

Cabinet

12 February 2020

**Climate Change Emergency Response
Plan**



Ordinary Decision

Report of Corporate Management Team

Geoff Paul, Interim Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services

Councillor Carl Marshall, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration

Councillor John Clare, Council Climate Change Champion

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To consider the findings of widespread consultation with residents, community groups, schools, businesses and Council staff on the emerging plans to reduce carbon in all Council activities and across the county as a whole.
- 2 To present for consideration a costed two year action plan, which incorporates the findings from the consultation, provides an additional £3 million funding over two years (second year is subject to the Government's financial settlement) to support a total programme of £13.2 million of schemes to reduce Council emissions, and a countywide programme in excess of £50 million inclusive of external grants (secured and bid).

Executive summary

- 3 The County Council has an excellent track record in delivering carbon reductions. From annual emissions of 105,769 tonnes CO₂ equivalent in 2008/9 it has reduced to 56,139 tonnes by 2018/19, a fall of 47%. This has been achieved through a programme that includes building retrofits, renewable energy schemes, lower energy streetlights, major tree planting programmes as well as benefits from decarbonisation of

the national grid. It also enjoys an excellent reputation nationally, for instance through its work in supporting energy efficiency improvements with business, piloting external wall insulation schemes, and sharing best practice with European partners.

- 4 More needs to be done however. On 20 February 2019 the County Council declared a Climate Change Emergency and set ambitious targets to reduce its own carbon emissions by 60% by 2030 (from a 2008/9 baseline) and to investigate what further actions are necessary to make County Durham carbon neutral by 2050 (from a 1990 baseline).
- 5 The Climate Change Emergency declaration required a report to be delivered within six months, to set out how these targets might be delivered. This report was presented to Council on 17 July 2019 and described a wide range of work areas from renewable energy, to more efficient buildings, fleet and transportation as well as carbon offset initiatives such as tree planting. Whilst it was agreed that much of the existing work should of course continue, such as a new solar farm at Tanfield Lea and electric vehicle charging infrastructure schemes, it was also resolved that the outline future plans should be subject to widespread consultation, as delivery of many of these schemes requires a collective approach.
- 6 Consultation was undertaken between 19 September and 31 October 2019. It involved public and staff surveys, and meetings/presentations with Area Action Partnerships, Town and Parish Councils and special interest groups such as Extinction Rebellion. Over a thousand responses were received ranging from a simple questionnaire return to more comprehensive responses. Young people were also engaged with workshops held in 31 primary schools and 7 secondary schools.
- 7 The large volume of responses received indicates a strong interest in the issue of climate change, and the details reveal support for the Councils overall approach. Priorities identified for the Council include reducing the need for travel, more renewable energy, existing buildings to be energy efficient, and new buildings to be as low carbon as possible. Priorities countywide include tree planting, reducing waste, more renewable energy, walking and cycling. It is clear from the responses that there is considerable appetite for partnership working, especially with utility companies. Several responses requested the Council considers even more ambitious targets.
- 8 Arising from the consultation responses a two year costed action plan has been developed, attached in full in **Appendix 2**. This includes a £3 million additional support for new projects (in addition to existing commitments, European funded and invest to save projects). The second year of this (2021/2) is contingent on a financial settlement from

Government equivalent or more than that in 2020/21). It describes over 100 individual projects, many of them carbon costed so that their contribution to the targets can be identified. It will be regularly reviewed and updated as new initiatives and opportunities emerge.

- 9 For the Council a range of specific projects are identified. These include:
- LED lighting replacements for an additional 17,000 streetlights, Gala theatre and a number of Council owned buildings, including schools;
 - a commitment to further reduce the carbon footprint of the new headquarters by building on the energy efficiency measures already in place, and, subject to planning approval, installation of solar panels. Furthermore the feasibility of offsetting the remaining carbon footprint will be explored which would include an independently audited process;
 - a move to greater numbers of electric vehicles including the Council's 26 pool cars. The first two electric vehicles for our service fleet were introduced to operations in January 2020.
- 10 Consultation feedback revealed a strong interest in improving the natural environment, reduced waste and increased use of renewables. Measures included in this report include:
- a substantial programme of tree planting supported by successful schemes such as the £820,000 Woodland Revival and £1 million Urban Tree Challenge Fund, as well as new schemes such as a commitment to plant 10,000 trees in each Area Action Partnership area. In total this would be an estimated 358,000 trees, on top of the estimated 953,142 from 2000 to date;
 - continued support for business, through the Business Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP), and development of proposals for District heating networks in Durham City;
 - a £500,000 Community Investment Fund to financially assist community groups to reduce their carbon impact through energy efficiency, and renewables. Where possible, this budget will be "evergreen" loan, with financial savings being reutilised to invest in more schemes.
- 11 The Council (measured in 2018/19) has already reduced its carbon footprint by 47% from 2008/9 levels. Whilst 2019/20 performance is unknown at present, they are anticipated to reduce still further, and the measures contained in this report, supported by extra investment,

provide a further 6,638 carbon tonnes annual reduction or 5.5% overall. This has allowed progress to be “ahead of the curve” and therefore an even more ambitious target of 80% reduction by 2030 is now proposed for consideration.

- 12 Whilst the countywide 2050 carbon neutral target does still look daunting to achieve, especially against latest performance of 52% (announced in August 2019 covering 2017 and from a 1990 baseline), it is felt that nevertheless, there has already been sufficient progress, including nationally with the continued decarbonisation of the national grid for the first staged target outlined to Council on 17 July 2019 to be raised from 55% to 60% by 2020. The achievement of this target will not be known until August 2022.
- 13 The appointment of an elected Member Climate Change Champion and the recent establishment of a new Service Grouping and recruitment of a Corporate Director for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change does provide an opportunity for strong corporate leadership to ensure all Council services can fulfil their potential in working towards Members’ commitments to substantial carbon reductions.
- 14 Alongside the specific projects, the plans propose a cultural change of increased “carbon consciousness”. The benefits for the Council and countywide cannot be easily quantified, however, they should not be underestimated. Examples include:
 - consultation with staff and trade unions regarding written responsibility in all Council job descriptions to have regard to climate change in their work roles. In practice this is not intended as a disciplinary measure, but one that recognises that small changes, magnified by many people can make a big difference. Actions may range from limiting vehicle idling to switching off lights. As far as we are aware Durham will be the first Council nationally to enshrine this in duties of all staff;
 - an e-learning programme for staff and residents to learn more about climate change, its relevance to County Durham and what we can do to help meet targets.
- 15 Clearly the work cannot be done by the Council alone. Building from the County Durham Vision, which provides strong links to climate change work, the report suggests that local governance, including the broadening of the existing Environment Partnership to fully embrace climate change, be considered as part of the on-going review of the organisational structure of the County Durham Partnership. Area Action Partnerships have a significant role in coordinating delivery at a local level.

- 16 The Government also has a key role, and the report has a section dedicated to this. Key asks of Government include:
- heed and implement the Committee on Climate Change advice on achieving net zero;
 - set out clear long term strategies for renewable energy, building efficiency and EV charging infrastructure.
- 17 It is evident from the consultation that climate change impacts on a wide range of services, and there is not one solution to tackling it. Presented for Members' consideration are ambitious plans covering a wide range of issues from renewable technology to waste, housing, transport and tree planting. These will allow a substantial programme of works, the impact of which would require regular review, as they have been done in the past, by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendation(s)

- 18 Cabinet is recommended to:
- (a) note the considerable consultation feedback from residents, staff, community groups, schools and businesses regarding the emerging climate change plans outlined to Council in July 2019;
 - (b) approve the Climate Change Emergency Action Plan (2020-2022) set out in this report which builds on the feedback and details in excess of 100 projects, funded from a variety of sources including £3 million additional funding;
 - (c) in the light of recent projects, future investment and updated forecasts, raise the Council target for carbon reductions from 60% to 80% by 2030 (from a 2008/9 baseline) and the countywide target from 55% to 60% by 2020 (reported in 2022);
 - (d) request the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review performance against plan, where appropriate making recommendations for revision of future targets.

Background

- 19 The County Council has an excellent track record in delivering carbon reductions. From annual emissions of 105,769 tonnes CO₂ equivalent in 2008/9, it has reduced to 56,139 tonnes by 2018/19, a fall of 46.9%. This has involved fitting 59,881 streetlights with energy efficient LED lighting, adding solar panel arrays to 38 buildings, made 16 of its larger buildings more energy efficient, and introduced Eco Smart Schools programme and the planting of an estimated 953,142 trees since 2000. It also enjoys an excellent reputation nationally for instance through its work in the Council led Business Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP) which has provided advice to 241 small businesses (2016-19), piloting external wall insulation schemes, and sharing best practice with European partners.
- 20 More however needs to be done. On 20 February 2019 the County Council declared a Climate Change Emergency and set ambitious targets to reduce its own carbon emissions by 60% by 2030 (from a 2008/9 baseline) and to investigate what further actions are necessary to make County Durham carbon neutral by 2050 (from a 1990 baseline).
- 21 The Council resolution required a report to be delivered within 6 months, to set out how these targets might be delivered. This detailed report was presented to Council on 17 July 2019 and described a wide range of work areas from renewable energy, to more efficient buildings, fleet and transportation as well as housing and carbon offset initiatives such as tree planting.
- 22 The Council contributes approximately 3% of all carbon emissions countywide, and whilst it has a role as a major organisation to reduce them, it also has a role as a community leader, place-shaper and influencer to support the wider carbon reductions across the county. For this reason Members approved widespread consultation on the emerging plans to involve residents, businesses, interest groups, parish councils, housing, energy providers as well as (for the Council target) staff. The consultation was undertaken between 12 September and 31 October, and either took the form of a simple questionnaire to assess priorities, or allowed detailed feedback, with the 17 July Council report providing over 32 specific questions to provide prompts. Young people were recognised as a key group, with a number of engagement sessions with schools.
- 23 There were 1,025 responses to the survey comprising 502 from staff and a parallel survey involving 523 public responses (90% individuals, 5% organisations 3.1% businesses and 1.9% community groups). 10 detailed responses were provided, 40 e-mails sent through responding

to the consultation and 10 detailed responses provided by a range of organisations.

- 24 27 primary schools were engaged with sessions involving 394 pupils. Opportunity was taken on Global Climate Strike Day to run two sessions with pupils from 4 primary schools and 7 secondary schools. The Children and Families Partnership hosted a workshop at Parkside Academy involving 27 pupils across year groups.

Council Activity: Consultation Findings and Action Plan

- 25 A full summary of the findings is attached in **Appendix 2**. For the Council activity there was remarkable similarity between what residents/public prioritise for the Council (both were asked to choose 3 out of 10 options) and what staff would prioritise. Indeed the top four priorities were identical for both.

Top four priorities for Council activities in tackling climate change	Public Percent	Staff Percent
Electricity: Maximise the generation and storage of renewable electricity on council land and buildings	52.7%	50.0%
Heat: Aim for new council buildings to be very low or zero carbon	38.8%	41.6%
Transport: Reduce the need for our staff to travel	38.6%	58.8%
Heat: Upgrade the energy efficiency of our buildings	38.0%	38.8%

- 26 The action plan attached in **Appendix 2** has responded against each of these themes with 38 action points. Work includes the following:

- renewable energy – work is nearing completion on the Tanfield Lea solar farm saving over 60 tonnes of carbon a year and supplying the electricity to the Council’s data centre equivalent to 52 homes. Work is also advanced in assessing the potential for minewater heat to be used at the Louisa Centre in this £3.5 million project that has passed the first round in seeking European Funding to support;
- new Council buildings – the Headquarters and History Centre are being built to high energy efficiency. Whilst overall the Council’s building stock has an average rating of D, these new facilities will be A rated for energy efficiency “nearly zero energy” and for the Headquarters, further solar panels are being actively considered (subject to planning approval) as well as pre-installed electric trunking systems to allow future ready expansion of the electric vehicle charging points beyond the 12 points already planned. It is proposed that for the Headquarters an offsetting scheme (such

as tree planting) is explored, independently audited with work towards an ambition of being zero carbon. Consideration to low carbon will be considered on all future building projects such as new/replacement leisure centres;

- transport – staff will be encouraged to reduce travel where possible using alternative technology (such as video conferencing) where appropriate. Furthermore the proposals include a significant electrification of fleet, commencing with 26 pool cars, to minimise carbon impact where travel is essential. All new vehicles are considered for electric/low emission, and arising from this, two new vehicles are now in service, replacing petrol equivalents;
- heat – the proposals contained in this report include work to remove oil boilers where they exist in Council buildings, substituting with low (or zero) carbon alternatives, including “hydrogen ready” options where appropriate. Furthermore Building Energy Management Systems (BEMS) will be installed to provide better heating controls.

27 In addition to the above there are plans to reduce Council energy consumption through a programme of LED lighting installation to schools (through 0% interest loan), 17,000 streetlights, and to facilities such as the Gala Theatre. Plans are also progressing for a £4 million proposal involving European funding that will allow buildings and vehicles at Morrison Busty Depot to become zero carbon, fed by renewables on site.

Countywide Activity: Consultation Findings and Action Plan

28 The County Durham Vision provides commitment to tackling climate change through a number of its overarching objectives. Building from this the public survey allowed priorities to emerge as follows:

Please choose three of the following objectives which you feel should be prioritised across County Durham as a whole.

	Frequency	Percent
Improve our natural environment, through things such as woodland planting, peatland restoration or wildflowers	250	52%
Reduce waste and increase re-use, recycling and composting	243	50%
Increase the use of County Durham's natural, renewable energy resources	212	44%
Make walking, cycling and use of public transport part of the everyday travel culture	211	44%
Improve the energy efficiency of buildings	189	39%
Increase awareness of what can all do to tackle climate change	124	26%
Ensure County Durham is ready for the switch to electric vehicles	108	22%
Find ways to lower the impact of the food we produce and eat	80	17%
Other	29	6%
Total	1446	300%

29 It is clear that the natural environment is a priority, as work such as tree planting can be beneficial not only to wildlife and landscape, but can also capture carbon. The plans reflect this theme in the following ways:

- support for newly announced programmes such as Woodland Revival (involving 60 hectares of new planting approximately 150,000 trees), and the £1 million Urban Tree Challenge Fund with over 18,000 street trees;
- a substantial programme of community involvement, with 10,000 trees for each Area Action Partnership and a tree being planted for (and preferably by) each of the 69,000 school aged children in the county;
- schemes on different habitat types such as a £50,000 boost to existing measures for peatland restoration in the County, and similar support for the heritage coast in innovative kelp bed development, with carbon sequestration abilities three times that of tree planting.

30 Regarding waste, the Council already has the highest recycling levels in the North East at 42%. If the Government's Waste and Resources Strategy is implemented, it will provide funding to allow countywide food waste collection as well as free garden waste collection. In the meantime, plans will be developed to explore food waste collection for Council offices, and through the trade waste service where demand exists. The Council is also in the process of in-housing its composting services, which will provide substantial capacity for the future.

31 The Council already has a strategic Cycling and Walking Delivery Plan 2019-2029 which matches well with consultation findings and support

for work in this area. Schemes include infrastructure improvements where £70,000 for the first three towns have been confirmed, and schemes are being developed for the remaining 9 key settlements.

- 32 Key proposed measures to support the priority of improved energy efficiency of buildings countywide would be inclusion of carbon criteria/considerations for planning applications and a £500,000 Community Investment Fund either in the form of a grant or a loan to support communities lowering their fuel costs through insulation and heating improvements. Subject to development of the scheme, where there is a financial benefit through annual savings, it would be proposed that this is returned to the fund. In addition, it is proposed to investigate the establishment of a carbon offset fund, whereby business or developers would pay to use Council land for tree planting or other ecosystem benefits in exchange for the carbon credits they receive.
- 33 The Action Plan identifies a number of opportunities for business in the low carbon economy in Durham, building further on the lead already taken in the fields of electric vehicle charging, heat pump installation, off shore energy manufacturing and energy from food waste. To support this, the Business Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP), has secured a further 3 years of ERDF funding, having already provided advice to 241 small businesses and saved 1,500 tonnes of CO₂e. Research is also being undertaken, funded by Government grant, into whether the Business Rates system inadvertently provides a disincentive for installation of renewable energy generation, and what could be done to change this.

Embedding Carbon Consciousness

- 34 Whilst many of the projects have specific carbon outputs, the survey also revealed people’s willingness and appetite to embrace change in their daily life – either as a Council staff member or as a resident.
- 35 For example, the top 5 things that staff highlighted (extracted from a longer list) are as follows:

What do you feel can be done within your own team to help with the climate emergency?

	Frequency
Internal: Travel: Smarter/flexible working	151
Internal: Resource use: Electricity	104
Internal: Resource use: Paper	75
Internal: Recycling	55
Internal: Travel: Sustainable modes	38
Internal: Travel: Location	29
Internal: Culture: Staff awareness and training (including upskilling)	28
Internal: Resource use: Heating	24
Internal: Resource use: Disposables	22

36 Subject to approval of this report, it is proposed to build further on this appetite for change, through a programme of actions that include the following:

- a written responsibility in all Council job descriptions to have regard to climate change in their work roles. This may range from limiting vehicle idling to switching off lights. As far as we are aware, Durham will be the first Council nationally to enshrine this in duties of all staff. It is not intended to be introduced as a disciplinary tool, but rather one that will encourage behaviour change, further bolstered by having climate change a standard item on all performance appraisals;
- an e-learning programme for staff and residents to learn more about climate change, its relevance to County Durham and what we can do to help meet targets;
- an increased flexibility in the “Invest to Save” criteria for Council schemes, moving away from a traditional 12 year payback period, to schemes that consider costs per pound carbon benefits, and can have payback over longer periods.

37 The consultation feedback from residents and external organisations highlighted a wider array of activities that we can all be involved with to reduce carbon emissions.

What do you feel you personally can do to help with the climate emergency?

	Frequencies	Percent
Avoid packaging and single use plastics	360	79%
Switching off unnecessary lights and equipment	348	76%
Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost as much as possible	327	72%
Use less energy for heating by turning down thermostats, wearing warmer clothes, insulating your home/buildings	325	71%
Repair items before buying new	290	63%
Buy local food and produce and consider the environmental impacts	290	63%
Drive less and walk, cycle, use public transport and car share more	287	63%
Eat less meat	232	51%
Fly less by using alternative modes of transport or holidaying closer to home	215	47%
Let others know what they can do to tackle climate change	190	42%
Consider generating heat/electricity from renewable energy sources	185	40%
Find ways to tackle climate change in your community	161	35%
Mow the lawn less often or create wild areas in your garden	156	34%
Other	44	10%
Total	3410	746%

- 38 The findings support much of the work already being undertaken by the Council and Partners, ranging from waste minimisation to roll out of broadband. Increased education and awareness was a common theme and experience from the Single Use Plastics Pledge highlights that sharing knowledge and experience across groups with a common interest can be very useful. It is therefore proposed to establish a Climate Emergency Network where people can sign up, as a minimum obtaining news and suggestions on how they can help, at its best a pool for exchanging ideas and expertise.

Targets

- 39 A number of respondents, including Extinction Rebellion representatives, suggested that targets should be more ambitious. The increased investment of £3 million over two years outlined in this report, when added to a wide range of existing funded schemes are projected to bring 6,638 tonnes annual carbon savings or 5.5% reduction for the Council activity. To put that in perspective, existing performance (2018/19) is 47%, and 2019/20 is expected to bring further reductions (unquantified), so in two years the performance against the 60% 2030 target may be mid 50 percent. Whilst there are some risks to achieving this (there are schemes requiring European Funding), these have recently passed their stage 1 (outline) assessment. It is therefore suggested that a raised target of 80% may be appropriate.
- 40 As a point of detail, whilst the reports illustrate a smooth curve for reductions for Council performance, there may be a temporary “blip” if both County Hall and the new headquarters are active and energy fed for a short time. This will of course be managed and minimised, ultimately the move to a new headquarters will bring substantial carbon benefits.
- 41 The road to net zero carbon by 2050 across the County will be more challenging as we move our economy, transport and homes away from fossil fuels. The report presented to Council on 17 July 2019 indicated there should be a staged target of 55% countywide by 2020, with the latest baseline (2017) showing 52% reduction since 1990. A range of local achievements (such as retrofitting of 59,881 streetlights) as well as decarbonisation of the national grid, has allowed us to be in a position to suggest that this target also be raised from 55% to 60% by 2020. The achievement of this target will not be known until August 2022.

Governance

- 42 At 17 July Council meeting it was proposed to establish an Environment and Climate Change Board to oversee the countywide targets and initiatives, including roll out of electric vehicle infrastructure, housing

adaptions, exploring new technology/innovation and carbon offset programmes. That aspect of the Council report has been put on hold pending the outcome of a review into the structure of the County Durham Partnership as a whole, which should be known in Spring 2020. If established, the new Environment and Climate Change Group, would recruit a membership that reflected all key elements of the Action Plan. This would cover the areas of business and industry, transport, housing, natural environment and community/voluntary sector. Vital to this will be incorporation of representation of young people, and the consultation well illustrates just how knowledgeable, eloquent and committed they are.

- 43 The move towards carbon reductions confers considerable benefits beyond environment. For example increased walking and cycling can bring benefits for health, there are considerable business opportunities in a greener economy, and the adaption measures (such as flood defences, and community support schemes) provides greater safety and protection of livelihoods.
- 44 The Council's Carbon Management Programme Board has already proved effective in delivery of a wide range of Council schemes. The only changes proposed there are that of an expansive membership to include more representation from transport/fleet and schools where considerable opportunities (and plans contained in this report) lie. The Board would be chaired by the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change, with input from the Portfolio Holder and Climate Change Champion as required.
- 45 It is proposed that the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in particular the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee will retain its strong involvement in the work to date. This Committee can monitor progress, making reports and recommendations to Cabinet, including the progress against targets.

Government

- 46 Whilst Climate Change has been an issue raised by all parties at the recent general election, there remains a need to implement many of the recommendations of the Committee on Climate Change, established by Government to provide expert advice on meeting its carbon reduction targets. These include setting out clear long term strategies for renewable energy, building efficiency and EV charging and public transport infrastructure, reinstating grant funding that supported a wide range of projects from home insulation to national grid feed in tariffs.

Conclusion

- 47 This report provides a costed comprehensive action plan for the next two financial years, founded on consultation responses to respond to the climate change emergency, and incorporating an additional £3 million investment over this period (2021/2 being subject to Government financial settlement). It sets out ambition not only through delivery through a large number of projects, but also seeks to take steps to influence and support behaviour change with staff and our community alike. It will be regularly reviewed, revised and updated.
- 48 The extra funding and project forecasts allows a raising of targets towards achieving reductions for the Council beyond the resolution targets made in February 2019, and allow us to make faster progress towards the ultimate aim of net carbon neutral by 2050.

Background papers

- Full Council 20 February 2019 Climate Change Emergency Declaration
- Full Council 17 July 2019 Climate Change Emergency Update Report

Other useful documents

- County Durham Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan (2015-20)
- Durham County Council Carbon Management Plan (2015-20)
- Committee on Climate Change Net Zero: The UKs contribution to stopping global warming
- Durham County Council Strategic Cycling and Walking Delivery Plan 2019-2029

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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 pre-industrial 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

A wide range of projects are described in this scheme. They fall broadly into a mix of overlapping categories:

- (a) invest to save projects where capital funding is available for schemes (such as LED lighting or more efficient boilers) and the cost is paid back over a period of time, not typically exceeding twelve years, however this report suggests that a more flexible approach (such as longer payback periods) should be considered;
- (b) partnership funded schemes, where external finance supports Council costs in delivery. Examples in this report includes European Regional Development Funding (supporting potential schemes at the Louisa Centre for minewater heat and zero carbon plans at Morrison Busty Depot) or Heritage Lottery Fund that supports the Woodland Revival Project;
- (c) core Council investment. The action plan in this report anticipates an additional £3 million support over two financial years (2020/21 and 2021/2).

The projects required in the first two years for the Council target are expected to cost £13.2 m. £4.7 million of this will come from Invest to Save budgets, £7.5 m from grants and investment match. £718,000 is coming from additional funding for delivering the Action Plan, and £80,000 comes from school budgets.

The projects for achieving Countywide targets are in excess of £50 million with a number being partner schemes. Some are already secured (such as Woodland Revival, Urban Tree Challenge Fund, Housing Insulation schemes, others are subject to external funding which is being sought ranging from

European Regional Development Fund to Regional Transport Infrastructure bids.

Consultation

Full details of the extensive consultation undertaken are included in this report.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None identified.

Climate Change

This is a key issue addressed throughout the report.

Human Rights

None identified.

Crime and Disorder

None identified.

Staffing

The report anticipates corporate level leadership from the recruitment of a Corporate Director for Neighbourhoods and Climate Change, agreed at the Council meeting of 4 December 2019.

It signals a change in terms and conditions of staff to include their responsibilities as an employee towards climate change. The report also contains proposals to merge climate change with the Council's Inspire programme that supports more flexible ways of working, as well as the Council's OPEN code of values.

Accommodation

Considerable progress has been made in introducing renewable energy (solar panels) across Council buildings and depots as well as making offices more energy efficient. The report covers the high energy efficiency rating of the new headquarters and an ambition to achieve a carbon neutral HQ.

Risk

Key risks to achieving the targets are identified in the Appendix 2 report and include Government support and policy, resources and the greater challenge posed for carbon reductions in rural areas such as County Durham.

Procurement

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

Appendix 2: Climate Change Emergency Response
Action Plan 2020/1 and 2021/22
