

Cabinet

11 October 2023

Climate Emergency Response Plan 2 – 2022/23 Update



Ordinary Decision

Report of Corporate Management Team

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

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

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide.

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on progress of the Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP2).
2. To consider opportunities for future iterations of this plan, including an extension of span to three years taking the Council and countywide carbon reduction actions to 2027.

Executive summary

3. The council's first CERP (2019-21) was developed through extensive consultation with Council staff, community groups, residents, schools, and other organisations. This was followed by a revised and updated Climate Emergency Response Plan 2 which was adopted by Cabinet in July 2022 and contained a costed, two-year plan detailing over 150 projects that the council and its partners needed to take towards achieving targets of being a net zero council by 2030 (achieving an 80% actual reduction in operational emissions towards this) and a net zero county by 2045.
4. Progress on the CERP actions across all services and partners has been significant. Whilst there is still more to do, we are heading in the right direction and all services are committed to helping to meet and go beyond targets.

Council Emissions

5. The council's carbon emissions during 2022/23 were approximately 43,475 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e), a reduction of 5% compared with last year's 45,704CO₂e. This represents a drop of 59% since 2009/10.
6. Comparing with the previous year, there was a 10% reduction in electricity from buildings, an 4% reduction in gas for heating and an 6% decrease in fleet and transportation emissions. This equates to a reduction of nearly 2,500t of CO₂e across the council estate and fleet.
7. Several building decarbonisation projects have been underway during the plan period, with some now complete, and where not, significant progress has nevertheless still been made. Major schemes include:
 - (a) Abbey Leisure Centre Heat Decarbonisation – **Complete**
 - (b) Comeleon House Heat Decarbonisation - **Complete**
 - (c) Low Carbon Depot (Annfield Plain) – **Complete**
 - (d) Peterlee LC Decarbonisation – Due to complete Nov 23
 - (e) Teesdale LC Decarbonisation – Due to complete Feb 24
 - (f) Newton Aycliffe LC Decarbonisation – Due to complete Oct 23
8. It is noteworthy that the majority of the emission reductions from heat projects are not yet fully reflected in the full year data as they have not had a full heating season of operation. In 2023/24 emissions could be reduced upwards of 1500t CO₂e just from these 5 projects alone (potentially reducing emissions by 3.6% alone). A list of ongoing and in-design projects from the CERP2 is contained in Appendix 2.

Countywide Emissions

9. Latest data (from 2021) confirms a 52% reduction in emissions from the 1990 baseline, however this equates to 3% more carbon (CO₂e) than 2020 levels due in most part to recovery from the Covid-19 lockdown, with associated increased transport, domestic and commercial/industrial emissions. It is however significant to note that emissions are still down from pre-covid levels (2019).
10. In relation to projects that have a Countywide benefit, most schemes have continued to develop. These include:
 - (a) Electric Vehicle Charging Points - £4.325m secured to develop further EV Charging points around the county.
 - (b) Business Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP) – New funding secured through Shared Prosperity Funding (led by Business Durham) will enable BEEP to continue to allocate grant funding for SME's.

- (c) Housing retrofit schemes – 1213 social housing properties benefited from low carbon installations.
 - (d) Seaham Garden Village – On Track to deliver minewater heating.
 - (e) Borrow a Bike scheme launched and in operation.
11. During the last year the council has continued to receive further accolades for its work in combatting climate change, including being a finalist in the Climate Change Initiative of the Year from the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) for the Low Carbon Depot project and a Green award in the Investors in the Environment review. The service has also been restructured, with a Tier 4 Net Zero Manager now in post, who will lead in shaping the Low Carbon Economy team to ensure it is well structured and positioned for the challenges ahead.
12. Whilst projects are continuing, the Low Carbon Economy team are also now drafting the next iteration of the CERP which will go to Cabinet for approval in the Spring of 2024. It is proposed that this will evolve to a three-year reporting cycle, taking us to 2027 so that greater focus can be given to plan delivery. It is proposed to expand the assessments to cover scope 3 emissions (indirect emissions, eg travel to work, external contracts), as well as how carbon offsetting may be achieved. A reduced set of key projects will be provided, and emerging opportunities from the devolution agenda identified. The challenges ahead are significant, seven years away from 2030 and for council emissions alone, a further reduction of 21% carbon emissions to achieve an 80% reduction will be required.

Recommendation(s)

13. Cabinet is recommended to:
- (a) Note the significant progress made against delivering during year one of the Climate Change Emergency Response Plan 2
 - (b) Agree the proposed adjustments to CERP3 currently in preparation.
 - (c) To note that whilst significant progress has been made, opportunities and challenges lay ahead, and guided by future CERPs, this will require resource consideration as part of the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

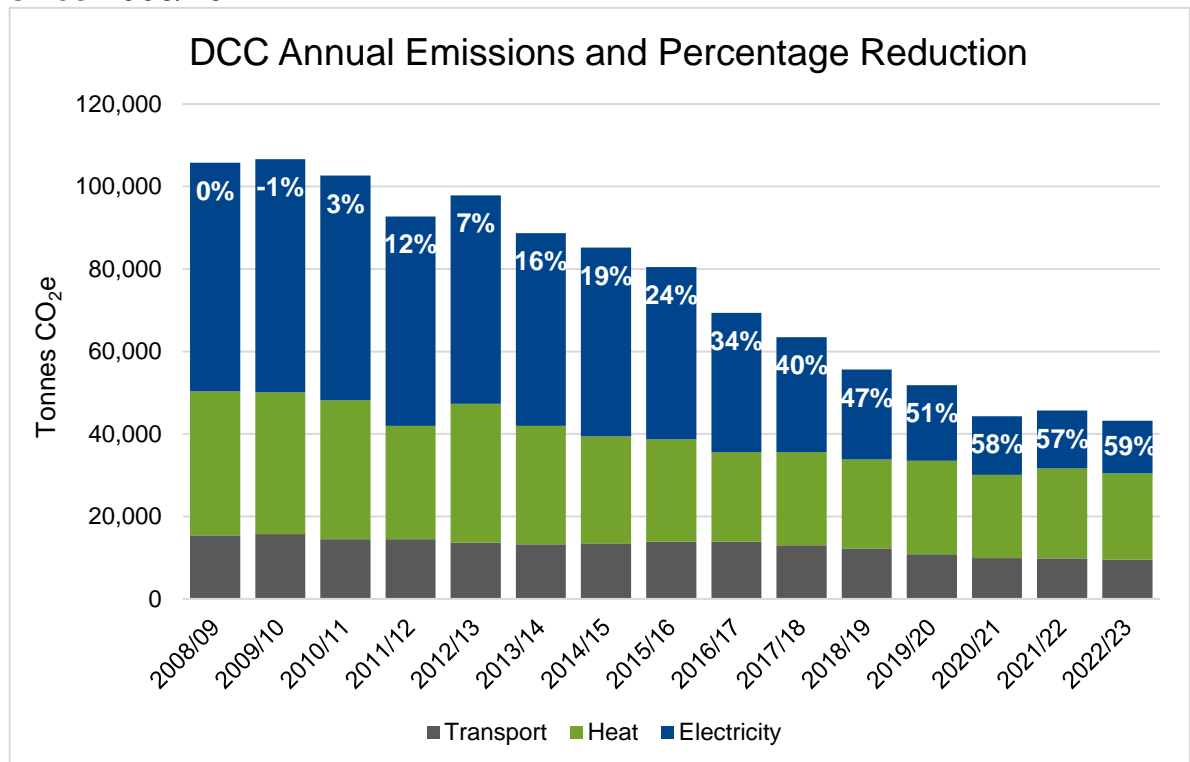
Background

- 13 In the four years since the Council declared a climate emergency, there has been a very worrying increase in extreme wildfires, floods, droughts, and storms, which have devastated many areas and habitats across the world, as climate change starts to threaten aspects of human existence.
- 14 Scientists agree that that society only has a few years left in which to act and so there is an urgency to this work that underpins everything we do. Work must take place collaboratively across all sectors of our community employing all necessary technologies to achieve a carbon neutral future as swiftly as possible.
- 15 Accomplishing this requires a clear vision, underpinned by strong principles, taking a structured approach to the net zero journey with evidence based targets and a detailed route map. The Council and all our partners and communities must work alongside each other if we are to meet the challenges that are posed by climate change.
- 16 Government released their Net Zero Strategy in 2021 which outlines the steps that will be taken to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. It covers issues such as how homes will be heated, support for electric vehicles, nature restoration plans and plans to decarbonise industry.
- 17 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 an 80% reduction, however a reduction of this scale is extremely challenging. In 2022 the target was expanded so that DCC would now be a net zero council by 2030, retaining an 80% actual reduction in emissions.
- 18 The County Durham Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP2) is a two-year (2022-24) action plan adopted by Cabinet in July 2022 and followed on from the original action plan 2020-2022.
- 19 CERP2 has over 150 specific actions over the two years. The remainder of this report summarises not only the progress made against these actions. 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 2022/23 are approximately 43,475 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e), a reduction of 5%

compared with last year's 45,704CO₂e. This represents a drop of 59% since 2009/10.



- 21 Comparing with the previous year, we see a 10% reduction in electricity from buildings a 4% reduction in heating emissions and a 6% decrease in fleet and transportation emissions.
- 22 There some minor areas which have seen an increase in emissions, one of which includes, staff business travel, which has increased by 29% as we return from Covid restrictions, but it is still a low proportion of the overall footprint (2%) and levels are still less than half of the 2018/19 levels.
- 23 In 2022/23 we emitted in the region of 2,500 tonnes less than in the previous year. Although this is good news, it is likely that the programme will need to accelerate if we are to meet out 2030 target of a maximum of 21,158 tonnes. This means that we must aim to accelerate to about 3200t per year, in order to meet this target. Saving opportunities will need to prioritise emissions from transport and heating. It is expected that emissions should see a reduction over the next two years as completed heat pump projects are taken into account and some of our biggest buildings (County Hall) are decommissioned.
- 24 Our current top 21 sites in terms of emissions are listed below. As can be seen, work has either started or is planned in the majority of these sites:

Rank	Site	Improvements
1	County Hall	To be decommissioned
2	Louisa Centre	New gas boiler in 2021 (preventing decarbonisation funding bids) and 75kW of solar in 2022. BMS upgrade in 2023. More solar planned for 2024 through Solar Car Ports
3	Netpark - includes Plexus, Discovery & Explorer	Collection of buildings with various on site improvements including solar. Most consumption is by process operations by business tenants rather than DCC
4	Chester le Street Leisure Centre	Potential Low Carbon funding bid to assist with capital costs
5	Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre	Current decarbonisation project. Heat pumps and solar. Completion 2023
6	Woodhouse Close Leisure Centre	To be rebuilt
7	Freeman's Quay Leisure Centre	Recent solar PV on roof. May be eligible for PSDS bid in future due to age of boiler. BMS upgrade commissioned
8	Spennymoor Leisure Centre	Multiple installations of solar.
9	Peterlee Leisure Centre	Current decarbonisation project. Heat pumps and solar. Completion 2023
10	Service Direct - Meadowfield	Existing solar. Currently being upgraded with heat pumps
11	Consett leisure centre	Fairly new building, shared with Academy. New LED lighting planned. Solar Car Ports also planned
12	Comeleon House	Solar farm adjacent. Recent heat pump installation. Planning for solar farm extension
13	Morrison Busty Depot	Total depot transformation into low carbon depot
14	Teesdale Leisure Centre	Current decarbonisation project. Heat pumps and solar. Completion 2023
15	Mountsett Crematorium	Recent solar on roof
16	Gala Theatre and Offices	Significant lighting (LED) improvements done and solar installation ongoing
17	Durham Crematorium	Solar PV recently added.
18	Crook Civic Centre	Recent boiler added for summer hot water, some LEDs and solar PV
19	Chilton Depot	Solar PV installed, more planned
20	Green Lane Council Offices	Solar PV on roof with potential to expand
21	Hackworth Road Depot	Small scale wind project being delivered

- 25 The Low Carbon Team is developing a scenario pathway to assist us in meeting the corporate Net Zero target, which will be in place for CERP3, however the targeting of our biggest users will be critical if we are to successfully meet these.
- 26 As can be seen in the table above, we have commissioned work on some of our largest sites to decarbonise heating and assist in energy costs through solar PV and energy efficiency works and the learnings from this process will be invaluable as we progress and tackle our remaining portfolio.

- 27 This challenge is still significant. There are over 700 gas and oil boilers in the non-educational estate alone, many of which will need replacing with a low carbon alternative in the next seven years if we are to reach our 2030 target. This will require all Services and managers to proactively work to identify and target opportunities as they arise.
- 28 Whilst we will be targeting funding such as the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS), this is incredibly competitive (funds for round 3c were allocated within nine minutes of the funding portal opening in 2022), therefore we need significant financial assistance in order to meet this challenge, as per recent MTFP proposal.
- 29 The decrease in transport related emissions associated from fleet services will be related to the vehicle replacement programme, alongside depot infrastructure changes. It is hoped that following increased investment in EV vehicles emissions will reduce. In addition to eight pool cars, we currently have 29 EV's in the fleet. There are another 19 due for delivery this year and a further 17 in the pipeline following that.
- 30 Whilst County Hall was our largest carbon emitter in 2022/23, work is ongoing to close down floors 4 and 5 in County Hall which is likely to substantially reduce energy costs and emissions through 23/24. Plans are in place to close County Hall, which will significantly reduce emissions and costs for the authority.
- 31 We will be occupying new buildings with low carbon features, in the near future including the DLI, The Story, Plot C, and the Rivergreen centre, which at the time was one of the most innovative low carbon buildings in the UK. The decrease in emissions associated with the decanting from County Hall will likely still outweigh the increase in emissions from the four buildings mentioned.
- 32 The decarbonisation of our corporate estate has many opportunities. Appendix 2 contains a summarised list of Council progress against actions, but progress can be summarised:

Actions with Delays	6
On Track	19
Complete	4
On Hold	2
In Design	10

- 33 The delayed projects include the school LED lighting project, which has had issues with a new lighting framework implementing design costs; Building Rationalisation, which could significantly reduce emissions across the corporate estate; and some of the recent Leisure centre Decarbonisation projects which have been delayed (but are ongoing), due to the 'pause' of capital schemes in Autumn 2023.
- 34 Two projects are not progressing at this time due to unviability which include the Durham City Heat Network and the Jade Business Park Wind Turbine, which is now on hold due to the development of the new National Grid converter station adjacent to the proposed site of the turbine.
- 35 There has however been significant progress on a range of other projects including Street Lighting. Street lights now use about a third of the electricity they did a decade ago, which will have saved the authority approximately £7 million in 2022/23
- 36 The past two years has seen the installation of approximately £400,000 of solar PV arrays on 9 key DCC buildings in the third phase of the SPA project. Sites include Freemans' Quay, Aycliffe Secure Unit, Mounsett crematorium and Horden Family Centre.
- 37 We have implemented new Building Energy Management Systems into St Johns, Seaham, and the Louisa Centre, to help effectively manage energy systems at these sites, which is likely to give significant savings.
- 38 Whilst heat decarbonisation projects are running behind the original timescale, they are still being delivered at:

- (a) Abbey LC – Complete
- (b) Comeleon House – Complete
- (c) Low Carbon Depot - Complete
- (d) Teesdale LC
- (e) Peterlee LC
- (f) Newton Aycliffe LC
- (g) Meadowfield depot



Heat Pumps at Abbey LC

- 39 Furthermore, there are significant plans for further decarbonisation projects across the Council estate, which will include external funding

applications. Sites currently under consideration (subject to further approval) include:

- (a) Bishop Auckland TH (PSDS Resubmission)
- (b) Spennymoor EDC (PSDS Resubmission)
- (c) Durham Pathways (PSDS)
- (d) Stanley CAP (PSDS)
- (e) Durham PACC building (PSDS)

40 Other buildings may be considered including Green Lane and Freemans Quay, given key criteria being age of boilers. This will be subject to a separate report through to Corporate Property Board and Net Zero Board

41 The recent £8.5m European Funded, Low Carbon Depot is now fully operational with its 3MW solar Farm and 2 MW battery storage, making it potentially our most significant investment in decarbonisation to date. Results from this and the other decarbonisation projects will start to come



through for the 2024/25 reporting cycle, however early results are looking extremely positive, with CO₂ and monetary savings expected. The project has received excellent recognition in the form of an ASPE nomination for the 'Best Climate Initiative' and was mentioned by the Climate Change Committee (CCC), in their 2022 'Climate Conversation' report.

42 We are at design stage for a number of significant projects, including the Solar Car Ports, which could equate to a £28m investment for 15 sites. This project is in detailed design phase and will be subject to a further report but would be predicated on an Invest to Save opportunity.

43 Staff across the Council continue to be flexible and opportunistic, ensuring that funding bids help to offset capital costs wherever possible and assist in making other projects more cost effective (e.g., Stanley CAP, CLS LC).

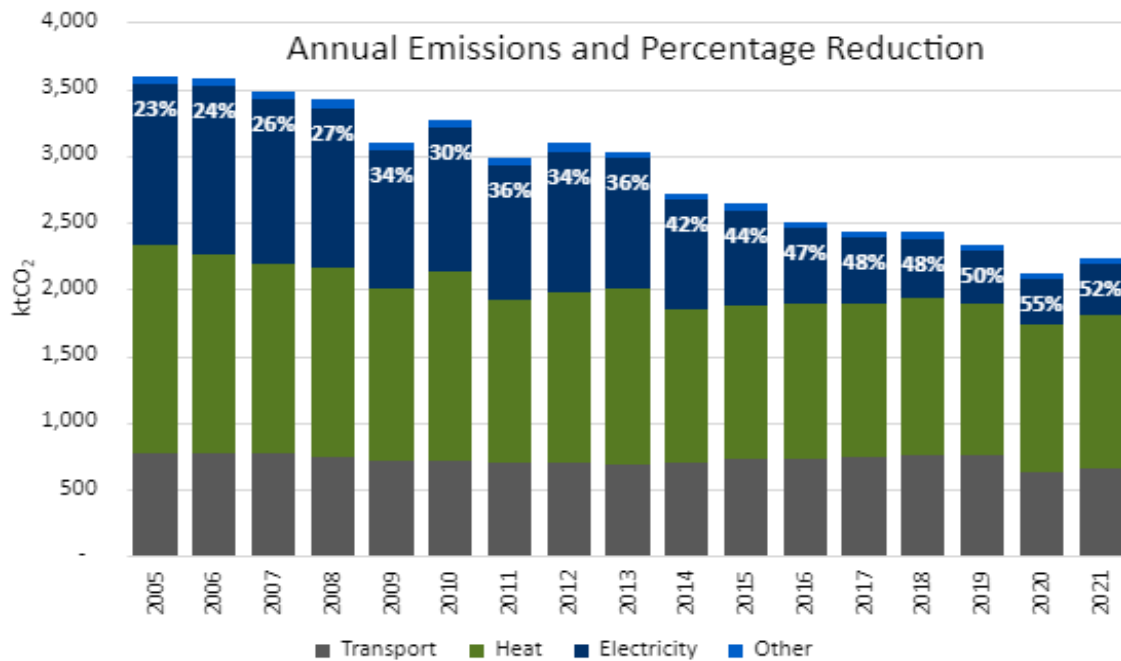
- 44 The council continues to evaluate and modify its approach to managing its estate to ensure benefits for carbon sequestration and nature. 42 hectares of amenity mown grassland has been converted to wildflower meadows since 2020 and implementation of the Woodland Improvement Grant is ensuring the appropriate management of the council's 1800-hectare woodland estate. The use of peat is being eliminated from council planting schemes and the council's garden waste PAS 100 compost will be used in trials next year to develop a peat free horticulture growing medium as part of the Enrich Earth project.



- 45 The council's E-Learning course on climate change has attained a high level of staff completions (72% overall staff completion rate. 93% of Leaders have completed the course. 97% of Managers have completed the course. 69% of Core staff have completed the course) and the Climate Champions staff network currently has 118 members.
- 46 Other actions to embed a climate emergency culture within the council are included within the Council's Environmental Management System which attained the top 'green' level accreditation with Investors in the Environment in Autumn 2022. These include actions such as ensuring that the council's major projects undergo Sustainability Assessment, and that links to tackling climate change are included in new Council strategies etc.

Countywide Progress and Emissions

- 47 The latest nationally released figures for County Durham's emissions, have a two-year delay, consequently the latest figures are for 2021. By the end of 2021 the county's emissions were 52% lower than in the baseline year of 1990, showing a continued downward trend.



- 48 The data shows that whilst there has been an increase between 2021 and 2020 (which is due to covid bounce back), there is still a reduction between 2019 and 2021, following the downward trend. Emissions from gas use have gone up across the board, which could have been due to the colder than average winter in 2021, however this will have to be further investigated. Transport emissions are still lower than in 2019, which could be down to increased hybrid working across the county and UK.
- 49 A workshop was held with Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (open to all O&S members) on 27th March 2023. There was a follow up report in July (item 10) which included a number of comments and suggestions for future work¹.
- 50 CERP2 identified over 150 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	85
Complete	15

¹ <https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=162&MId=15220&Ver=4>

Significant Issues/On Hold	3
Closed	2
No Update	3

Heat

- 51 The Housing Solutions team have delivered on a range of housing improvements across the County.
- (a) 1271 properties were assisted under the LAD1 funding package from Government.
 - (b) The team liaised with landlords and tenants to encourage the take up of ECO funding to improve standards.
 - (c) The Warm Homes fund successfully delivered 100 first time renewable central heating systems for low-income households.
 - (d) The Social Project Housing Decarbonisation Fund assisted 1213 social housing properties benefitting from measures including, solar PV, external and cavity wall insulation, smart heating controls, ventilation and glazing measures and loft insulation.
- 52 Seaham Garden Village continues to have 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.
- 53 Unfortunately, the Durham City District Heating scheme came out as being financially unviable. We will continue to look at opportunities for heat decarbonisation in this area but are actively progressing opportunities for heat decarbonisation elsewhere including Horden where, working together with Horden Together, the East Durham Trust and the Coal Authority, funding has been obtained to develop detailed design for the scheme. Other opportunities, including a Countywide heat strategy are also being developed.

Business

- 54 The Business Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP2) came to an end in March 2023, assisting over 500 SMEs since its inception with targeted advice and grants. Because staff were retained the project has continued to offer audits to SMEs across the county and is currently establishing the next phase of the project which will include funding through Social Prosperity Funding (SPF) and a loan fund established by the council.

- 55 The LCE team carried out a Green Economy study² in 2023, with some very interesting findings including:
- (a) County Durham's Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services Sector was worth £1.7 bn in 2021/22 with over 600 businesses employing over 11,000 people.
 - (b) County Durham accounts for 24% of the North East's LCEGS2023 sector, which is higher than County Durham's 22% contribution to the wider economy.
 - i. The top three sub-sectors by Sales in 2021/22 are:
 - ii. Wind – £226m
 - iii. Alternative Fuels – £210m
 - iv. Alternative Fuels Vehicle – £177m

Transport.

- 56 Eight out of nine towns have now had a completed Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs). The Borrow a Bike scheme was launched on 12th August with 43 new applications and all e bikes have been loaned out for the first month. Availability includes, Shildon, Abbey LC, Stanley, Murton, Newton Aycliffe, Riverside (CLS) and Bishop Auckland.
- 57 Bus numbers continue to be a concern since covid and alongside labour and operating costs providing a comprehensive service continues to be a challenge.
- 58 Cost of EV busses at Park and Ride sites continue to be investigated but current cost is proving to be a challenge and is likely to require external funding.

Broadband

- 59 The roll out of Gigabit broadband³ has been a great success. GoFibre have checked 274,175 metres of duct to identify blockages. Delivery is progressing well, and gigabit capable (full fibre) broadband services are expected to be made available to a minimum of 712 Teesdale properties by GoFibre by the end of Q2 2023/24, and 4,093 by the Q2 2025/26.

Natural Environment

² <https://kmatrix.co/county-durhams-green-economy/>

³ For reference, Superfast broadband is defined as 30 Megabits per second (Mbps), whilst gigabit broadband can provide speeds of at least 1,000 Mbps.

- 60 As of August 2023, 43 hectares of land has been planted with trees as part of the Durham Woodland Creation Programme. This programme includes the commitment to plant 10,000 trees per AAP area and the commitment to plant one tree for every pupil in the county (Trees for children). A further 27 hectares of land will need to be planted to complete the programme which will be extended until 2025 to enable this. Complimenting the Durham Woodland Creation Programme, the council continues to be an active partner in the North East Community Forest project, Durham Woodland Revival Project, Urban Tree Challenge Fund, National Tree Week, and the Durham Hedgerow Partnership.



- 61 Whilst the council intended to develop registered and validated tree planting projects to the Woodland Carbon code to offer local people and businesses the opportunity to offset their carbon through the purchase of local carbon credits this has not been possible to date. This is because of the 'additionality' rule. To be validated, schemes have to show that they wouldn't go ahead without the additional carbon funds. The amount of grant available to local authorities has considerably increased and to date, schemes haven't been able to demonstrate this rule. The council still intends to register and validate significant woodland schemes to the UK Woodland Carbon Code to claim the carbon figures towards offsetting and take to market where possible.
- 62 Peatlands are a major carbon sink, and their international loss, represents a serious climate change concern. The North Pennines AONB Partnership restored 1228 ha of blanket bog on 8 sites in 2022/23 avoiding an estimated 24,560 tonnes of carbon from being released from degraded peat each year. The North Pennines AONB Partnership has also helped to find the Great North Bog coalition to increase the pace and scale of peatland restoration, aiming to restore all of northern England's remaining degraded upland peatland by 2040 or sooner. As part of this, the coalition have developed an innovative, private sector, commercial approach to peat restoration to help

overcome the inherent challenges associated with persuading private landowners to commit to permanent land use change⁴.

- 63 The council continues to support Durham Heritage Coast, Seascapes and Newcastle University in their work to restore marine habitats off the northeast coast and research the associated blue carbon benefits.

Education and Engagement

- 64 Schools educational work through Eco2Smart Schools is continuing. Lets Go Zero have secured national funding to roll out a wider capital carbon programme. Awaiting more information. Continue to promote Lets Go Zero. Climate Friendly Schools pilot programmes are continuing, and the website and resources are being developed.
- 65 The development of a specific website and branding for the Climate Emergency in County Durham was developed in 2021. Website visits continues to grow and following the launch of the Climate County Durham Facebook page, it is hoped messaging will reach many more residents.

Issues for the Development of CERP 3

- 66 Considerable amount of work goes into the preparation, monitoring and reporting of the CERPs. This of course produces significant results, but there is a risk that with finite resources, there is an impact on focus for delivery. It is therefore proposed that the CERP period be extended from two to three years, meaning that the next iteration will be 2024-27 and the one which follows (2027-30) will take to a key target year of 2030. Furthermore, it is proposed that a shorter list of key projects will be identified, so that more attention can be paid to the interventions that yield the greatest results.
- 67 The region is also about to undertake significant political and organisational change through the devolution process. This is likely to be a significant conduit for low carbon funding, especially in the areas of transport and economy. Working with partners, the emerging CERP3 will seek to maximise these opportunities.
- 68 In the next iteration of the CERP, it is likely that we will need to separate out emissions from the educational estate and report them in a separate process alongside core council emissions. This will need to take account of the annual portfolio of sites that we will be able to get data on which may change year on year. This will not affect support from programmes such as Eco2Smart Schools and school loans for energy efficiency etc. which will continue. If there are any changes to the scope

⁴ <https://greatnorthbog.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Great-North-Bog-Financing.pdf>

of core DCC emissions, the baseline and target tonnages will need to be recalculated to match the new portfolio. This will be detailed in the upcoming CERP3 report.

- 69 We will also aim to make progress on accounting for and integrating SCOPE 3 (indirect) emissions such as those linked with our supply chain over the CERP3 period. Emissions from SCOPE 3 sources will be reported separately and will not be included within the overall target.
- 70 As 2030 draws nearer, there is an opportunity to develop scenario pathways which will provide broad costed delivery options for how the targets 2030 might be achieved. This can help to inform the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

Conclusion

- 71 Considerable progress for council and countywide has been made on the implementation of the Climate Change Emergency Response Plan, with some of the results especially relating to buildings still to show through in full year figures.
- 72 Many of our buildings have had decarbonisation works undertaken, some benefiting from external funding such as Public Sector Decarbonisation scheme. We have gained considerable experience from this, which will be of benefit for our planning and delivery in the years ahead.
- 73 This challenge is still significant. There are over 700 gas and oil boilers in the non-educational estate alone, many of which will need replacing with a low carbon alternative in the next seven years if we are to reach our 2030 target. This will require all services and managers to proactively work to identify and target opportunities as they arise.
- 74 CERP3 will be presented to CMT in early 2024 for approval. It is proposed that this new iteration will:
- (a) Have a timescale of three years.
 - (b) Will look to establish a SCOPE 3 baseline.
 - (c) Will assess how schools are reported within council emissions.
 - (d) Will have new scenario pathways.
 - (e) Will have slightly amended thematic areas.

Background papers

- Full Council 20 February 2019 Climate Change Emergency Declaration

- Full Council 17 July 2019 Climate Change Emergency Update Report
- Full Council 20 February 2020 Climate Emergency Response Plan
- Full Council July 2021 Climate Change Emergency Update Report
- Full Council July 2022 Climate Emergency Response Plan 2

Other useful documents

- County Durham Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan (2015-20)
- Durham County Council Carbon Management Plan (2020-25)
- Committee on Climate Change Net Zero: The UKs contribution to stopping global warming.

Author(s)

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The Climate Change Act 2008 established a UK commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 from 1990 levels and the Paris Agreement (to which the UK is a signatory) which aims to keep the increase in global average temperature to well below 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. Whilst we will be targeting funding such as the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS), this is incredibly competitive (funds for round 3c were allocated within 9 minutes of the funding portal opening in 2022), therefore we need significant financial assistance in order to meet this challenge, as per recent MTFP proposal.

Consultation

Consultation on the CERP was undertaken in 2019 and has also been undertaken as part of the Big E Conversation. Limited consultation will be carried out as part of CERP3 and conversations have been ongoing with COG.

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. The new role of Net Zero manager has been created.

Capacity is an issue across teams, especially LCE, CCS & B&FM, who will be involved in much of the delivery on the Council buildings side, but we are confident we will have options in place to ensure projects go forward.

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 accommodation strategy needs to take into account CO2 emissions when addressing long term needs.

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 and DCC Procurement teams have been leading the way in terms of implementing social value and the Durham £.

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 Installations Install solar panel arrays on suitable council buildings.	£1,200	43	Yes (Invest to Save)	Installations ongoing. We have a total of 38 buildings with PV installed since 2013.
Electricity	Children's Home Solar	£87	TBC	Yes (Invest to Save)	7 Children's Homes now being installed with Solar PV
Electricity	LED Lighting Replacements	£400	200	Yes (Invest to Save)	Ongoing – Further DCC buildings identified. New Framework in place, will allow progression
Electricity	Enlighten Installing LED lighting in schools.	£0	120	Yes (Invest to Save)	Low uptake for new lighting framework. Currently under review
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	Invest to Save	Some difficulties over supply chain. Project ongoing
Electricity	Solar Car Ports 15 car parks shortlisted to be further investigated.	£12,555	940	Pending (Invest to Save)	CCS now working with electrical and civils consultants to develop design and feasibility, SMT to be released to understand appetite for this work. This feasibility and design work will complete in October 2023 which will feed directly into the design specification.
Electricity	ECO2 Smart Schools Programme of engagement in schools as well as assistance with energy monitoring.	£80	354	Yes	Ongoing through OASES Team.
Electricity	Jade Park Wind Turbine				On Hold due to National Grid Converter Station development which impacted significantly on the viability of the turbine

Electricity	Hackworth Road Wind (phase 1)	£89			2 x 6kW Wind turbines (19m tip) to be located at Hackworth road depot. Planning statement and pre planning consultation underway.
Electricity	Joint Stocks Wind and Solar Hybrid 5kW wind turbine 2 x 20KWp solar arrays, one SE facing, one SW facing				Pre – Planning
Electricity	Tanfield Solar Farm Extension				Planning permission already received for full site. Initial phase built out in 2019. Investigations into extension
Electricity, Heat, & Transport	Zero Carbon Depot Transform the whole site at Morrison Busty Depot to be zero carbon, including all buildings and vehicles.	£8,669	700	Pending (ERDF)	Project Complete
Electricity, Heat	NetPark Phase 3				In design –Smart Grid scaled back development will incorporate significant renewable energy
Electricity & Heat	Building Rationalisation	TBC	TBC	Yes	Floors 5 & 4 of County Hall being decommissioned to avoid heating costs going into 2024/25. Team is preparing data to various groups investigating building rationalisation, including in particular data pertaining to County Hall
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)	Louisa centre and Seaham St John's have been upgraded. Commission in for Freemans Quay
Heat	Meadowfield Heat Pump				Final preparations before work start
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)	Complete in 2022
Heat	Comeleon House ASHP	£306	TBC	Pending (Salix)	ASHP Complete. ASHP now heating all of offices, powered by adjacent solar farm
Heat	Teesdale Leisure Centre Decarbonisation Extension of solar PV array, upgrade of glazing throughout the centre	£786		Pending (Salix)	ASHP, Solar, LED, BMS - On site, but behind programme. Due to be complete in February 2024

Heat	Peterlee Leisure Centre Decarbonisation	£2,564			ASHP, Solar, LED, BMS - On site, but behind programme. Due to be complete in November 2024
Heat	Newton Aycliffe LC Decarbonisation	£2,005			ASHP, Solar, LED, BMS - On site, but behind programme. Due to be complete in October 2023
Heat	Durham City Heat Network				Feasibility Complete – Project not financially viable
Heat	Durham Pathways			Pending Funding Application	In detailed design – ASHP and Solar PV at day care centre
Heat	Spennymoor EDC – Decarbonisation			Pending Funding Application	In Design
Heat	Bishop Auckland Town Hall - Decarbonisation			Pending Funding Application	In Design
Heat	Durham PACC building			Pending Funding Application	In Design
Heat	Stanley CAP			Pending Funding Application	In Design
Heat	DELTA T An additive to the heating system that assists in better circulation of water/heat			Invest to Save	First building complete (Crook). Shows good results
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.	£600	36	Agreed	1 EV Refuse wagon purchased. Planned replacement for others will be considered in 2027/28
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. Some rebound since but still down from 2019 levels
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.

Natural Environment	Nature Based Approach to Managing the Council's Estate. Continue to identify suitable sites for a less intensive, nature-based approach to management across the Council's estate. Implement change in management regime across a minimum of 8 sites and increase wildflower meadow creation.	£0	TBC	Cost met from existing budget	Ongoing, draft strategic approach document produced, this is being updated to include a section on Cllr engagement with land use change in public open space and further details around costs and risks
Natural Environment	Elimination of Peat Use within the Council for bedding and sale of compost	£0	TBC	Cost met from existing budget	Trialled 11 peat free options. These are to be reviewed at the end of the growing season. Working with suppliers and other agencies to explore options. Peat Free sales promoted via nursery but need to enhance to a wider audience. Working with Strategic Waste on the Enrich project.
Natural Environment	Managing our woodlands to improve condition and carbon sequestration	£960k	TBC	Yes – Woodland Improvement Grant	1800 hectares under appropriate management
Awareness Raising and Campaigns	SMART Campaign				Ongoing – Across Council digital platforms
Awareness Raising and Campaigns	Staff Engagement Sessions				Ongoing – 5 sessions completed with Staff since April 2022
Awareness Raising and Campaigns	Climate Champions				Ongoing engagement
Awareness Raising and Campaigns	Delivery of E-Learning Course on Climate Change	£0	Enabling action	N/A	72% overall staff completion rate. 93% of Leaders have completed the course. 97% of Managers have completed the course. 69% of Core staff have completed the course. The course is linked to as part of staff inductions. The course is also available on the Members E-Learning Learning and Development Platform.
Other	Offsetting/Insetting				Work ongoing to establish offsetting requirement for DCC
Other	SCOPE3				Ongoing work to establish emissions associated with SCOPE 3

Appendix 3: Countywide Progress Table

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Heat	Advice through the Managing Money Better Service	Support to vulnerable residents around a range of financial issues but also around energy and energy efficiency	DCC, Housing Regeneration	60,000	Indirect	Referrals to service have declined, since national legislation prevented tariff switching
Heat	LAD Scheme	2 bids have secured for £10M of retrofit investment for 1000 homes	DCC, Housing Regeneration	2,765,000	To be assessed	1271 properties assisted over course of project
Heat	Empty Homes Loans	Work with landlords to improve building quality / energy efficiency / higher standards and improve enforcement actions	DCC, Housing Regeneration	100,000	To be assessed	Mail shots carried out to landlord and tenants over 2022 to encourage take up of the ECO scheme and promote the MMB service. Empty Homes loans offered up to £15,000 to bring the property up to standard including improving the thermal efficiency.
Heat	Home energy efficiency loan scheme	Supporting householders with	DCC, Housing Regeneration	100,000	To be assessed	Did not progress. Funding reallocated to alternative project

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
		loans to pay for energy efficiency measures				
Heat	ECO Funding	Support to low income and vulnerable private sector households providing grants for energy efficiency measures	DCC, Housing Regeneration		To be assessed	Ongoing - Launched ECO4 in December
Heat	Smart Meter Installations to 250 properties	FOC	Karbon Homes	N/A	N/A	Ongoing
Heat	Cavity Wall Insulation Programme	CWI programme in properties across portfolio	Karbon Homes		Unknown	Ongoing
Heat	EPC C Investment	Deliver energy efficiency improvements to ensure all stock achieves EPC C by 2030 (7590 Homes)	Karbon Homes		Average 156.22kg per property	Ongoing
Heat	Warm Homes Fund	Supporting low carbon heating in off gas homes	DCC, Housing Regeneration	2,000,000		The project successfully delivered 73 first time central heating systems for low income households. This has provided housing that now has increased comfort

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
						<p>in the whole of the dwellings and lower energy bills.</p> <p>The project successfully delivered 100 first time renewable central heating systems for low income households. This has provided housing that now has increased comfort in the whole of the dwellings and lower energy bills.</p>
Heat	Social Housing Decarbonisation Scheme	Decarbonisation Pilot – 1600 social homes with ASHP, Battery and PV with EWI	DCC, Housing Regeneration	4,600,000		Project extended to September 2023 to ensure full benefits realised. 1213 social housing properties benefitted from measures including, solar PV, External and cavity wall insulation, smart heating controls, ventilation and glazing measures and loft insulation
Heat	Durham City District Heating	Business Case Development for district heating scheme for Durham City including Freemans Reach, Passport Office.	DCC, Housing Regeneration	150,000	Unknown	Feasibility Complete. Project not financially viable. Exploring other options alongside Durham University.
Heat	Minewater Research	Undertake research to identify opportunities for mine-water and other sustainable heat	DCC, Durham Energy Institute;	TBC	Unknown	Ongoing - DU continuing with programme as well as regional work being delivered by the NELEP and the Combined

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
		(and cooling) schemes across County Durham – includes heat storage	NELEP; the Coal Authority			Authority, including more recently the launch of the Geothermal White Paper
Heat	Development of Local Area Energy Plans	Work with the Government to develop LAEPs	DCC, Low Carbon Team	-	0	Conversations ongoing with Combined Authority and NPG on way forward for LAEPs alongside other issues to do with Heat Strategies
Heat	Heat Network Zones	Work with regional and national partners to develop Heat Network Zones, in line with new Gov consultation.	BEIS, NELEP, DCC	tbc	tbc	No further progress. Awaiting Gov input
New Development	Seaham Garden Village	1500 homes in Seaham to be heated by minewater	Coal Authority; DCC; TOLENT; Karbon	DCC - Staff time 14000000 (external cost)	Tbc	JV partner appointed and work to start project ongoing
New Development	NetPark phase 3	Phase 3 of NetPark will have lower carbon design and will not be connected to the gas network. A balance will be met between reducing embodied	DCC and Business Durham	TBC	Tbc	Project will be low carbon and will not be connected to gas network, but is not likely to have a SMART network, given costs associated

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
		carbon and emissions from occupancy.				
New Development	Off gas homes	All new homes in off gas areas must be heated by low carbon technologies	DCC	0	Tbc	DM officers are now picking up this requirement, not just on new dwellings but also on tourism accommodation. Usually securing a strategy to be developed and subsequently approved by condition prior to commencement. Officers are exploring opportunities to monitor performance in the planning system.
New Development	District Heating Options – Sniperley	Develop options for District heating at Sniperley	DCC / CA	10,000	Tbc	Options developed. Being considered by developers
Transport & Connectivity	SOSCI	Install 153 EVCP sockets in the rural areas of County Durham.	Cybermoor	Innovate UK funded	TBC	Complete
Transport & Connectivity	WEVA	9 EVCPs and 17 sockets installed in Stanhope area.	Durham County Council	(£67,500 funded by OZEV) External Cost: 138,484	TBC	Complete

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Transport & Connectivity	REV UP	Research project which will install 2 EVCPs and research the STEP model. Stakeholder role for DCC to investigate best ways and practises for installing charge points to make bids.	DCC, Cybermoor	External cost: 100,000	TBC	Complete
Transport & Connectivity	DOCS	50 EVCP (100 sockets) to be installed	Durham County Council	500,000 (£375,000 grants OZEV, £125,000 DCC) External Cost: 375,000	TBC	38/50 EVCP installed or undergoing installation. Costs have increased, therefore investigating options
Transport & Connectivity	Derwent Valley	8 EVCP (16 sockets)	Durham County Council	£120,000 (£30,000 AAP funding. £90,000 OZEV) External cost 90,000	TBC	Initial issues with sites, now overcome. Procurement awarded to MER
Transport & Connectivity	LEVI Pilot project ** New project awarded Oct 2022	250 EVCPs	Durham County Council	£4.25m		250 EV charge points, 190 fast, 60 rapids. Project work has commenced with Highways. Procurement exercise ongoing.

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Transport & Connectivity	Durham City P&R extension	A new P&R site on the western approach of Durham City and an extension to Sniperley P&R. Planned adoption of Electric Bus fleet TBC.	Durham County Council	5,000,000	TBC	Sniperley extension going ahead. Investigating funding to make EV busses viable.
Transport & Connectivity	E Van – Try before you Buy	4 vans on free 2/3wk trial to SMEs. 4 Electric Vans to be purchased and will be made available for rental to SME's across County Durham	Durham County Council	100,000	1.5t CO ₂ per 10,000 miles	47 Businesses in County Durham have now used vans. Need to reinvigorate scheme.
Transport & Connectivity	Rapid EV Charging	Facilitate the provision of ultra- rapid EV charging and EV filling stations where appropriate	Durham County Council	External funding	TBC	No further opportunities identified
Transport & Connectivity	Rapid EV Charging	Encourage and incentivise commercial organisations to switch to EVs – especially taxis, fleet and delivery firms	Durham County Council	TBC	TBC	Ongoing

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Transport & Connectivity	Rapid EV Charging	Develop destination charge point infrastructure	Durham County Council	TBC	TBC	New Rapid charger being installed in Barnard Castle. Discussions ongoing with major tourist destination in County
Transport & Connectivity	Local Cycling and Walking Delivery Plans	Completion of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans for 9 main towns (LCWIPs)	Durham County Council	280,000	TBC	8 of the 9 towns reported to Cabinet. The one remaining town (Barnard Castle) will become the first LCWIP Lite town.
Transport & Connectivity	Park that Bike	Further development of scheme to provide bike parking infrastructure	Durham County Council	65,000	TBC	Ongoing
Transport & Connectivity	LCWIPs	Construction of priority routes identified in LCWIPs and associated infrastructure	Durham County Council	2,800,000	TBC	£2.8 million has been secured to support 3 schemes beginning July 2023. This is committed funding and therefore cost are low. There are 2 further bids pending to support walking & cycling schemes.
Transport & Connectivity	Great North Cycleway	Complete construction of Great North Cycleway (NCN 725)	Durham County Council	500,000	TBC	Park Road North detailed design complete/estimate provided. Seeking funding.
Transport & Connectivity	Cycling Super Routes	Construct Cycling Super Routes linking key settlements within 5 miles of Durham City	Durham County Council	500,000	TBC	WSP Commissioned to complete an LCWIP on the 5 mile cycle super routes.

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Transport & Connectivity	E – Cargo Bikes	Support the use of e-bikes and e-cargo bikes especially for last mile deliveries	Durham County Council	TBC	TBC	Freight micro -consolidation study scheme under consideration but preliminary study has been delayed for 12 months
Transport & Connectivity	Durham City Bus Station	Completion of Durham City's bus station as the County's main bus interchange	Durham County Council	10,400,000	TBC	Planned to be completed in 2023
Transport & Connectivity	Bus Priority measures	Identify and introduce bus priority measures in areas of need	Durham County Council	394	TBC	Bus Service Improvement Plan has bus priority elements. Needs clear DCC policy position.
Transport & Connectivity	Bus Network	Continue the commitment to underwrite a comprehensive bus network for the County	Durham County Council	2,500,000	TBC	Ongoing. Headwinds as bus operations adapt to the impact on revenue of subdued passenger numbers post Covid, and material inflation in operating costs plus labour market issues.
Transport & Connectivity	P&R provision	New P&R provision at Stonebridge	Durham County Council	4,500,000	TBC	Not progressing at present. Looking at alternative options
Transport & Connectivity	Park and Ride EV Busses	Bring in electric buses for the Durham City park and ride routes (cost per bus)	Durham County Council	TBC	TBC	The new park and ride bus service contractor was appointed in Oct 22. External factors like hybrid working (following Covid) and the ongoing Free After 2pm parking initiative are currently hindering P&R usage. Given the

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
						estimated costs of providing EV buses and associated infrastructure, it would likely require substantial external capital funding to ensure that the introduction of an EV bus service is financially viable
Transport & Connectivity	Countywide ULEV busses	Support a transition to ultra-low emission buses across the County	DCC, Go North East, Arriva	TBC	TBC	Funding won in regional coordinated scheme will see GNE service 21 Brandon - Durham - Newcastle convert to electric bus operation; delivery dates not yet clear. Commercial viability of solutions still a material barrier, so progress likely to remain dependent on funding.
Transport & Connectivity	Car Clubs	Explore and promote opportunities for an increase in car clubs	DCC, Co-Wheels	TBC	TBC	Ongoing
Transport & Connectivity	Borrow a Bike Scheme	Pilot scheme a success in Shildon. The scheme enables residents who do not have access to a bike the opportunity to try cycling as a means of travel. Roll out to four more towns: Murton; Stanley; Durham; Newton Aycliffe	Durham County Council	TBC	TBC	Launched on 12 August - 43 applications thus far and all e-bikes have been loaned out for the first month

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Transport & Connectivity	Project Gigabit Voucher Scheme	Project Gigabit - Voucher scheme: Enables gigabit-capable connectivity to be deployed to rural communities using voucher funding.	DCC, DCMS	467,000 External cost 480,000	TBC	The voucher scheme continues to be paused to new projects in the North East whilst suppliers are appointed to DCMS gigabit contracts. Further projects are expected to be developed once the scheme is reinstated which is now likely to be in 2024, however, project volumes may be limited. This is due to the future preferred gigabit delivery route (for harder-to-reach properties outside of any future delivery plans) from government will be through the Project Gigabit contracts (where possible).
Transport & Connectivity	Project Gigabit - Hubs	Project Gigabit - Hubs: Providing gigabit-capable broadband to public sector buildings, making it more commercially viable for providers to install gigabit capable services to the surrounding community.	DCC, DCMS, DfE	External cost: 616,730	TBC	Complete
Transport & Connectivity	Project Gigabit - Teesdale contract	Project Gigabit - Teesdale contract: 4,093 properties in	DCC, DCMS	External cost: 6,600,000	TBC	Delivery is progressing well, and gigabit capable (full fibre) broadband services are expected to be made available to a

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
		Teesdale set to benefit from gigabit-capable broadband delivery.				minimum of 712 Teesdale properties by GoFibre by the end of Q2 2023/24, and 4,093 by the Q2 2025/26.
Electricity	Collaborate with transport projects	Take opportunities to add electricity generation, such as solar car ports, to support EV projects.	Project dependent	Project by project basis	Tbc	Ongoing - All P&R sites being considered as part of Solar Car Ports project
Electricity	Jade Renewables	The development of a combined wind turbine and solar farm to provide renewable power at Jade Business Park, Murton.	Durham County Council	2,100,000	277 tonnes CO2	Project intrinsically impacted upon by the National Grid Converter station development at Jade – Possible 2MW solar Farm could be developed.
Electricity	Renewable Energy opportunities	DCC is actively looking at options to utilise land for renewables across the County	Durham County Council	tbc	Tbc	DCC owned sites being investigated. Further information in Council Data above
Electricity	Solar Car Ports	Develop an investment case to energise and diversify large public car parks with solar PV carports and Green Infrastructure	DCC with Climate Emergency Strategic Board Partners	45,000 (EUFC funded)	tbc	Further information in Council Data above

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Electricity	Grid resilience (example)	New substation and delivery of improvements to the overhead and underground network in Seaham	Northern Power Grid	8,500,000 (External funded)	n/a	Ongoing
Business & Skills	Energy Efficiency in Business Durham let properties	Progress improvement of BD properties with EPC rating below E	Business Durham	tbc	Tbc	From the last update in March, the teams have been carrying out EPC surveys on the 22 properties that were either below an E and those that did not have an EPC registered/expired. Following these surveys we now only have 5 properties that still fall below an E. These properties will require improvements to increase the rating and once these have been completed we will be in a position to confirm any costs incurred.
Business & Skills	Energy Efficiency in Business Durham let properties	Assist new tenants with energy efficiency info	Business Durham	tbc	n/a	Delivered through BEEP - Ongoing
Business & Skills	Model energy efficient business/Industrial park	Commission a study to establish a model energy efficient Business Durham business/ industrial park	Business Durham	£23-30k	tbc	Site suggested and are awaiting permissions and funding to progress

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
		(Stella Gill Industrial Estate)				
Business & Skills	Green Economy	Develop 'green economy' inward investment proposal	Business Durham	27,500	Tbc	Report complete – See link in main report. County Durham's Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services Sector was worth £1.7 bn in 2021/22 with over 600 businesses employing over 11,000 people.
Business & Skills	Environmental Awareness and mainstreaming key messages on Net Zero to business	Offer on-site energy efficiency management presentations to all estates	Business Durham / DCC	0	TBC	LCE Staff attending meetings
Business & Skills	Generate BEEP referrals	Introduce BEEP with the aid of the 'Try before you buy' EV vans being offered on loan to SMEs (50 referrals per annum)	Business Durham /BEEP project	0	Tbc	Ongoing
Business & Skills	Assist new Durham businesses with energy efficiency	Introduce businesses moving into Co Durham to BEEP for assistance with identifying energy efficiencies for new	Business Durham to arrange/BEEP to deliver	0	tbc	BEEP continuing with Audits - currently working on developing SPF grant and loan fund opportunities

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
		premises etc (5 referrals per annum)				
Business & Skills	SME Power	Learn from international good practice and enhance the support offer to SMEs in Durham: - Incorporate carbon footprinting into advice - develop a specific tourism/hospitality project	SME Power project partners, LCE Team	Existing resources	tbc	Tool and report being integrated with BEEP work. Initial emails to limited number of previous recipients to trial report underway, and development taking place as to how to incorporate it into new SMEs. Some initial interest from past BEEP SMEs wanting to see how their energy use has changed. Workload being managed to allow prioritisation of BEEP backlog
Business & Skills	Compliance from Business Partners by DurhamWorks	Durham Works is asking their supply chain to comply with sustainable activities such as recycling etc	Durham Works and their Business Partners	0	Tbc	No Update
Business & Skills	Transport Guides from DurhamWorks	Guides on public transport and routes to Durham Works premises and delivery services have been produced. Walking and cycling to work is	Durham Works	0	Tbc	No Update

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
		actively encouraged across the programme.				
Business & Skills	Green Economy Exhibition	To hold a Green Economy Exhibition in conjunction with the Low Carbon Economy Team during 2022.	Business Durham/LCE Team	0	tbc	Complete
Business & Skills	LoCarbo	Develop and share good practices with international partners and use partners positive experiences to guide and influence partnership development locally.	LoCARBO project partners, LCE team.	Existing resources	tbc	Complete
Business & Skills	CERP2 communication	Business & Skills month February 23. Events and activities to be organised and delivered by Business Durham	Business Durham/ Low Carbon Economy Team to advise	tbc	Tbc	Complete- Business Durham and LCE promoted courses available for green skills
Business & Skills	Future Net Zero Events	Following on from Net Zero Showcase plan future events to meet the needs of the business community.	Business Durham/ Low Carbon	10,000	tbc	Complete- held in June and July 22. 200 attendees. Follow up to the Net Zero event held on June 2022. Provide plenty of time for networking but also maybe some workshop / meet the buyer

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
		Organise a Net Zero two – focus on business opportunities event follow up event with a number of ‘zones’ I.e. Renewable energy; Electrification	Economy Team to advise			opportunities for County Durham businesses.
Business & Skills	Net Zero section BD website	Establish a Net Zero zone on Business Durham website to act as a source of information and support for existing employers and as attraction tool for potential inward investors.	Business Durham/ Low Carbon Economy Team to advise	tbc	tbc	On track- LCE Team working alongside BD
Business & Skills	Assist existing Durham Businesses on energy / resource efficiency	Include a resource / energy efficiency within the UK SPF business diagnostic	RTC North/ Business Durham/ BEEP	tbc	100	BEEP now engaged on project following successful application. Working through proposal to ensure offer to business is effective

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Procurement & Waste	Priority Environmental Procurements	Identify 'priority environmental procurements' (PEP's) within the Council's Procurement Pipeline	DCC	-	Tbc	Procurement pipeline continued to be issued to LCT Colleagues with now the introduction of Ecology colleagues to support the Ecological Emergency Action Plan. Pipeline also available on DCC website
Procurement & Waste	Themes Outcomes and Measures	Embed sustainability into major procurement exercises through the Themes, Outcomes and Measures (TOMS) methodology	DCC	-	tbc	Completed. New County Durham Pound TOMs version implemented within procurement assessment criteria. New version has 4 specific Environmental Measures to be recorded /reported on.
Procurement & Waste	Influence procurement at a local, regional and national level	Using partnerships and projects such as the County Durham Pound Project (local), North East Procurement Organisation (regional) and the National Social Value Task and the Local Government Association (national).	DCC	-	tbc	<p>Procurement Bill confirmed to be in place October 2024. Review of final Legislation early 2024 to understand full DCC impact. Preparatory work underway to ensure compliance including previous Actions noted above.</p> <p>CD£ has now entered Phase 2 with a more private sector focus to engage and embed ethos into those companies.</p> <p>CD£ Phase 1 resulted in delivery of 305m validated social local economic value resulting in the Best Public Sector Project</p>

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
						Social Value Award at the National SV Awards.
Procurement & Waste	Small Order review and delivery assessment	Identify opportunities to reduce small orders and consequent reduction in CO ₂ .	DCC	-	tbc	Procurement group now in place with Business Services. To launch formally with ToR in September. Key focus on reduced and consolidating ordering with engagement continuing with Lloyds Bank (P Cards) and Amazon.
Procurement & Waste	Tender Thresholds	Increasing the tender threshold from £50,000 to £189,330. The threshold is the point at which the bidding process becomes more intensive and increasing it will make it easier for local, smaller suppliers to bid for contracts.	DCC		tbc	Complete
Procurement & Waste	Waste Carbon analysis	Conduct detailed assessment of carbon emissions associated with Waste Services	DCC		tbc	A Waste Carbon Report has been produced by LCE Team and its conclusions will be reviewed by Strategic Waste with the intention of factoring it into future decisions/strategies. A follow on meeting has been tabled for September.

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Procurement & Waste	Green and Food Waste collections	Respond to Government's final decision to implement these services	Strategic Waste	Unknown at present	Could increase the Council's carbon footprint but reduce Countywide emissions	Government have delayed the announcement of the consistency agenda. Unknown timescale for announcement at this stage.
Procurement & Waste	Promote and encourage home composting with carbon management guidance	Current scheme operating for residents	Strategic Waste	Within existing budgets/funding	Savings from avoiding carbon emissions from transport and processing of waste	Home composting is promoted to residents as a waste prevention initiative. www.durham.gov.uk/composting
Procurement & Waste	Garden Waste collections	Continue garden waste collections. Waste is now processed by DCC and additional savings from reuse of compost being explored	Strategic Waste	Within existing budgets/funding. Income from service	Increase in emissions counted by DCC from processing. Savings from overall scheme and potential to reuse compost	2023 garden waste season is underway. Compost is available to third party agencies.
Procurement & Waste	Waste awareness campaigns	Provide information to residents, schools, businesses and community groups to	Strategic Waste	Within existing budgets.	Savings from better waste management decisions, and avoidance of	Currently working with tee to deliver a plastic awareness campaign to residents over the next 12 months. An awareness leaflet will be issued to residents over the summer. This will support kerbside

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
		encourage better waste management practices.			processing and use of raw materials	recycling messages and hopefully assist in reducing contamination levels. External funding has been secured for this campaign and this will be supported via website content, videos and community engagement roadshow events. Further external funding has also been secured to expand the countywide WEEE project for the recycling of small electricals and batteries. In addition, new collection points will be installed across the county for the recycling of vapes which are problematic to the waste industry.
Procurement & Waste	Single Use Plastics	Continue to promote sign ups to the Single Use Plastics Pledge across Durham in order to encourage the reduction of, and seek alternatives to, the use of single use plastics.	Strategic Waste, procurement	Programme delivery is staff time. Individual actions to be funded from Service budgets	Savings from better use of resources and reduced disposal costs	The task group meet quarterly and continue to deliver the dedicated action plan.
Procurement & Waste	Implement and deliver Environmental Management System	Work to measure, monitor and reduce the Council's environmental impacts	DCC	Staff time	tbc	The Environmental Management System attained the top 'green' accreditation with the nationally recognised Investors in the Environment programme in Autumn 2022. The Council has been working on the recommendations from

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
						the audit and will be further audited in October 2023.
Procurement & Waste	Waste and Recycling in Council Buildings	More, better recycling and composting in council properties. Including office furniture re-homing & re-use scheme.	DCC	Staff time	Tbc	Work continues with the Facilities management team to assess individual buildings and engage in sustainable waste management practices.
Procurement & Waste	Tees Valley Waste to energy Plant with CCS	The development of this Energy Recovery Facility to process residual waste will generate electricity, export heat and use Carbon Capture Storage (CCS) to minimise carbon emissions.		TBC	TBC	Project on track against revised timeline but there are risks around gaining a grid connection to be able to export electricity to the national grid. Delays with the connection may further delay the project and have also meant that the bid for securing CCUS funding in round 1 was unsuccessful.
Food & Land	Silver Sustainable Food Places	Holistic approach to a range of key food issues across the County	Food Durham	40,000	n/a	Ongoing - Interim Coordinator in place until end of March. Main focus has been getting the bid submitted
Food & Land	Food Engagement	Contributing to funding the food coordinator role	Food Durham / DCC	n/a	n/a	The funding bid by OASES to the National Lottery Community Fund was successful, circa £180K over three years. The project has been agreed to work with 14 communities across the County as well as

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						develop strategic relationships with key partners to develop sustainable food opportunities within the County. Jill Essam has been appointed as part time coordinator.
Food & Land	Sustainable Food Production	Developing ideas and programmes around land-use / food growing to support more sustainable local food production	Food Durham / DCC	n/a	n/a	The NESFA Good Food Economy project working with Food Newcastle, Middlesbrough Food Partnership and FADNE has been completed and shared nationally with Sustain. The Dynamic Food Procurement project funded by the Dixon Foundation stalled slightly as meetings with NEPO did not lead to a new project. Another meeting with regional partners is planned for 18th July
Food & Land	Master Composters	Revitalise the master composters scheme and link with community growing projects	Food Durham / DCC	n/a	n/a	Master Composters ongoing - https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/1910/Composter-volunteer-scheme
Food & Land	School Food Waste	Explore the impact of school food waste, those that have collections and those that don't. through auditing and connect with the Lets Go Zero	Food Durham / DCC	n/a	n/a	Some conversations have taken place regarding school food and school food waste. Will be taken forward by the Coordinator now that the project has been established

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		2030 through existing school programmes				
Food & Land	Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration	Consider DCC becoming a formal signatory to this declaration.	DCC/Food Durham	n/a	n/a	Discussions ongoing with public health colleagues, likely that a more all encompassing declaration/initiative more appropriate
Food & Land	Soil Health	Work with Durham University and other partners to explore soil health and carbon storage	DCC, Durham University	n/a	n/a	Durham Uni gave evidence to the Soil Health Inquiry in Westminster on 24th May. Discussions are continuing
Food & Land	Soil Health	Eco2 Smart Schools project to work with Durham University on terrarium planning to raise awareness	Eco2 Smart Schools, Durham University	n/a	n/a	No news on the outcome of the funding bid - OASES is ready to start once agreed. Discussions and sharing with potential partners is ongoing, eg Houghall College
Natural Environment	Nature Based Solutions Awareness Raising Campaign	Raise awareness of the benefits of Nature-Based Management Solutions internally and with the public	DCC	£0	N/A	Ongoing and will form part of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Due Jan 2025)
Natural Environment	Peatland Restoration	Deliver programmed peatland restoration	North Pennines AONB Partnership	770,000	20 tonnes carbon per hectare of	Restored 1228 ha of blanket bog on 8 sites last winter

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		work (2022/23 – 662ha / 2023/24 – 500ha)			avoided losses from restoring bare peat. Therefore potential to avoid losses of 23,240 tonnes carbon per year	
Natural Environment	Peatland Restoration	Work with the Environment Agency to develop new methods of integrating existing Lidar data for the AONB to identify further areas in need of restoration	North Pennines AONB Partnership	Staff time	n/a	The Env Agency have provided all the AONB lidar sets as raw data which we now hold and which we have processed and put together in a mosaic of tiles. The data is being used to inform peatland restoration specifications.
Natural Environment	Durham Woodland Creation Programme	Identify and plant a further 50 hectares of land over 2022/24 (10,000 trees per AAP including Trees for children 69,000) Total programme estimated at 70 hectares of planting	DCC	DCC – 75,000 External – 200,000	Total Programme: Best case scenario, estimated at 22,475 tCO2e by 2045	43ha of the 70ha completed as of Aug 2023. Need to identify and plant the remaining 27ha. Programme will be extended until 2025 to overcome difficulties in confirming sites.

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Natural Environment	Durham Woodland Revival Project	Continue to support the project and plant a further 48ha over 2022/24.	DCC, DWR, Woodland Trust	DCC – 7,933 External – 10,000	Total Programme: Best case scenario, estimated at 29,000 tCO2e by 2045	Hedges: 70 m restored and 641 m planted. Facilitated 0.6 ha woodland creation. 32 ha of planting now delayed until winter 24/25 due to issues with land transfer.
Natural Environment	Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCf)	Deliver UTCF round 3 2022/24 and plant a further 799 large specimen trees across County Durham's towns and villages	DCC, Forestry Commission, Karbon Homes & Believe	£0	TBC	Since 2020 3,000 large standard trees have been planted.
Natural Environment	Tree Week Grants	Maximise uptake of tree week grants aiming for applications and that deliver the most benefits	DCC, communities, landowners	2,500	tbc	12 grant schemes for trees, 623 trees in total (March 2023) Application window opens in November
Natural Environment	North East Community Forest (250ha over 4 years)	Aim to plant 62.5ha each year to 2025 in County Durham as part of the NE Community Forest. (Year 1 schemes recorded under Durham Woodland Creation)	DCC, Newcastle City Council, South Tyneside, Sunderland, North Tyneside,	300,000	Total Programme: Best case scenario, estimated at 65,250 tCO2e by 2045	34ha of land planted as part of the Durham Woodland Creation programme contributes towards the NE Community Forest.

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			Gateshead landowners			
Natural Environment	North Pennines A68 Corridor Project	Work with private landowners to advise on woodland creation schemes and management.	DCC, North Pennines AONB, Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission	N/A	tbc	Complete – project ended in 2022
Natural Environment	Carbon Market	Continue to develop registered and validated tree planting projects to the Woodland Carbon code to offer local people and businesses the opportunity to offset their carbon through local tree planting / carbon credits. Aim for 2 projects per year. Finance to be re-invested in managing the Council's expanding woodland estate. Awareness raising of	DCC, Forest Carbon	N/A could generate an income	tbc	Woodland Creation schemes not registered for carbon market to date. This is because of additionality rule: to be validated, schemes have to show that they wouldn't go ahead without the additional carbon funds. The amount of grant available to LAs has considerably increased and to date, schemes haven't demonstrated this rule. Investigating using registration and validation for accurate tCO2 calculations instead and taking to market where possible.

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		the scheme will be required				
Natural Environment	Hedgerow Creation and Management	Continue to support hedgerow planting and management in County Durham in line with advice from Natural England to ensure a longer term accumulation of carbon. Review and amend any exiting guidance as necessary (e.g. increase height from 2 to 3 metres and widths between 3 to 4 metres)	DCC, Durham Hedgerow Partnership, Landowners	External cost: 17,000	Natural England provides a carbon stock figure of 68.2 t C ha-1 for a 2-3 metre hedge comprised of Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Hazel.	1540 m of new hedgerows planted, 506 m restored. (March 2023). Grants will be awarded in Sep 2023 for winter works.
Natural Environment	Blue Carbon	Wild Oysters Project: Work to identify suitable sites off the Durham Coast and in North East coastal waters for habitat restoration i.e. introducing shells and gravels onto the seabed.	Durham Heritage Coast / Seascapes - delivery by ZSL and Groundwork NE	External cost – 40,000	Not currently verifiable	Additional funding secured through Stronger Shores project (based at South Tyneside Council) until 2026. Oyster nursery creation at Sunderland Marina. Ongoing engagement and activity programme

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Natural Environment	Blue Carbon	Explore opportunities to restore sea grass and saltmarsh habitats	DCC	0	Most UK estimates for Saltmarsh fall between 440 - 550t CO2e/km2/year. Seagrass - rates of between 42 - 136t CO2e/km2/year	No longer applicable. See Stronger Shores for regionally relevant habitat restoration projects
Natural Environment	Blue Carbon	Grant to Newcastle University building on research of NE 22 by PhD student. Looking into blue carbon cycling from nearshore sediment habitats and carbon lifecycles of kelp forests	DCC and Newcastle University	DCC – 39,000 External – 30,000	Not currently verifiable. Potential carbon burial by UK kelp forest of 147t CO2e/km2/year	The project is ongoing this year, although there have been some delays with rough seas preventing sediment cores from being taken. We have a research student working on this project and she is scheduled to collect some sediment cores in the coming weeks (March /April) and will then conduct lead dating, CHN analysis and screen for seaweed DNA using molecular markers to investigate how much kelp-derived carbon is stored within sediments adjacent to kelp forests. The project is due for completion in 2023 although more time will enable more data collection.

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Natural Environment	Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Production of a LNRS	Ecological Emergency Board (includes the Council and is a sub-group of the County Durham Environment Partnership)	tbc	tbc	LNRS due Jan 2025
Adaptation	Community Emergency Plans	Durham County Council engages with communities at risk to create community emergency plans for a number of specific areas within County Durham.	DCC	tbc	n/a	Over 45 community plans now in progress. All at varying levels of completion. 3 plans with train and exercising complete so far.
Adaptation	South Stanley SUDS	The Community Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) Innovation Accelerator is a multi-partner project, led by Durham County Council, exploring how SuDS can be used as a mechanisms to create more resilient, greener	DCC (EA, Communities)	External – 6,000,000	n/a	Work Ongoing

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		urban spaces which are shaped by their residents; we call this the <i>SuDS+</i> approach.				
Adaptation	Flood Defence Works	A programme of 31 flood alleviation schemes exists in areas across the County. All have funding allocated and will progress from 2021/22 through to 2027/28	DCC, EA, NWL, Communities	External – 29,000,000	n/a	4 schemes complete. 27 Schemes still in progress, with a total cost of circa £25m
Adaptation	Heritage site assessment	Carry out a climate risk assessment for heritage sites in DCC ownership, and set up appropriate mitigation/management plans	DCC	-	n/a	Draft SPD Completed. Internal consultation with sustainability and Climate change undertaken and comments included.
Adaptation	Binchester Roman Fort Risk Assessment	Carry out a Climate Risk assessment for Binchester Roman Fort and any other visitor attractions run/managed by DCC to look at how to mitigate their impacts. As visitor	DCC	-	n/a	No Update

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		focussed attractions, there is scope also to use them to promote the Climate Change message, by drawing comparisons between then and now (for historic type sites e.g. Binchester Fort)				
Adaptation	Flood Defence Works	A programme of 31 flood alleviation schemes exists in areas across the County. All have funding allocated and will progress from 2021/22 through to 2027/28	DCC, EA, NWL, Communities	-	n/a	As above
Engagement, Education & Behavioural Change	ECO ₂ Smart Homes	Review of pilot programme	OASES	c£20,000/ per annum	n/a	Pilot Complete - Discussions with Housing Solutions regarding potential expansion of initial pilot of ECO2 Smart Homes to link with their housing priority areas. Would require additional funding
Engagement, Education &	Let's Go Zero 2030	Launch programme with Durham schools	DCC		n/a	Lets Go Zero have secured national funding to roll out a wider capital carbon programme. Awaiting more information. Continue to promote Lets Go Zero.

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Behavioural Change						Climate Friendly Schools pilot programmes are continuing and the website and resources are being developed
Engagement, Education & Behavioural Change	AAPs collaboration	We need to work more with AAPs to raise awareness and embed messages in the community	AAPs,		n/a	Ongoing
Engagement, Education & Behavioural Change	Communication and Marketing Campaign	Make the work visual with strong messaging for internal and external audiences including public and stakeholders over one year	Corporate Comms	15,000	n/a	We have a comprehensive communications and engagement programme which began in January 2020. Following an in dept review, the brand "Climate County Durham" was developed, reflecting the breadth of work carried out across the county not only by the council but by partners, community groups and the public. The aim was to create visible, easily recognisable messages that will appear wherever we are tackling climate change.
Engagement, Education & Behavioural Change	Two core video productions	Video is one of the best ways of engaging, empowering and inspiring people and showcasing what is	Corporate comms and video contractos	9,000	n/a	Ongoing - A number of videos have been developed with more to follow over 2023/24

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		happening. Over one year				
Engagement, Education & Behavioural Change	Marketing Collateral	Leaflets, banners, digital material all recyclable and sustainable over one year	Corporate Comms, Design and Print	4,000	n/a	We provide a wide variety of communications packs and informative marketing materials which are accessible both digitally and in print formats. We engage with several community groups to distribute the materials.
Engagement, Education & Behavioural Change	Corporate Website	Information to be restructured and made visual and content appealing to public and wider audience	Corporate Comms, LCE		n/a	Ongoing
Engagement, Education & Behavioural Change	County Durham Partnership website	Align information and messages ensuring right information is displayed as per partners audience	Corporate Comms, Transformation and Partnerships team, LCE		n/a	Complete
Engagement, Education & Behavioural Change	Community Events and case studies	Support the community groups and residents raise awareness on their efforts utilising	TBC		n/a	On Track

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		the Climate County Durham Website				
Engagement, Education & Behavioural Change	International Schools Conference	Establish annual international engagement of Durham schools on climate education	DCC	£10000, no additional cost, included in ECO2 Smart Schools funding	n/a	COP28 planning is underway recruitment has begun for this years schools both in Durham and overseas. Durham Uni colleagues investigating if we can have a specific session at COP28 in Dubai. Plus working with Institute for Global Strategies (IGES) to increase overseas recruitment.