

8 October 2021

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



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

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide.

Purpose of the Report

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

Executive summary

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

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

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

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

Recommendation(s)

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

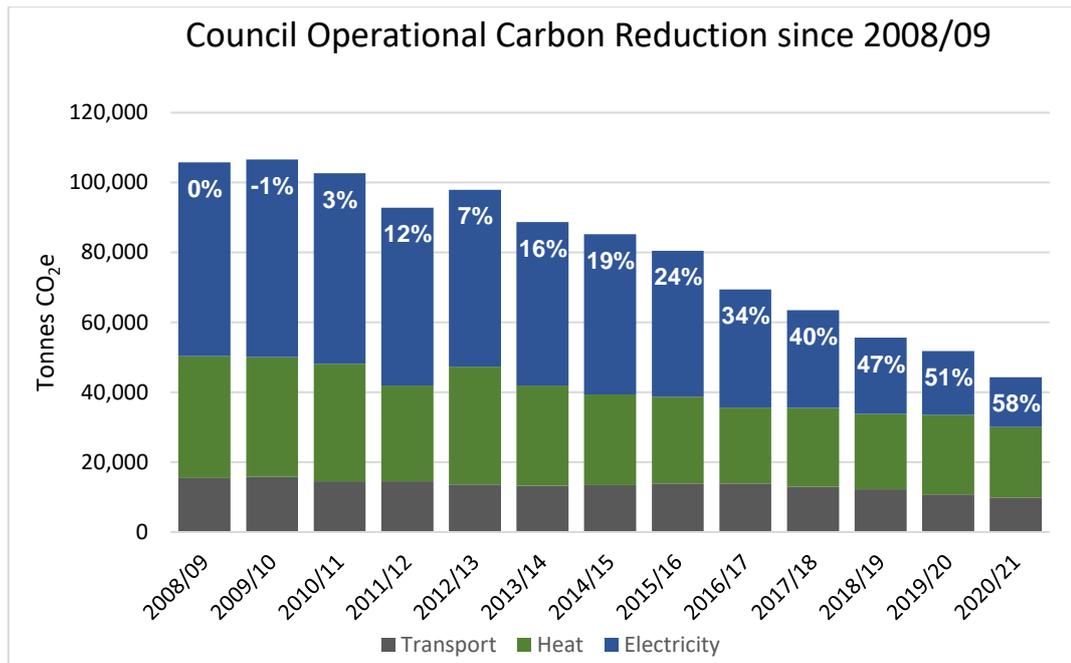
Background

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

Council Progress and Carbon Emissions

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

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



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

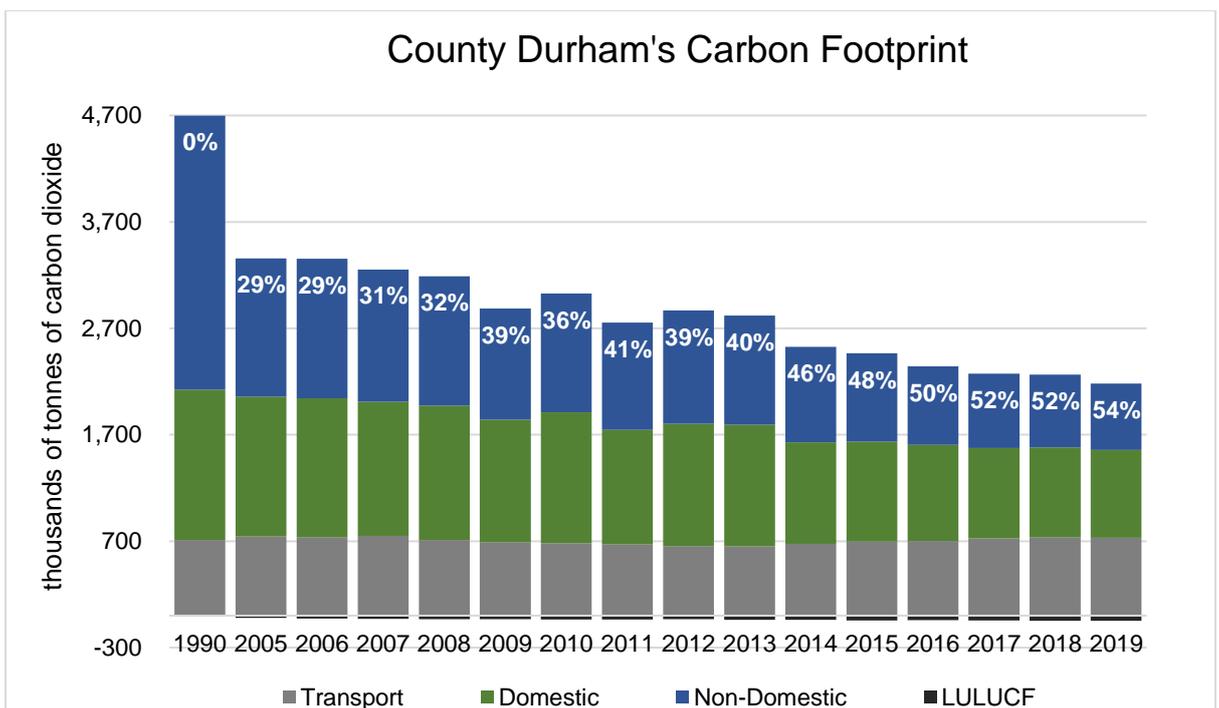
Actions with Delays	5
On Track	18
Complete	4
On Hold	1

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

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

Countywide Progress and Emissions

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Key Post-Covid Influences and New Iterations of the Plan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Conclusion

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

Background papers

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

Other useful documents

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

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

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

Finance

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

Consultation

Consultation on the CERP was undertaken in 2019.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None identified.

Climate Change

This is a key issue addressed throughout the report.

Human Rights

None identified.

Crime and Disorder

None identified.

Staffing

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

Accommodation

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

Risk

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

Procurement

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

Appendix 2: Council Actions Progress Table

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

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

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

Appendix 3: Countywide Progress Table

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

B1. Reduce the need to travel through IT including increased roll out of high-speed broadband connectivity, especially in rural areas	£8.54M	Yes	tbc	Contract 2 SEP of the Superfast programme has overachieved on the contractual targets, resulting in c.24k properties in the region obtaining access to Superfast broadband (speeds of at least 30 Megabits per second). Deployment has now been fulfilled and the contract will now work towards closure.
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ELECTRIC VEHICLES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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