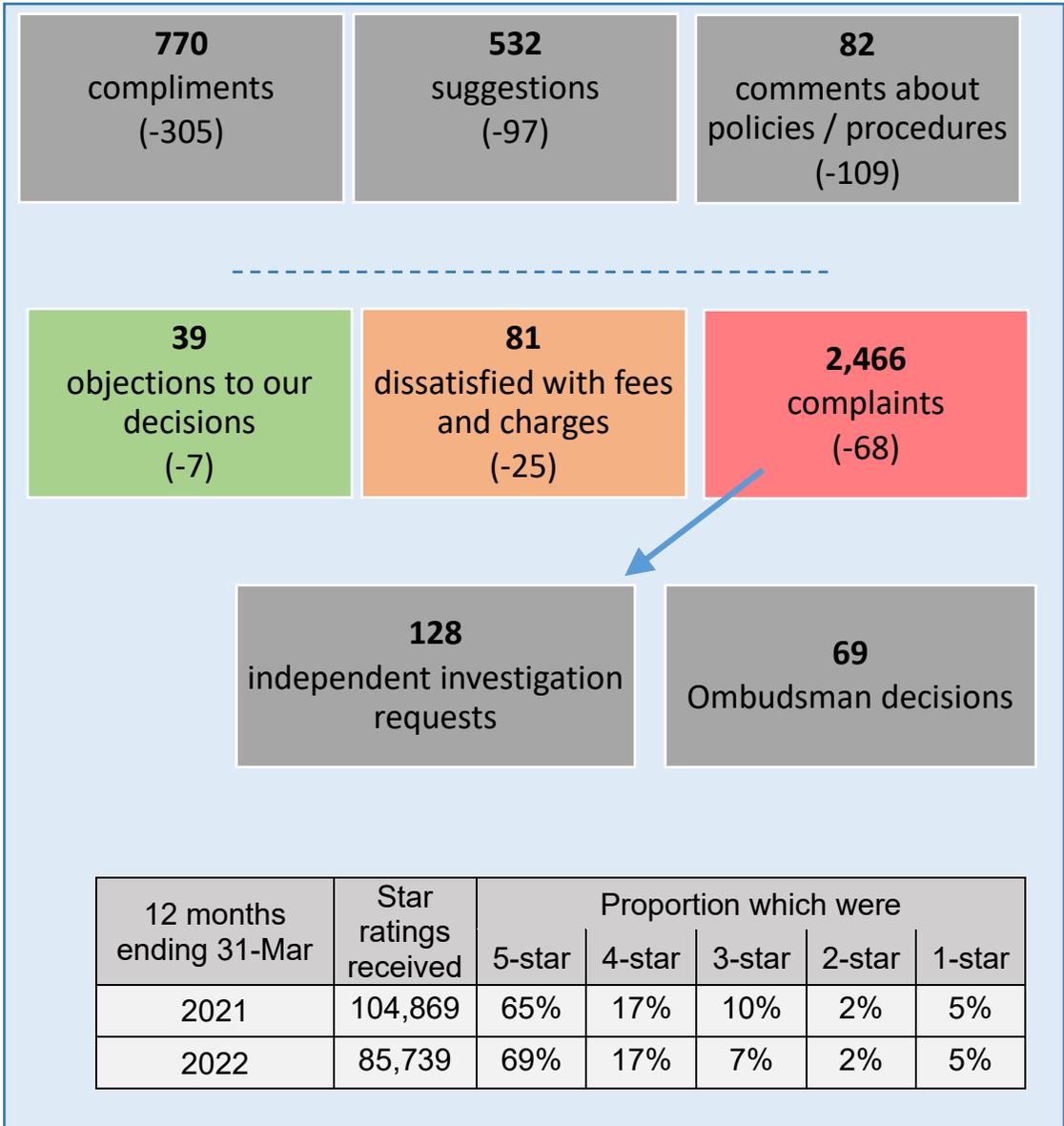
260 86% of respondents rated service request handling as four or five stars during the 12 months ending 31 March 2022, up four percentage points on the previous year.

261 We are continuing to drive improvements across customer services and enhance the customer experience through our Integrated Customer Service initiative and Unified Communications Strategy.

262 In February 2022, we implemented a new Video Relay Service within our corporate contact centre. This provides immediate telephony support for customers who wish to communicate via British Sign Language (BSL) over video telephones and similar technologies.

- 263 This new service will run alongside existing solutions of face-to-face interpreter and text relay. Its aim is to increase the ease and speed of contact for service users at first point of contact.
- 264 Initial feedback has been positive, and we have put mechanisms in place to gather user feedback over a trial period to support our understanding of further improvement prospects.
- 265 72% of council services have been fully migrated to ACD system technology. Migrating these lines enables us to see an enhanced view of demand and performance statistics for all telephony contact, and thereby allows us to identify opportunities to improve the customer experience. Migration plans will continue into quarter one of 2022/23.
- 266 During quarter four, the following CRM improvements were delivered in response to customer feedback or as part of service improvement activity:
- improvements to performance standards across multiple processes to better inform customers of service delivery timeframes, and ensure that the performance standards can be monitored and reviewed
 - More forms / processes meeting the web content accessibility guidelines.
 - Updated all forms to standardise address / location search function to make it easier for customers to find and select an address/incident location.
- 267 During the latest quarter, we launched the following new online forms and processes: COVID-19 – omicron additional restriction grant form, Alternative Education Directory application form, apply for change of primary school, domestic petroleum storage licence, housing solutions duty to refer, planning enforcement and support, and support to Ukrainian Refugees.
- 268 We also carried out cyclical updates and improvements to the following processes: Durham Institute of Sport, Beautiful Durham, fun and food programme and licensing fees across all licensing forms.

AN EXCELLENT COUNCIL



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

Do residents have good job prospects?

| 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 |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | % of working age population in employment | 71.2 | 2021 | Tracker | 71.4 (amber) | 75.1 (red) | 70.2 (green) | | | Yes |
| 2 | Per capita household disposable income (£) | 16,617 | 2019 | Tracker | 16,315 (green) | 21,978 (red) | 17,096 (red) | | | No |
| 3 | Gross jobs created / safeguarded as a result of Business Durham activity | 507 | Oct-Dec 2021 | Tracker | 361 (green) | | | | | No |
| 4 | % of 16 to 17 year olds in an apprenticeship | 8.5 | as at Feb 2022 | Tracker | 5.1 (green) | 4.3 (green) | 7.1 (green) | 6.5 (green) | | Yes |

Is County Durham a good place to do business?

| 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 |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 5 | Gross Value Added (GVA) per capita in County Durham (£) | 16,925 | 2019 | Tracker | 16,501 (green) | 30,239 (red) | 20,727 (red) | | | No |
| 6 | No. of registered businesses in County Durham | 14,565 | Mar 2021 | Tracker | 14,105 (green) | | | | | No |
| 7 | Value (£ million) of new contracts secured | 8,173,215 | 2020/21 | | 8 (green) | 907,439 (green) | | | | No |
| 8 | Value (£ million) of GVA growth from jobs created | 37,103,456 | Jan-Mar 2022 | | 18,000,000 (green) | 45,880,302 (red) | | | | Yes |
| 9 | No. of Inward Investments secured | 7 | Jan-Mar 2022 | | 6 (green) | 3 (green) | | | | Yes |
| 10 | % of Business Durham business floor space that is occupied | 98.5 | Jan-Mar 2022 | | 85 (green) | 83.0 (green) | | | | Yes |

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

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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 |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 11 | No. visitors to County Durham (million) | 11.39 | 2020 | Tracker | 20.13 (red) | | | | | No |
| 12 | No. jobs supported by the visitor economy | 6,794 | 2020 | Tracker | 12,133 (red) | | | | | No |
| 13 | Amount (£ million) generated by the visitor economy | 506.75 | 2020 | Tracker | 980.72 (red) | | | | | No |

Do our young people have access to good quality education and training?

| 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 |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 14 | Average Attainment 8 score | 50.1 | 2020/21 (academic year) | Tracker | 48.8 (green) | 50.9 (amber) | 49.2 (green) | | | No |
| 15 | Average point score per A level entry of state-funded school students | 41.2 | 2020/21 (academic year) | Tracker | 39.9 (green) | 41.6 (amber) | 40.0 (green) | | | No |
| 16 | % of pupils achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths (KS2)* | 65 | 2018/19 (academic year) | Tracker | 67 | 65 (green) | 67 (red) | 61 (green) | | No |
| 17 | % of 16-17 year olds who are not in education, employment or training | 4.4 | Feb 2022 | Tracker | 5.6 (green) | 2.6 (red) | 4.4 (green) | | | Yes |
| 18 | Gap between average Attainment 8 score of Durham disadvantaged pupils and non-disadvantaged pupils nationally (KS4) | -14.6 | 2020/21 (academic year) | Tracker | -14.4 (amber) | -14.4 (amber) | -16.2 (green) | | | No |
| 19 | % of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage achieving a Good Level of Development* | 71.8 | 2018/19 (academic year) | | 64 (green) | 72.8 (amber) | 71.8 (green) | 71.8 (green) | | No |
| 20 | Gap between % of disadvantaged pupils and % of non-disadvantaged pupils nationally who achieve expected standard in reading, writing and maths (KS2)* | -19.8 | 2018/19 (academic year) | Tracker | -15.1 (red) | -20 (green) | -18 (red) | | | No |

| 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 |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 21 | Ofsted % of Primary schools judged good or better | 90 | as at 31 Mar 2022 | Tracker | 89 (green) | 88 (green) | 92 (amber) | | | Yes |
| 22 | Ofsted % of secondary schools judged good or better | 67 | as at 31 Mar 2022 | Tracker | 64 (green) | 77 (red) | 69 (amber) | | | Yes |
| 23 | Exclusion from school of all Durham children - percentage of children with at least one fixed exclusion | 1.88 | 2019/20 (academic year) | Tracker | 2.2 (green) | 1.87 (amber) | 2.22 (green) | 2.39 (green) | | No |

*not reporting for 2020/21 as assessments did not take place

LONG AND INDEPENDENT LIVES

Are children, young people and families in receipt of universal services appropriately supported?

| 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 |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 24 | % of free school meals (FSM) eligible pupils taking FSM | 76.0 | Jan 2021 | Tracker | 75.8 (green) | 82.6 (red) | 82.6 (red) | | | No |
| 25 | Under-18 conception rate per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 17 | 16.5 | 2020 | Tracker | 19.0 (green) | 13.0 (red) | 18.6 (green) | 18.1 (green) | | Yes |
| 26 | % of five year old children free from dental decay | 73.2 | 2019 | Tracker | 74.2 (amber) | 76.6 (red) | 76.7 (red) | 71.7 (green) | | No |
| 27 | Alcohol specific hospital admissions for under 18s (rate per 100,000) | 52.5 | 2018/19-2020/21 | Tracker | 52.8 (green) | 29.3 (red) | 52.0 (amber) | 46.7 (red) | | Yes |
| 28 | Young people aged 10-24 admitted to hospital as a result of self-harm (rate per 100,000) | 450.9 | 2020/21 | Tracker | 361.2 (red) | 421.9 (red) | 542.9 (green) | 619.6 (green) | | Yes |
| 29 | % of children aged 4 to 5 years classified as overweight or obese** | 24.9 | 2019/20 | Tracker | 24.0 (red) | 23.0 (red) | 24.8 (amber) | 25.0 (green) | | No |
| 30 | % of children aged 10 to 11 years classified as overweight or obese** | 37.6 | 2019/20 | Tracker | 37.7 (green) | 35.2 (red) | 37.5 (amber) | 37.2 (amber) | | No |
| 31 | % of Education Health and Care Plans completed in the statutory 20 week time period (excl. exceptions) | 53 | Jan-Mar 2022 | Tracker | 62 (red) | 58 (red) | 75.9 (red) | 82.0 (red) | 2020 | Yes |

**The National Child Measurement Programme ended in March 2020 when schools closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Comparisons to North East and Nearest Statistical Neighbours should be treated with caution as not all submitted of their measurements. NCMP data for the academic year 2020/21 has been published, however, local authority data is not available due to a 10% sample in each area being recorded.

Are children, young people and families in receipt of early help services appropriately supported?

| 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 |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 32 | % of successful interventions (families turned around) via the Stronger Families Programme (Phase 4) | 130 ⁹ [986/761] | Jan-Mar 2022 | 761 (green) | | | | | | Yes |
| 33 | % of children aged 0-2 years in the top 30% IMD registered with a Family Centre and having sustained contact | 87.3 | Jan-Mar 2022 | 80 (green) | 88.2 (amber) | | | | | Yes |

Are our services improving the health of our residents?

| 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 |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 34 | % of mothers smoking at time of delivery | 14.0 | Oct-Dec 2021 | 14.7 (green) | 16.6 (green) | 8.8 (red) | 11.6 (red) | 11.2 (red) | | Yes |
| 35 | Four week smoking quitters per 100,000 smoking population | 2,452 [1,830] | 2020/21 | Tracker | 2,945 [2,198] (red) | 1,670 (green) | 2,213 (green) | 2,736 (red) | | No |
| 36 | Male life expectancy at birth (years) | 77.8 | 2018-20 | Tracker | 78.3 (amber) | 79.4 (red) | 77.6 (green) | 77.9 (amber) | | No |
| 37 | Female life expectancy at birth (years) | 81.2 | 2018-20 | Tracker | 81.8 (amber) | 83.1 (red) | 81.5 (amber) | 81.6 (amber) | | No |
| 38 | Female healthy life expectancy at birth (years) | 59.9 | 2018-20 | Tracker | 58.3 (green) | 63.9 (red) | 59.7 (amber) | 60.2 (amber) | | Yes |
| 39 | Male healthy life expectancy at birth (years) | 58.8 | 2018-20 | Tracker | 59.6 (amber) | 63.1 (red) | 59.1 (amber) | 59.9 (amber) | | Yes |
| 40 | Excess weight in adults (Proportion of adults classified as overweight or obese) | 70.8 | 2020/21 | Tracker | 63.4 (red) | 63.5 (red) | 69.7 (amber) | 69.2 (red) | | Yes |

⁹ Annual target of 761

| 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 |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 41 | Suicide rate (deaths from suicide and injury of undetermined intent) per 100,000 population | 14.3 | 2018-20 | Tracker | 13.4 (red) | 10.4 (red) | 12.4 (red) | 12.6 (red) | | No |
| 42 | Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth (%) | 29.8 | 2021/22 | Tracker | 29.0 (green) | 47.6 (red) | 35.4 (red) | 35.1 (red) | | Yes |
| 43 | Estimated smoking prevalence of persons aged 18 and over* | 14.3 | 2020 | Tracker | 17.0 | 12.1 (red) | 13.6 (red) | 13.5 (red) | | No |
| 44 | Self-reported well-being - people with a low happiness score | 8.8 | 2020/21 | Tracker | 10.9 (green) | 9.2 (green) | 10.1 (green) | 10.3 (green) | | Yes |
| 45 | Participation in Sport and Physical Activity: active | 59% | Nov 2020-Nov 2021 | Tracker | 60.6% (amber) | 61.4% (red) | 58.7% (amber) | | | Yes |
| 46 | Participation in Sport and Physical Activity: inactive | 30.8% | Nov 2020-Nov 2021 | Tracker | 30.1% (amber) | 27.2% (red) | 29.9% (amber) | | | Yes |

*Smoking prevalence data is taken from the Annual Population Survey which, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, was collected via face-to-face interviews. In 2020, due to the impact of the pandemic, this moved to telephone only collection. Data between 2019 and 2020 cannot, therefore, be compared.

Are people needing adult social care supported to live safe, healthy and independent lives?

| 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 |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 47 | Adults aged 65+ per 100,000 population admitted on a permanent basis in the year to residential or nursing care | 513.3 | 2021/22 | N/a | 625.8 (green) | | | | | Yes |
| 48 | % of older people who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/rehabilitation services | 88.7 | 2021 | N/a | 84.1 (green) | 79.1 (green) | 72.1 (green) | 80.0 (green) | | Yes |
| 49 | % of individuals who achieved their desired outcomes from the adult safeguarding process | 92.2 | 2021/22 | Tracker | 95.0 (red) | 94.8 (red) | 94.9 (red) | 96.0 (red) | | Yes |
| 50 | % of service users receiving an assessment or review within the last 12 months | 65.0 | 2021/22 | Tracker | 89.9 (red) | | | | | Yes |

| Page 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 |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 29051 | Overall satisfaction of people who use services with their care and support | 69.6 | 2019/20 | Tracker | 67.8 (green) | 64.2 (green) | 67.5 (green) | 66.2* (green) | | No |
| 52 | Overall satisfaction of carers with the support and services they receive (Biennial survey) | 51.2 | 2018/19 | Tracker | 43.3** (green) | 38.6 (green) | 47.2 (green) | 41.8* (green) | | No |
| 53 | Daily delayed transfers of care beds, all, per 100,000 population age 18+ | 2.9 | Feb 2020 | Tracker | 1.5 (red) | 11.0 (green) | 7.0 (green) | 11.0* (green) | | No |
| 54 | % of adult social care service users who report they have enough choice over the care and support services they receive | 77.6 | 2019/20 | Tracker | 75.1 (green) | 66.6 (green) | 73.0 (green) | 69.2* (green) | | No |

*unitary authorities

** results from 2016/17 survey

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES – SAFER

Are children, young people and families in receipt of social work services appropriately supported and safeguarded?

| 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 |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 55 | % of statutory referrals received by the First Contact Team or Emergency Duty Team processed within 1 working day | 97 [4,459 / 4,586] | 2021/22 | Tracker | 93 (green) | N/A | N/A | N/A | | Yes |
| 56 | % of statutory children in need referrals occurring within 12 months of a previous referral | 19 [923 / 4,963] | 2021/22 | Tracker | 22 (green) | 23 (green) | 22 (green) | 23 (green) | 2020/21 | Yes |
| 57 | % of single assessments completed within 45 working days | 79 [5,103 / 6,482] | 2021/22 | Tracker | 89 (red) | 88 (red) | 87 (red) | 86.9 (red) | 2020/21 | Yes |
| 58 | Rate of children subject to a child protection plan per 10,000 population aged under 18 | 39.09 [393] | as at Mar 2022 | Tracker | 45 [450] | 41 | 67 | 59 | 2020/21 | Yes |
| 59 | Rate of children in need per 10,000 population (Cases open to Children's Social Care) | 386 [3,881] | as at Mar 2022 | Tracker | 368 [3,717] | 321 | 461 | 421 | 2020/21 | Yes |

| 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 |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 60 | Rate of children open to One Point (early help) 10,000 population aged under 18 | 135 [1,381] | as at Mar 2022 | Tracker | 159 [1,625] | | | | | Yes |
| 61 | % of strategy meetings initiated which led to an initial child protection conference being held within 15 working days | 81 [578 of 713] | 2021/22 | Tracker | 87 (red) | 83 (red) | 85 (red) | 87 (red) | 2020/21 | Yes |
| 62 | % of Social Workers with fewer than 20 cases | 49 | as at Mar 2022 | Tracker | | | | | | Yes |
| 63 | % of Statutory Case File Audits which are given a scaling score of 6 or above | 85.2 | Jul-Sep 2021 | 80 | | | | | | No |

Are we being a good corporate parent to Children Looked After (CLA)?

| 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 |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 64 | Rate of CLA per 10,000 population aged under 18 | 96 [982] | as at 28 Mar 2022 | Tracker | 93 [946] | 67 | 108 | 103 | 2020/21 | Yes |
| 65 | % of children adopted from care (as % of total children leaving care) | 18 [65] | 2021/22 | Tracker | 18 | 10 | 13 | 13 | 2020/21 | Yes |
| 66 | % of CLA who are fostered incl. friends and family, independent fostering agency, In-house foster care | 73.6 [723] | as at 28 Mar 2022 | Tracker | 73.9 [699] | 71 | 72 | 72 | 2020/21 | Yes |
| 67 | % of external residential placements | 7 [68] | as at 28 Mar 2022 | Tracker | 6 [55] | | | | | Yes |
| 68 | % of children looked after continuously for 12 months or more who had a dental check | 81 | Mar 2022 | Tracker | 41 (green) | 40 (green) | 43 (green) | 41 (green) | 2020/21 | Yes |
| 69 | % of children looked after continuously for 12 months or more who have had the required number of health assessments | 88 | Mar 2022 | Tracker | 91 (amber) | 91 (amber) | 94 (red) | 94 (red) | 2020/21 | Yes |
| 70 | Emotional and behavioural health of children looked after continuously for | 14 | 2020/21 | Tracker | 13.5 (green) | 13.7 (green) | 13.9 (green) | 13.8 (green) | 2020/21 | No |

| Page 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 |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 292 | 12 months or more (score between 0 to 40) | | | | | | | | | |
| 71 | Average Attainment Tracker 8 score of Children Looked After | 20.5 | 2019/20 | Tracker | 25.6 (red) | 21.4 (red) | 21.7 (green) | 22.4 (red) | | No |
| 72 | % of CLA achieving the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths (at KS2)** | 55 | 2018/19 | Tracker | 39.5 (green) | 36 (green) | 47 (green) | | | No |
| 73 | % of care leavers aged 17-18 in education, employment or training | 65 | As at 31 Mar 2022 | Tracker | 76 (red) | 65 (green) | 63 (green) | 63 (green) | 2020/21 | Yes |
| 74 | % of care leavers aged 19-21 in education, employment or training | 59 | As at 31 Mar 2022 | Tracker | 56 (green) | 52 (green) | 50 (green) | 54 (green) | 2020/21 | Yes |
| 75 | % of care leavers aged 17-18 in suitable accommodation | 97 | As at 31 Mar 2022 | Tracker | 95 (green) | 91 (green) | 94 (green) | 93 (green) | 2020/21 | Yes |
| 76 | % of care leavers aged 19-21 in suitable accommodation | 92 | As at 31 Mar 2022 | Tracker | 90 (green) | 88 (green) | 91 (green) | 92 (green) | 2020/21 | Yes |

*provisional data **not reporting for 2019/20 as assessments did not take place

How effective are we are tackling crime and disorder?

| 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 |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 77 | First time entrants to the youth justice system aged 10 to 17 (per 100,000 population aged 10 to 17) | 147 | Oct 2020-Sept 2021 | Tracker | 174 (green) | 220 (green) | 303 (green) | 231 (green) | 2019/20 | Yes |
| 78 | Overall crime rate per 1,000 population | 89.6 | 2021/22 | Tracker | 84.5 (red) | 77.0 (red) | | | | Yes |
| 79 | Rate of theft offences per 1,000 population | 20 | 2021 | Tracker | 18.3 (amber) | | | | | Yes |
| 80 | Proportion of all offenders who re-offend in a 12 month period (%) | 30.6 | Apr-Jun 2019 | Tracker | 30.8 (green) | 31.7 (green) | 35.7 (green) | 30.0 (red) | 2016/17 | No |
| 81 | Proven re-offending by young people (who offend) in a 12 month period (%) | 33.5 | 2019/20 | Tracker | 37.8 (green) | 38.4 (green) | 41.8 (green) | | Oct 2017-Sep 2018 | Yes |

How effective are we at tackling anti-social behaviour?

| 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 |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 82 | Satisfaction with the way that the council and police are dealing with local concerns about ASB and crime issues in your area. | 56.4 | Mar 2020 | Tracker | 50.1 (green) | | | 53.7 (green) | Jun 2019 | No |
| 21 | No. police reported incidents of anti-social behaviour | 15,984 | 2021/22 | Tracker | 17,620 (green) | | | | | Yes |
| 84 | No. council reported incidents of anti-social behaviour | 14,706 | 2021/22 | Tracker | 15,396 (green) | | | | | Yes |

How well do we reduce misuse of drugs and alcohol?

| 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 |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 85 | % of successful completions of those in alcohol treatment | 37.4 | Mar 2021-Feb 2022 | Tracker | 32.6 (green) | 36.6 (green) | 30.7 (green) | | | Yes |
| 86 | % of successful completions of those in drug treatment - opiates | 6.0 | Mar 2021-Feb 2022 | Tracker | 4.8 (green) | 5.0 (green) | 3.3 (green) | | | Yes |
| 87 | % of successful completions of those in drug treatment - non-opiates | 35.6 | Mar 2021-Feb 2022 | Tracker | 35.3 (green) | 34.7 (green) | 30.0 (green) | | | Yes |
| 88 | % of anti-social behaviour incidents that are alcohol related | 13.0 | 2020/21 | Tracker | 15 (green) | | | | | Yes |
| 89 | % of violent crime that is alcohol related | 33.3 | 2020/21 | Tracker | 31.8 (amber) | | | | | Yes |
| 90 | Alcohol seizures | 194** | Apr-Jun 2018 | Tracker | 398 (green) | | | | | No |

**under review

How well do we tackle abuse of vulnerable people, including domestic abuse, child exploitation and radicalisation?

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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 |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 91 | Building resilience to terrorism (self-assessment). Score - level 1(low) to 5(high) | 3* | 2017/18 | Tracker | 3 (green) | | | | | No |
| 92 | No of individuals with a referral for 1:1 CSE Support from Supporting Solutions Team** | 388 | 2021/22 | Tracker | new** | | | | | Yes |

*under review ** New definition – includes all children - high/medium/low risk (previously only high-risk referred to Supporting Solutions)

How do we keep our environment safe, including roads and waterways?

| 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 |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 93 | No. of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents - No. of fatalities - No. of seriously injured | 206 16 190 | 2021/22 | Tracker | 168 (red) 16 152 | | | | | Yes |
| 94 | No. of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents - No. of fatalities - No. of seriously injured | 26 1 25 | 2021/22 | Tracker | 18 (red) 1 17 | | | | | 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 | 4.74 | Jan-Mar 2022 | Tracker | 6.4 (green) | | | | | Yes |
| 96 | % of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of detritus that fall below an acceptable level | 10.07 | Jan-Mar 2022 | Tracker | 10.68 (green) | | | | | Yes |

| 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 |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 97 | % of relevant land and highways assessed as having deposits of dog fouling that fall below an acceptable level | 1.68 | Oct-Dec 2021 | Tracker | 1.35 (red) | | | | | Yes |
| 98 | Number of fly-tipping incidents | n/a | | Tracker | | | | | | No |

Are we reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change?

| 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) | 54 | 2019 | Tracker | 52 (green) | | | | | No |
| 100 | % reduction in CO ₂ emissions from local authority operations compared to the 2008/09 baseline, 80% by 2030 | 58 | 2020/21 | Tracker | 51 (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 | 89.4 | 2021 | 95 (red) | 93 (red) | 92.2 (red) | 92.1 (red) | | 2020/21 | Yes |
| 102 | % of household waste that is re-used, recycled or composted | 38 | 2021 | Tracker | 38.1 (red) | 42.3 (red) | 33.5 (green) | | 2020/21 | Yes |

Do residents have access to decent and affordable housing?

| 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 |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 103 | Number of properties improved, adapted or brought back into use | 1,230 | Jan-Mar 2022 | Tracker | 747 (green) | | | | | Yes |

| Page 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 |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 296 104 | Number of empty properties brought back into use as a result of local authority intervention | 37 | Jan-Mar 2022 | 50 (red) | 37 (green) | | | | | Yes |
| 105 | Number of net homes completed | 289 | Jan-Mar 2022 | 327 (red) | 437 (red) | | | | | Yes |
| 106 | Number of affordable homes delivered | 466 | 2020/21 | 300 (green) | 628 (red) | | | | | No |
| 107 | Number of households accessing the Housing Solutions Service | 3,594 | Jan-Mar 2022 | Tracker | 3,366 (green) | | | | | Yes |
| 108 | Number of households helped to stay in their home | 386 | Jan-Mar 2022 | Tracker | 263 (green) | | | | | Yes |
| 109 | Number of households helped to move to alternative accommodation | 239 | Jan-Mar 2022 | Tracker | 219 (green) | | | | | Yes |

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 | 3.1 | 2020 | Tracker | 3.0 (red) | 4.0 (green) | 3.0 (red) | | 2020/21 | No |
| 111 | % of B roads where maintenance is recommended | 3.0 | 2020 | Tracker | 3.3 (green) | 6.0 (green) | 4.0 (green) | | 2020/21 | No |
| 112 | % of C roads where maintenance is recommended | 2.6 | 2020 | Tracker | 2.3 (red) | 6.0 (green) | 4.0 (green) | | 2020/21 | No |
| 113 | % of unclassified roads where maintenance is recommended | 22.5 | 2020 | Tracker | 21.3 (red) | 17.0 (red) | 17.0 (red) | | 2020/21 | No |
| 114 | Highways maintenance backlog (£millions) | 171.2 | 2020 | Tracker | 172.6 (green) | | | | | No |
| 115 | Bridge Stock Condition – Principal Roads* | 82.0 | 2020 | Tracker | 81.1 (red) | | | | | No |
| 116 | Bridge Stock Condition – Non-Principal Roads* | 81.0 | 2020 | Tracker | 80.1 (red) | | | | | No |

* Bridge stock condition (>=90 very good condition / >=80 good condition / >=65 fair condition / >=40 poor condition / <40 very poor condition)

EXCELLENT COUNCIL

How well do we look after our people?

| 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 |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 117 | % of performance appraisals completed on current posts in rolling year period (excluding schools)*** | N/a* | N/a | N/a | N/a | | | | | No |
| 118 | Days / shifts lost to sickness absence (all services excluding schools) | 11.59 | 2021/22 | 11.20 (red) | 9.17 (red) | | | | | Yes |
| 119 | % posts with no absence in rolling year (excluding schools) | 58.43 | 2021/22 | Tracker | 71.55 (red) | | | | | Yes |
| 120 | % of sickness absence which is short term | 21.73 | 2021/22 | Tracker | 10.25 | | | | | Yes |
| 121 | % of sickness absence which is medium term | 17.25 | 2021/22 | Tracker | 17.43 | | | | | Yes |
| 122 | % of sickness absence which is long term | 61.02 | 2021/22 | Tracker | 72.3 | | | | | Yes |
| 123 | % of employees having five days or less sickness per 12 month period | 82.64 | 2021/22 | Tracker | 82.57 (red) | | | | | Yes |

*Due to new system introduction

**includes school support staff but excludes teachers. All single/upper tier councils [Local Government Workforce Survey 2017/18](#)

*** Having put all Personal Development Reviews on hold due to COVID-19, we are now reinstating the process, starting with our leaders in October 2021.

Are our resources being managed for the best possible outcomes for residents and customers?

| 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 |
|-----|---------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 124 | % of council tax collected in-year | 98.5 | 2021/22 | Not Set | 93.7 (green) | | 94.0 | | 2020/21 | Yes |
| 125 | % of business rates collected in-year | 98.4 | 2021/22 | Not Set | 93.4 (green) | | 94.4 | | 2020/21 | Yes |

How good are our services to customers and the public?

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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 |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 126 | % Freedom of Information and Environmental Information Regulations requests responded to within 20 working days | 79 | Jan-Mar 2022 | 90 (red) | 83 (red) | | | | | Yes |
| 127 | Customer contacts: telephone* | 1,402,221 | 2021/22 | Tracker | 1,100,242 | | | | | Yes |
| 128 | Customer contacts: face to face | 12,957 | 2021/22 | Tracker | 0** | | | | | Yes |
| 129 | Customer contacts: web forms | 309,153 | 2021/22 | Tracker | 280,526 | | | | | Yes |
| 130 | Customer contacts: emails | 100,974 | 2021/22 | Tracker | 5,127 | | | | | Yes |
| 131 | Customer contacts: social media | 3,563 | 2021/22 | Tracker | 58,235 | | | | | Yes |
| 132 | % of calls answered* | 91 | 2021/22 | Tracker | 95 | | | | | Yes |
| 133 | % of calls answered within 3 minutes* | 84 | 2021/22 | Tracker | 91 | | | | | Yes |

*data is not comparable as new telephony lines continue to be added to ACD ** CAP were closed during the 12 months ending 31 March 2021

Cabinet

15 June 2022

Cyber Security Strategy



Report of Corporate Management Team

Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources

Councillor Susan McDonnell, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Digital, Customer Service and Procurement.

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To highlight the importance and provide an overview of the Councils cyber security arrangements and to adopt a new corporate cyber security strategy for Durham County Council.

Executive summary

- 2 Cyber security refers to the body of technologies, processes, and practices designed to protect networks, devices, programs and data from attack, damage, or unauthorised access. It is the practice of ensuring the confidentiality, integrity, and availability (CIA) of information.
- 3 Across the globe, cyber-attacks are growing in frequency and becoming more sophisticated. The increased use of the internet, furthered by the Covid 19 pandemic means that cyber criminals have become more active, and our exposure has increased. When cyber-attacks succeed the damage can be significant; with personal, economic, and social consequences.
- 4 Information and data are vital to every part of Durham County Council's business. As we continue to deliver a digital programme that is transforming the way we work and how local people access information and services, we need increasingly robust security measures to protect against cyber threats.
- 5 A successful cyber-attack would considerably interrupt the Councils ability to deliver services - many of which serve our most vulnerable

residents - as well as incurring large recovery costs and significant damage to our reputation.

- 6 To mitigate the multiple threats faced and to safeguard our interests in cyberspace, the Council needs a clearly defined and strategic approach to underpin collective and individual actions in the digital domain.
- 7 The Cyber Security Strategy is a new strategy, proposed in response to the increasing threats from cyber criminals and several successful and high-profile cyber-attacks on other public and private organisations.
- 8 The strategy aligns to the recently published Government cyber security strategy, the central aim of which is for government's critical functions to be significantly hardened to cyber-attack by 2025, with all government organisations across the whole public sector being resilient to known vulnerabilities and attack methods no later than 2030.
- 9 It is critical that the council sets out a clear and defined approach for protecting its information systems and the data it holds to ensure the services it provides are secure and its residents, businesses and stakeholders can safely transact with us. This includes achieving a balance of embracing digital opportunities, including making information more widely available and accessible, whilst ensuring that right levels of protection are in place.
- 10 It is intended that the strategy, as well as signalling a clear direction of travel, demonstrates the Council's firm commitment and the actions we will take to further establish a trusted digital environment for the organisation, our residents, and other stakeholders.
- 11 The strategy and the actions contained within will further strengthen and secure the Council from cyber threats by increasing security awareness throughout our workforce, investing in our systems and digital infrastructure, deterring our adversaries, and developing a wide range of responses, from basic cyber hygiene to the most sophisticated defences.
- 12 Cyber-attacks will continue to evolve, which is why we will continue to work at pace to stay ahead of all threats. The Cyber Security Strategy underpins and enables the Digital Strategy, which continues to ensure we will place the customer at the heart of everything we do in a changing technological landscape.
- 13 The new strategy has been designed to be presented and consumed primarily as a digital document and although hard copies will be available on request, this will be by exception.
- 14 The full document is included in Appendix 2.

Recommendation(s)

15 Cabinet is recommended to:

- (a) Note the content of the report and agree the adoption of the Cyber Security Strategy

Background

- 16 Cyber security refers to the body of technologies, processes, and practices designed to protect networks, devices, programs and data from attack, damage, or unauthorised access.
- 17 It is the practice of ensuring the confidentiality, integrity, and availability (CIA) of information. Attacks on confidentiality include stealing or copying personal information. Attacks on integrity seek to corrupt, damage, or destroy information or systems and the people who rely on them. Attacks on availability focus on denial of services.
- 18 Across the globe, cyber-attacks are growing in frequency and becoming more sophisticated. The increased use of the internet caused by Covid 19 pandemic means that cyber criminals have become more active, and our exposure has increased. When cyber-attacks succeed the damage can be significant; with personal, economic, and social consequences.
- 19 To deliver services, Durham County Council collects, processes, transmits, and stores large amounts of personal and sensitive data and transmits sensitive data across networks to other devices.
- 20 A successful cyber-attack would considerably interrupt the Councils ability to deliver services - many of which serve our most vulnerable residents - as well as incurring large recovery costs and significant damage to our reputation.
- 21 The time to recover can be significant. Information from known cyber-attacks show that Copeland Borough Council took over 2 years to recover services from an attack in 2017 and whilst Hackney Council's ICT services were restored after 13 months from an attack in 2020, the processing of transaction backlogs remain an issue today, two years later.
- 22 A robust cyber security approach enables us to protect information, the systems that are used to process or store it, ensures our services are kept up and running, and is vital in ensuring the public trusts the council with their information.
- 23 As we deliver a digital programme that is transforming the way we work and how local people access information and services, we need increasingly robust security measures to protect against cyber threats.
- 24 This direction of travel is expected to continue and accelerate, making effective cyber security ever more crucial in protecting against new types of threats, risks, and vulnerabilities.

Why do we need a cyber security strategy for Durham County Council?

- 25 The Cyber Security Strategy is a new strategy, proposed in response to the increasing threats from cyber criminals and several successful and high-profile cyber-attacks on public and private organisations.
- 26 The strategy aligns to the recently published Government cyber security strategy, the central aim of which is for government's critical functions to be significantly hardened to cyber-attack by 2025, with all government organisations across the whole public sector being resilient to known vulnerabilities and attack methods no later than 2030.
- 27 To support the achievement of this aim it is critical that the council sets out a clear and defined approach for protecting our information systems and the data we hold to ensure the services we provide are secure and our residents, businesses and stakeholders can safely transact with us. This includes achieving a balance of embracing digital opportunities, including making information more widely available and accessible, whilst ensuring that right levels of protection are in place.
- 28 It is intended that the strategy, as well as signalling a clear direction of travel, demonstrates the Councils firm commitment and the actions we will take to further establish a trusted digital environment for the organisation, our residents, and our stakeholders.
- 29 We will strengthen and secure the Council from cyber threats by increasing security awareness throughout our workforce, investing in our systems and infrastructure, deterring our adversaries, and developing a wide range of responses, from basic cyber hygiene to the most sophisticated defences.
- 30 The establishment of a Digital Security Team (DST) and partnership working both regionally and nationally shows that cyber security is taken seriously within the Council.
- 31 Investment in staff training has recently supported two members of the team in gaining MSc in Cyber Security, and a Cyber Security Apprentice post is part of the structure.
- 32 Successful bidding for available funding has allowed the deployment of a Cyber Vault, which securely holds copies of the authority's important datasets. This development was funded with £350,000 from MHCLG.
- 33 Cyber-attacks will continue to evolve, which is why we will continue to work at pace to stay ahead of all threats. The Cyber Security Strategy underpins and enables the Councils Digital Strategy, which continues to

ensure we will place the customer at the heart of everything we do in a changing technological landscape.

- 34 Through delivery of the strategy, the council will comply with and embed the principles of 'Cyber Essentials Plus'; a government-backed, industry-supported scheme to help organisations protect themselves against common online threats. The council will also follow the "10 Steps to Cyber Security" framework published by the National Cyber Security Centre
- 35 The scope of the strategy includes all DCC's information systems, the data held on them, and the services they help provide. It aims to increase cyber security for the benefit of all residents, businesses, partners, and stakeholders; helping to protect them from cyber threats and crime.

Future approach

- 36 To mitigate the multiple threats, we face and safeguard our interests in cyberspace, we need a strategic approach that underpins our collective and individual actions in the digital domain.

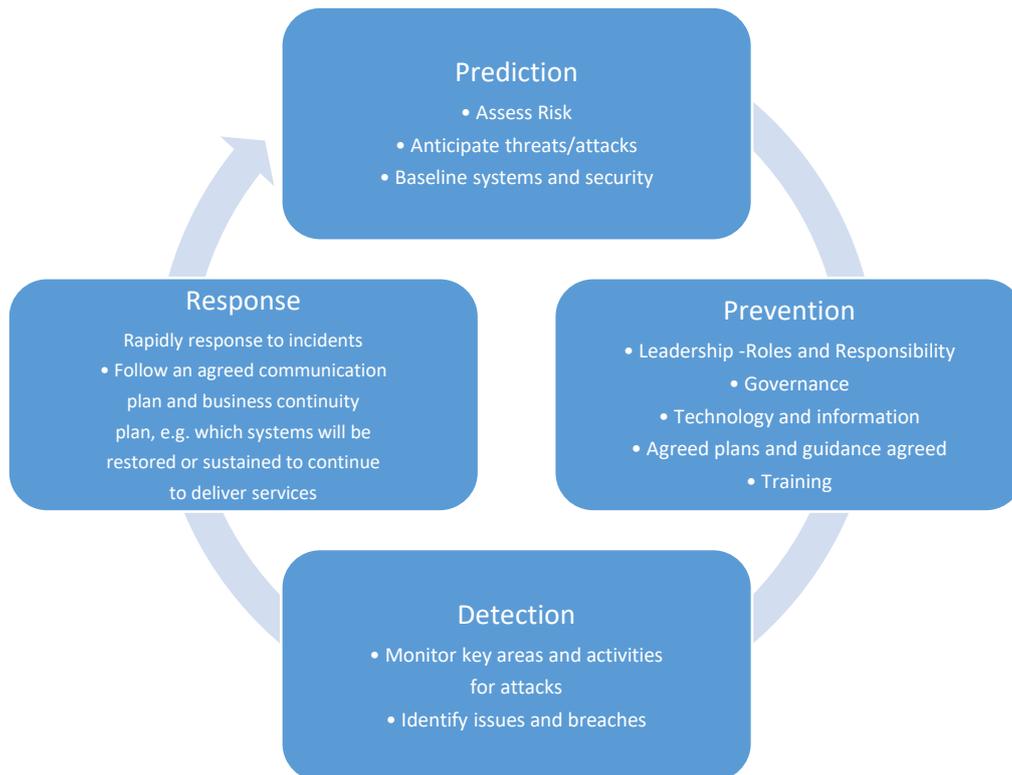
- 37 This will include:

A council wide risk management framework to help build a risk aware culture within the council, ensuring staff understand how to identify and manage risks.

Cyber Awareness training to help mitigate insider threats, understand supply chain risks, and ensure all staff understand the issues and their responsibilities.

Applying the Cyber Essentials scheme controls and conforming to appropriate frameworks to ensure that the council will be able to identify, mitigate and protect against information security risks in a prioritised and resourceful fashion.

- 38 The diagram below the key steps for protecting the council and its stakeholders from cyber-attacks.



Implementation Plan

- 39 To adapt to the changing landscape and achieve our strategy aims we will align with the National Cyber Security Strategy’s approach to defend the Council and our residents’ cyberspace, to deter our adversaries and to develop our capabilities.
- 40 The council will have the means to defend against evolving cyber threats, to respond effectively to incidents, and to ensure networks, data and systems are protected and resilient. This includes helping our residents, businesses, and partners in gaining the knowledge and ability to defend themselves.
- 41 The council will be a hard target for all forms of aggression in cyberspace. This will involve detecting, understanding, investigating, and disrupting hostile action against us.
- 42 The council will continually develop our innovative cyber security strategy to address the risks faced by our residents, businesses, and community and voluntary sector. This includes developing a coordinated and tailored approach to risks and threats that we may encounter and mitigation of potential vulnerabilities.
- 43 Additionally, and to provide assurance, a range of critical success factors are outlined within the strategy.

Cyber Security Strategy Document

- 44 The new cyber security strategy has been designed to be viewed and consumed primarily as digital document and although hard copies will be available on request, this will be by exception. A draft of the full document is presented in Appendix 2 of this report.
- 45 The more detailed implementation planning documents should not be shared with other organisations and should be withheld from disclosure to Freedom of Information requests, as it may provide an advantage to cyber criminals.

Conclusion

- 46 The proposed cyber security strategy sets out an approach for protecting our information systems and the data we hold to ensure the services we provide are secure and our residents, businesses and stakeholders can safely transact with us. This includes achieving a balance of embracing digital opportunities, including making information more widely available and accessible, whilst ensuring that right levels of protection are in place.
- 47 This strategy demonstrates our commitment and the key actions we will take to further establish a trusted digital environment for the Council. We will strengthen and secure the Council from cyber threats by increasing security awareness throughout our workforce, investing in our systems and infrastructure, deterring our adversaries, and developing a wide range of responses, from basic cyber hygiene to the most sophisticated defences.
- 48 Cyber-attacks will continue to evolve, which is why we will continue to work at pace to stay ahead of all threats. The Cyber Security Strategy underpins and enables the Digital Strategy, which continues to ensure we will place the customer at the heart of everything we do in a changing technological landscape.
- 49 The measures outlined in this strategy will safeguard trust and confidence in the way we operate and deliver our services, supporting DCC to remain at the forefront of digital leadership.
- 50 The adoption of the strategy will provide a framework within which these ambitions can be delivered, and will align to the council vision, council plan and digital strategy.

Background papers

- [NCSC National Cyber Security Strategy](#)

- [NCSC 10 Steps to Cyber Security](#)
- [Cyber Essentials Plus](#)

Other useful documents

- None

Contact: Steve Hodgson

Tel: 03000 260019

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The Cyber Security Strategy sets out a framework for the delivery of the Council's digital security ambitions. Delivery within this framework will be managed within a range of project and programme environments, each with individual legal, contractual, and regulatory positions.

Finance

The Cyber Security Strategy sets out a framework for the delivery of the Council's digital security ambitions. Delivery within this framework will be managed within a range of project and programme environments, each with individual financing provision, monitoring, and control.

Consultation

Not applicable

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

NA

Human Rights

Not applicable

Crime and Disorder

Not applicable

Staffing

Programme activity will be delivered within existing resources.

Accommodation

Not applicable

Risk

The management of cyber security is, in large part, the management of risk. The Council has robust processes in place to manage risk at various levels within the organisation.

Procurement

The Cyber Security Strategy sets out a framework for the delivery of the Council's digital security ambitions. Delivery within this framework will be

managed within a range of project and programme environments, each with individual procurement provision, monitoring, and control.

Appendix 2: Cyber Security strategy document

Document is attached as Digital Services Cyber Security Strategy 2022-2025.PDF

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Durham County Council

CYBER SECURITY STRATEGY 2022-2025



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FOREWORD

Cllr Susan McDonnell



Information and data are vital to every part of Durham County Council's business. As we continue to deliver a digital programme that is transforming the way we work and how local people access information and services, we need increasingly robust security measures to protect against cyber threats.

Across the globe, cyber-attacks are growing in frequency and becoming more sophisticated. The increased use of the internet caused by Covid 19 pandemic means that cyber criminals have become more active, and our exposure has increased. When cyber-attacks succeed the damage can be significant; with personal, economic and social consequences.



This **CYBER SECURITY STRATEGY 2022-2025** sets out our approach for protecting our information systems and the data we hold to ensure the services we provide are secure and our residents, businesses and stakeholders can safely transact with us. This includes achieving a balance of embracing digital opportunities, including making information more widely available and accessible, whilst ensuring that right levels of protection are in place.

This strategy demonstrates our commitment and the key actions we will take to further establish a trusted digital environment for DCC. We will strengthen and secure DCC from cyber threats by increasing security awareness throughout our workforce, investing in our systems and infrastructure, deterring our adversaries, and developing a wide range of responses, from basic cyber hygiene to the most sophisticated defences.

Cyber-attacks will continue to evolve, which is why we will continue to work at pace to stay ahead of all threats. The Cyber Security Strategy underpins and enables the DCC Digital Strategy, which continues to ensure we will place the customer at the heart of everything we do in a changing technological landscape. The measures outlined in this strategy will safeguard trust and confidence in the way we operate and deliver our services, supporting DCC to remain at the forefront of digital leadership.

INTRODUCTION



We want Durham to be a county where:

- ✓ **There are more and better jobs.**
- ✓ **People live long and independent lives.**
- ✓ **Our communities are well connected and supportive.**

This vision is set out in our corporate plan and our digital strategy builds on that plan.

The Council's Digital Strategy sets out how technology is used to support the delivery of services to the residents, businesses and visitors in County Durham. Our digital ambitions are fundamental to delivering quality services to our communities.

The Covid 19 pandemic has impacted on all areas of public and private life. Amongst other things it has led to more routine professional and personal interactions to be conducted on-line and many more of us now work from home.

This has presented new and lucrative opportunities to cyber criminals. Whilst much will return to normal in due course, the extent to which we exploit cyberspace and many of our working practice will not return to the pre-pandemic norm. Cyber security has become, and will remain, a key responsibility for all of us – collectively and as individuals.

The prevalence of digital services and the dependence on their availability and integrity means that a robust and comprehensive cyber security strategy and framework are vital to ensure that appropriate measures are in place.

Staff training is also an important factor in combating cyber threats and reducing risk in a constantly changing online environment. Ongoing programmes seek to raise awareness of digital security and to strengthen the human element of cyber defence.

This strategy is our cyber security commitment, both to the people we represent and the national interest; and supports delivery of the Digital Strategy and the Council Plan by providing a framework for DCC to securely harness the benefits of digital technology for the benefit of all.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE



The council seeks to deliver its digital strategy through transforming Durham into a digital place and a digital Council. The scale of transformation represents an unprecedented culture shift for the Council, residents, partners and businesses.

The Cyber Security Strategy is a new strategy, introduced in response to the increasing threat from cyber criminals and several successful and high-profile cyber-attacks on public and private organisations.

The purpose of the strategy is to give assurance to residents and other stakeholders of the council's commitment in delivering robust information security measures to protect resident and stakeholder data from misuse and cyber threats, and to safeguard their privacy through increasingly secure and modern information governance and data sharing arrangements – both internally and with partners.

Through delivery of this strategy, we will comply with and embed the principles of '**Cyber Essentials Plus**'; a government-backed, industry-supported scheme to help organisations protect themselves against common online threats. We will also follow the "**10 Steps to Cyber Security**" framework published by the National Cyber Security Centre.



**10 Steps to
Cyber Security**

The scope of this strategy includes all DCC's information systems, the data held on them, and the services they help provide. It aims to increase cyber security for the benefit of all residents, businesses, partners and stakeholders; helping to protect them from cyber threats and crime.

CYBER SECURITY – WHAT IS IT?



Cyber security refers to the body of technologies, processes, and practices designed to protect networks, devices, programs and data from attack, damage, or unauthorized access.

Cyber security is the practice of ensuring the confidentiality, integrity and availability (CIA) of information.



Attacks on Confidentiality

– stealing or copying personal information.



Attacks on Integrity

– seeks to corrupt, damage or destroy information or systems and the people who rely on them.



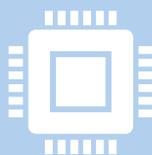
Attacks on Availability

– denial of services.

WHY IS CYBER SECURITY IMPORTANT?



In order to deliver services, Durham County Council collects, processes, transmits and stores large amounts of personal and sensitive data and transmits sensitive data across networks to other devices.



A successful cyber-attack would considerably interrupt DCC's ability to deliver services – many of which serve our most vulnerable residents – as well as incurring large recovery costs and significant damage to our reputation.



A successful cyber security approach enables us to protect information the systems that are used to process or store it, ensures our services are kept up and running, and is vital in ensuring the public trusts the council with their information.

THE CHALLENGE WE FACE AS A COUNCIL



The council continues to use an increasing range of technology, from apps and the cloud, to different devices.



Much of our business is done online, such as corresponding with residents and local businesses, carrying out case work, and reviewing reports and papers for council meetings.



This direction of travel is expected to continue and accelerate; making effective cyber security ever more crucial in protecting against new types of threats, risks and vulnerabilities.

THREATS



A threat left unchecked could disrupt the day-to-day operations of the council and the delivery of local public services, and ultimately has the potential to compromise national security.

Types of threat:

Cyber criminals and cyber crime

Cyber criminals are generally working for financial gain. Most commonly, for the purposes of fraud: either selling illegally gained information to a third party or using it directly for criminal means.

Key tools and methods used by cyber criminals include:

Malware – malicious software that includes viruses, Trojans, worms or any code or content that could have an adverse impact on organisations or individuals.

Ransomware – a kind of malware that locks victims out of their data or systems and only allows access once money is paid.

Phishing – emails purporting to come from a public agency to extract sensitive information from members of the public.

Hacktivism

Hacktivists will generally take over public websites or social media accounts to raise the profile of a particular cause. When targeted against local government websites and networks, these attacks can cause reputational damage locally. If online services are regularly disrupted by cyber-attacks this could lead to the erosion of public confidence in using such services. Hacktivist groups have successfully used distributed denial of service (DDoS – when a system, service or network is overwhelmed by an electronic attack, and it becomes unavailable) attacks to disrupt the websites of a number of councils already.

Insiders

Staff may intentionally or unintentionally release sensitive information or data into the public domain. This may be for the purpose of sabotage or to sell to another party, but more often than not is due to simple human error or a lack of awareness about the particular risks involved.

THREATS



Zero-day threats

A zero-day exploit is a cyber-attack that occurs on the same day a weakness is discovered in software. At that point, it's exploited before a fix becomes available from its creator. It is an attack that exploits a previously unknown security vulnerability. This poses a risk to any computer or system that has not had the relevant patch applied or updated its antivirus software.

Physical threats

The increasing reliance on digital services brings with it an increased vulnerability in the event of a fire, flood, power cut or other disaster natural or otherwise that impact upon council IT systems.

Terrorists

Some terrorist groups demonstrate intent to conduct cyber-attacks, but fortunately have limited technical capability. Terrorist groups could obtain improved capability in a number of ways, namely through the sharing of expertise in online forums providing a significant opportunity for terrorists to escalate their capability.

Espionage

Several of the most sophisticated and hostile foreign intelligence agencies target UK government and public sector networks to steal sensitive information. This could ultimately disadvantage the UK in diplomatic or trade negotiations, or militarily.

VULNERABILITIES



Vulnerabilities are weaknesses or other conditions in an organisation that a threat actor; such as a hacker, nation-state, disgruntled employee, or other attacker, can exploit to adversely affect data security. Cyber vulnerabilities typically include a subset of those weaknesses and focus on issues in the IT software, hardware, and systems an organisation uses.



System Maintenance. Mistakes are constantly discovered and fixed in all deployed systems. If systems are not quickly patched, then anyone who wishes to attack a system has a much better chance of success.



Legacy Software. Software that is in use but out of support, or unsupported, cannot be patched. Therefore, the likelihood of it being successfully compromised grows over time and cannot be addressed.



People. 'Social engineering' seeks to trick people into allowing access to systems or handing over their passwords. Training and support is the only solution to this challenge.

RISKS



Cyber Risk Management is a fundamental part of broader risk management to ensure cyber security challenges are fully identified across the council and appropriate action is carried out to mitigate the risk.

The management of cyber security is, in large part, the management of risk. DCC has robust processes in place to manage risk at various levels within the organisation.



OUR APPROACH, PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES



To mitigate the multiple threats we face and safeguard our interests in cyberspace, we need a strategic approach that underpins our collective and individual actions in the digital domain.

This will include:

- ✓ **A council wide risk management framework** to help build a risk aware culture within the council, ensuring staff understand how to identify and manage risks.
- ✓ **Cyber Awareness training** to help mitigate insider threats, understand supply chain risks and ensure all staff understand the issues and their responsibilities.
- ✓ **Applying the Cyber Essentials scheme controls** and conforming to appropriate frameworks to ensure that the council will be able to identify, mitigate and protect against information security risks in a prioritised and resourceful fashion.



IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY



Deter and Detect

The council will be a hard target for all forms of aggression in cyberspace. This will involve detecting, understanding, investigating and disrupting hostile action against us.

Actions:

- ✓ **Support enhanced governance** through the application of government's cyber security guidance, e.g. 10 Steps to Cyber Security or Cyber Essentials.
- ✓ **Support network security** through:
 - » The use of multi-factor authentication, where technically possible.
 - » Application of complex password protocols – Passwords which would on their own grant extensive system access, will have high complexity.
- ✓ **Raise defences** through malware prevention.
- ✓ **Review removable media/device controls.**
- ✓ **Maintain secure configuration.**
- ✓ **Deliver agreed plans and guidance.**
- ✓ **Training and educating users** to help detect, deter and defend against the Cyber threats.
- ✓ In line with the **Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015**, the council has a duty to ensure that those vulnerable to radicalisation have appropriate safeguards and support. Measures are in place to block access to online resources where recruitment, radicalisation and dissemination can take place. Daily reports are sent to a cross-service Moderation Group and summarised and reported to management teams regularly.

IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY



Defend and Develop

The council will continually develop our innovative cyber security strategy to address the risks faced by our residents, businesses, and community and voluntary sector. This includes developing a coordinated and tailored approach to risks and threats that we may encounter and mitigation of potential vulnerabilities.

Actions:

- ✓ **Develop and maintain risk management framework**, internal control and governance for the prevention and detection of irregularities and fraud.
- ✓ **Implement process, procedures and controls** to manage changes in cyber threat level and vulnerabilities.
- ✓ **Manage vulnerabilities** that may allow an attacker to gain access to critical systems.
- ✓ **Operate the council's penetration testing programme and cyber-incident response.**
- ✓ **Introduce training** for staff and elected members.
- ✓ **Develop an incident response and management plan**, with clearly defined actions, roles and responsibilities.
- ✓ **Develop a communication plan** in the event of an incident which includes notifying (for example) the relevant supervisory body, senior accountable individuals, the Departmental press office, the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), Government Security Group (Cabinet Office), the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) or law enforcement as applicable (not exhaustive).

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS



In continuing to provide assurance, DCC will:

-  Develop appropriate cyber security governance processes and a security framework with policies/procedures reviewed on a regular basis.
-  Create a cyber-specific Business Continuity Management Plan and review DCC's Incident Plan to include emergency planning for cyber attack.
-  Maintain, rehearse and regularly review an incident response and management plan, with clearly defined actions, roles and responsibilities. A copy of all incidents shall be recorded regardless of the need to report them.
-  Set up playbooks to support test exercises on a regular basis; to ensure effective reaction to incidents when they occur.
-  Create test plans with security testing as a standard.
-  Reconcile current systems in place and previous review points (build into Enterprise Architecture).
-  Review vendor management – process of assessments of third parties.
-  Explore Active Cyber Defence tools and new technologies to ensure DCC has best solutions to match with threats.
-  Apply the government's cyber security guidance – 10 Steps to Cyber Security.
-  Provide relevant cyber security training for staff and elected members.
-  Apply a regular schedule of cyber exercises, within the wider cycle of multi-agency incident response and recovery exercises.
-  Comply with the applicable standards (PSN, PCI-DSS, etc).
-  Protect enterprise technology by working with DCC's supply chain to develop model architecture and review audit logs to reduce chances of threats.

CYBER SECURITY GOVERNANCE

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



Effective cyber security governance in Durham is delivered through the following roles and functions:

Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO)

The Council's nominated Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO), is the Director of Resources. The SIRO is responsible for the governance of cyber security and information risk within the Council. This includes ensuring that information governance risk is managed in accordance with GDPR. However, whilst the SIRO is the nominated officer, responsibility for safeguarding information and information systems is shared across the organisation with all staff having a role to play.

The Cabinet

The Cabinet is made up of the Leader of the Council and other senior councillors (Cabinet members). Cabinet will agree and receive updates on implementation of the Cyber Security Strategy.

Corporate Management Team (CMT)

CMT sponsor the Cyber Security Strategy and oversee the strategic framework through which the council governs its information resources.

Safer Cyber Working Group

This stakeholder group is made up of DCC and partner organisations, including police, probation service, education, community/voluntary sector, CCG, fire and rescue, PCC, victim support and business. It aims to:

- Raise awareness of the general population about staying safe online
- Reduce risk to the most vulnerable groups
- Build resilience of local businesses to the threat of cyber crime

Cyber Security Steering Group (CSSG)

The Cyber Security Steering Group are responsible for overseeing the delivery of the Cyber Security Strategy and monitoring its effectiveness.

CYBER SECURITY GOVERNANCE

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



Digital Security Team

The Digital Security Team lead the cyber security programme. They monitor and report progress to the CSSG and to all employees across the council; support services through a network of Information Champions; develop and maintain a corporate inventory of all processing activity across the council; review these processing activities and seek legal assurance; and review contracts and ensure that GDPR changes are reflected.

Digital Programme Board

The Digital Programme Board oversees implementation of DCC's Digital Programme. They ensure that risks, issues and dependencies are proactively managed and make decisions in relation to any risks and issues that have been escalated in relation to the Digital Programme.

Digital Services

DCS oversees the delivery of the ICT Service for Durham County Council.

Information Asset Owners (IAO)

Information Asset Owners are responsible for all processing of personal data within their business area.

All DCC officers

It is the responsibility of all officers to comply with the standards set out in this Cyber Security Strategy.

APPENDIX 1

STANDARDS



Currently DCC must comply with the following standards:

- ✓ Bankers' Automated Clearing Services (BACS)
- ✓ Cyber Essentials (for a subset of traded services)
- ✓ Criminal Justice Secure Mail (CJSM)
- ✓ NHS Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT)
- ✓ Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS)
- ✓ Public Services Network (PSN)

In addition, DCC should follow all relevant National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) guidance and Center for Internet Security (CIS) benchmarks.



APPENDIX 2

NCSC: 10 STEPS TO CYBER SECURITY



- 1. Risk management** – Taking risks is a natural part of doing business. Risk management informs decisions so that the right balance of threats and opportunities can be achieved to best deliver business objectives. Risk management in the cyber security domain helps ensure that the technology, systems and information in an organisation are protected in the most appropriate way, and that resources are focused on the things that matter most to the business. A good risk management approach will be embedded throughout the organisation and complement the way that other business risks are managed.
- 2. Engagement and training** – People should be at the heart of any cyber security strategy. Good security takes into account the way people work in practice and doesn't get in the way of people getting their jobs done. People can also be one of the most effective resources in preventing incidents (or detecting when one has occurred), provided they are properly engaged and there is a positive cyber security culture which encourages them to speak up. Supporting staff to obtain the skills and knowledge required to work securely is often done through awareness raising or training. This not only helps protect your organisation, but also demonstrates that staff are valued, and that their importance to the business is recognised.
- 3. Asset management** – Asset management encompasses the way that the required knowledge of your assets can be established and maintained. Over time, systems generally grow organically, and it can be difficult to maintain an understanding of all the associated assets. Incidents can occur as the result of not fully understanding an environment, whether it is an unpatched service, an exposed cloud storage account or a mis-classified document. Ensuring that all of these assets are known about is a fundamental precursor to being able to understand and address the resulting risks. Understanding when systems will no longer be supported can help to better plan for upgrades and replacements and help to avoid operating vulnerable legacy systems.
- 4. Architecture and configuration** – The technology and cyber security landscape is constantly evolving. To address this, organisations need to ensure that good cyber security is baked into their systems and services from the outset, and that those systems and services can be maintained and updated to adapt effectively to emerging threats and risks.
- 5. Vulnerability management** – The majority of cyber security incidents are the result of attackers exploiting publicly disclosed vulnerabilities to gain access to systems and networks. Attackers will, often indiscriminately seek to exploit vulnerabilities as soon as they have been disclosed. Therefore, it is important (and essential for any systems that are exploitable from the Internet) to install security updates as soon as possible to protect the organisation. Some vulnerabilities may be harder to fix, and a good vulnerability management process will help to prioritise remedial actions.

APPENDIX 2

NCSC: 10 STEPS TO CYBER SECURITY



6. **Identity and access management** – Access to data, systems and services need to be protected. Understanding who or what needs access, and under what conditions, is just as important as knowing who needs to be kept out. Appropriate methods must be chosen to establish and prove the identity of users, devices, or systems, with enough confidence to make access control decisions. A good approach to identity and access management will make it difficult for attackers to pretend they are legitimate, whilst keeping it as simple as possible for legitimate users to access what they need.
7. **Data security** – Data needs to be protected from unauthorised access, modification, or deletion. This involves ensuring data is protected in transit, at rest, and at end of life (that is, effectively sanitising or destroying storage media after use). In many cases, data will be outside your direct control, so it important to consider the protections that can be applied, as well as the assurances that may be needed from third parties. With the rise in increasingly tailored ransomware attacks preventing organisations from accessing their systems and data stored on them, other relevant security measures should include maintaining up-to-date, isolated, offline backup copies of all important data.
8. **Logging and monitoring** – Collecting logs is essential to understand how systems are being used and is the foundation of security (or protective) monitoring. In the event of a concern or potential security incident, good logging practices will allow a retrospective view of what has happened and understand the impact of the incident. Security monitoring takes this further and involves the active analysis of logging information to look for signs of known attacks or unusual system behaviour, enabling organisations to detect events that could be deemed as a security incident, and respond accordingly in order to minimise the impact.
9. **Incident management** – Incidents can have a huge impact on an organisation in terms of cost, productivity and reputation. However, good incident management will reduce the impact when they do happen. Being able to detect and quickly respond to incidents will help to prevent further damage, reducing the financial and operational impact. Managing the incident whilst in the media spotlight will reduce the reputational impact. Finally, applying what has been learned in the aftermath of an incident will better prepare the organisation for any future incidents.
10. **Supply chain security** – Most organisations rely upon suppliers to deliver products, systems, and services. An attack on suppliers can be just as damaging as one that directly targets the organisation directly. Supply chains are often large and complex, and effectively securing the supply chain can be difficult due to inherent vulnerabilities, introduced or exploited at any point within the chain. The first step is to understand the supply chain, including commodity suppliers, such cloud service providers and those suppliers of bespoke contracts. Exercising influence where possible, and encouraging continuous improvement, will help to improve security across the supply chain.

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