

**Name of meeting:** Council

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> December 2012

**Title of report:** Climate Local Commitment: Tackling climate change, stimulating a green economy and providing affordable warmth in homes.

<b>Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Is it in the <a href="#">Council's Forward Plan</a>?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Is it eligible for "call in" by <a href="#">Scrutiny</a>?</b>	<b>No, as this is a decision by Council.</b>
<b>Date signed off by <u>Director</u> &amp; name</b>	<b>Jacqui Gedman 17.8.12</b>
<b>Is it signed off by the Director of Resources?</b>	<b>David Smith 17.8.12</b>
<b>Is it signed off by the Acting Assistant Director - Legal &amp; Governance?</b>	<b>Vanessa Redfern 17.8.12</b>
<b>Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a></b>	<b>Cllr Mehboob Khan and Cllr Peter McBride</b>

**Electoral [wards](#) affected:** ALL

**Ward councillors consulted:** Not applicable

**Public or private:** Public

## 1. Purpose of report

To recommend Council to:

- sign up to 'Climate Local' and the Local Authority Fuel Poverty Commitment,
- approve the headline commitments for the council to stimulate a green economy, tackle climate change and provide affordable warmth for our residents, building on achievements to date.

## 2. Key points

Cabinet, at its meeting on 25 September 2012, considered the Environment Unit's report which had put forward recommendations to:

- sign up to Climate Local<sup>1</sup>
- agree the Council's Climate Local Commitments around six key themes as follows:

<sup>1</sup> Climate Local is a new initiative led by the Local Government Association (LGA) to drive, inspire and support council action on climate change. It succeeds the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change (which Kirklees Council signed up to).

- Local Economy- Jobs and Skills
- Homes
- Council Operations
- Transport
- Waste
- Natural Environment
- agree that the Climate Local Commitments will replace the following Council policies **which are part of the existing Policy Framework**:
  - The Environment Policy (2009)
  - The Aalborg Commitments – signed in 2006
  - The Environment Vision 2025
- Sign up to the Local Authority Fuel Poverty Commitment

Cabinet supported the recommendations.

The report is attached at Appendix A.

### **3. Implications for the Council**

Signing up to the Climate Local and Fuel Poverty Commitments, and approving the proposed headline commitments, will provide the council with a single, clear framework for carbon reduction, a green economy and affordable warmth. It will create a structured approach with performance monitoring, and will ensure actions taken make a difference in tackling climate change, stimulating a green economy and providing affordable warmth.

### **4. Consultees and their opinions**

Cabinet supported the proposals.

### **5. Next steps**

Following approval of the recommendations, a programme will be implemented with immediate effect.

### **6. Officer recommendations and reasons**

That Council considers the Environment Unit's recommendations, as set out at Appendix A, with immediate implementation.

### **7. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation**

None applicable to this report.

### **8. Contact officer and relevant papers**

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### **9. Assistant director responsible**

Paul Kemp, Assistant Director (Acting) Place – Investment and Regeneration - Commercial

**Name of meeting:** Cabinet

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012

**Title of report:** Climate Local Commitment: Tackling climate change, stimulating a green economy and providing affordable warmth in homes.

<b>Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Is it in the <a href="#">Council's Forward Plan</a>?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Is it eligible for "call in" by <a href="#">Scrutiny</a>?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Date signed off by <u>Director</u> &amp; name</b>	<b>Jacqui Gedman 17.8.12</b>
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<b>Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a></b>	<b>Cllr Mehboob Khan and Cllr Peter McBride</b>

**Electoral [wards](#) affected:** All

**Ward councillors consulted:**

**Public or private:** Public

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## **1. Purpose of report**

To ask members to:

- sign up to 'Climate Local' and the Local Authority Fuel Poverty Commitment,
- approve the headline commitments for the council to stimulate a green economy, tackle climate change and provide affordable warmth for our residents, building on achievements to date.

## **2. Key points**

- 2.1 Climate Local is a new initiative led by the Local Government Association (LGA) to drive, inspire and support council action on climate change. It succeeds the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change (which Kirklees Council signed up to) by offering a framework that enables councils to reflect local priorities and opportunities for action. Climate Local focuses on councils' efforts both to reduce carbon emissions and to improve their resilience to the anticipated changes in the climate.

Climate Local will consist of:

- **A Climate Local Commitment** - a suite of commitments and actions for councils to voluntarily choose and sign up to, to demonstrate their commitment to addressing climate change and to challenge themselves and build on their existing achievements. Councils are encouraged to adapt these suggestions to suit their own priorities.
- **A Climate Local Framework on Climate Change** – a framework through which councils can organise and plan their journey in addressing climate change.
- **Additional resources and support** – new web-based resources, a new online community with opportunities for peer learning.

2.2 By signing the commitment, we are asked to:

- Set out the actions we intend to undertake locally to reduce carbon emissions and respond to changes in the climate within our own operations, services, with our local community and in support of our local economy.
- Set out our level of ambition and how we are going to monitor and demonstrate our achievements.
- Share with other councils and with national partners:
  - What actions we are undertaking and our ambitions
  - Our progress; and
  - The learning from our experiences and achievements.

2.3 Appendix 1 provides an overview of the challenges and opportunities around six key themes as outlined below:

- Local Economy- Jobs and Skills
- Homes
- Council Operations
- Transport
- Waste
- Natural Environment

The proposed Kirklees 'Climate Local' commitments can be viewed in Appendix 2 and focus on the six key themes above. They will replace the following Council policies:

- The Environment Policy (2009)
- The Aalborg Commitments – signed in 2006
- The Environment Vision 2025

2.4 Appendix 3 provides an outline of the Local Authority Fuel Poverty Commitment. The commitments will be delivered through the Council's Affordable Warmth Strategy and the Climate local objectives under the 'Homes' theme. Progress will be monitored through Climate Local reporting.

### **3. Implications for the Council**

Signing up to the Climate Local and Fuel Poverty Commitment and approving the proposed headline commitments will provide the council with a single, clear framework for carbon reduction and affordable warmth. It will create a structured approach with performance monitoring, and will ensure actions taken make a difference in tackling climate change, stimulating a green economy and providing affordable warmth.

The Council will deliver the commitments outlined in Appendix 2 through joint working locally, regionally and nationally and through available capital and revenue budgets. Progress will be reviewed annually through our Corporate Performance Management Framework. The commitments will also be reviewed on a regular basis.

Additionally, a more detailed action plan will be developed and shared with the Local Government Association, and reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it continues to meet council priorities. The council will also publicly report on progress.

#### **4. Consultees and their opinions**

Representatives from Corporate Landlord, Investment and Regeneration, Strategic Waste, Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing, and Streetscene and Housing have been consulted and support the proposals.

Kirklees Council Capital Delivery Board 30.7.12 – support obtained.

Kirklees Council Green Investment Board 13.8.12 – support obtained.

#### **5. Next steps**

If Member approval is given, Kirklees will officially sign up to Climate Local and remove all reference to previous Environmental Policies. A work programme will be developed to deliver the headline commitments as outlined in Appendix 2. This will pull information together on work being undertaken across different services.

#### **6. Officer recommendations and reasons**

That Cabinet endorse the proposal and refer it to Council for consideration and approval at the meeting on 24th October 2012. This is on the basis that it is a change to the existing policy which is part of the Policy Framework.

#### **7. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation**

Cllr Mehboob Khan and Cllr Peter McBride 8.8.12 – support obtained to sign up to Climate Local.

#### **8. Contact officer and relevant papers**

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#### **9. Assistant director responsible**

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## Appendix 1: Context for Kirklees Council 'Climate Local' Commitments

**This document provides the context for the Climate Local and Fuel Poverty Commitments for Kirklees Council, building on our past achievements and highlighting some key challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.**

We know that the policies, strategies and services we develop and deliver, have an impact upon the environment and that we have an opportunity to shape a more sustainable future to improve people's lives. The climate is changing, so we must adapt and be prepared for the challenges ahead. The Government's Stern Review in 2006 concluded that the benefits of strong, early action on climate change far outweigh the costs of not acting.

The UK has committed to challenging greenhouse gas reduction targets via the 2008 Climate Change Act<sup>2</sup>. As a Local Authority we have a part to play in helping the UK achieve these challenging targets in our role as community leader, service provider and estate manager.

In June 2010 we made a commitment to protect the environment and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> as part of the **Kirklees Partnership Charter** and our Vision commits us to continue to reduce the carbon footprint of Kirklees.

In 2010, the Council approved the **Integrated Investment Strategy (IIS)**. This strategy is a framework for investment which sets out the priorities for how the Council will allocate its resources and attract external investment to improve the lives of all Kirklees residents. One of the strategic aims is **for a district better prepared to manage the effects of climate change** – setting out a clear 40% carbon emissions reduction target by 2020 for both the Council and the District, from a 2005 baseline.

### ***Our Priorities***

We recognise that we can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure the district is prepared for a different climate via a number of routes. These include: stimulating local green economic growth; providing affordable warmth in our homes; becoming a lower cost, natural resource-efficient Council; greener transport and transport management; waste prevention and management; and enhancing the natural environment. We can do this by managing our own resources, and working with other public sector bodies, businesses, residents, communities and voluntary sector.

The actions that will help move Kirklees towards a low carbon resource efficient economy are outlined in Appendix 2. They are focused around six key themes as outlined below.

#### ***Theme 1: Local Economy- Jobs and Skills***

***Creating local jobs in the green sector and ensuring we have the appropriate skills for a low carbon economy***

The Integrated Investment Strategy (IIS) lays out its plans to achieve growth and sustainability in the local economy. One area of the local economy identified by the IIS as having the potential to generate economic growth and employment is the 'Green sector'. The evidence to support this has come from two major studies that looked at the economic potential from activities and products related to the transition to a low carbon economy.

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<sup>2</sup> The UK [Climate Change Act 2008](#) sets legally binding carbon emission reduction targets for 2020 (reduction of 34% in greenhouse gas emissions) and for 2050 (reduction of at least 80% in greenhouse gas emissions) from 1990 levels, and introduced five-yearly [carbon budgets](#) to help ensure those targets are met. In June 2011 the Government set in law its fourth Carbon Budget to reduce emissions 50% under 1990 levels by 2025.

## **The Prospect for Green Jobs to 2020 – undertaken by Quantum Consultants (July 2011)**

This research mapped out the current size and nature of the green sector in Kirklees and also developed the scenarios for job prospects for the sector to 2020.

The research reported that Kirklees already has approximately 4400 green jobs. The study concluded that for Kirklees there are significant growth opportunities in the offshore wind supply chain, low carbon energy and green infrastructure sector, waste and recycling sector and low carbon retrofit.

## **The Mini-Stern review and regional opportunities**

The Mini-Stern Review – was commissioned by the Leeds City Region and was published in August 2011. This study focused on the economics of decarbonising the local economy. A separate appendix was prepared on the Kirklees economy. Some of the key findings from the study are:

- Kirklees district has an overall energy bill of approximately £660 million per year and this will rise to £876 million by 2022 – an increase of £216 million per year within 10 years. This represents a leakage to the economy. The study suggested that an investment of the equivalent of 1% of Gross Value Added – GVA - (£500 million in the case of Kirklees) could be profitably spent every year to exploit commercially attractive energy efficiency and low carbon opportunities.
- Such an investment would yield up to **1265 jobs over the next 10 years** and could **increase the GVA of the local economy by £58 million per year (1-2%)**, from both cost effective and cost neutral measures targeted towards energy efficiency and low carbon energy generation.
- The study also found that intervention and investment at such levels indicated above could reduce carbon emissions in Kirklees by 48% by 2022– at no net cost.

Both studies have highlighted the significant potential and economic benefits available to Kirklees in terms of jobs creation, increased economic activity and significantly lower energy consumption leading to lower carbon emissions that could be achieved through targeted support and investment in decarbonising the Kirklees economy.

## ***Theme 2: Homes***

***Continue to aim to provide affordable warmth and tackle fuel poverty. This will help improve the health and wellbeing of Kirklees residents***

There are approximately 179,000 homes in Kirklees. The Council and Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing (KNH) have delivered a number of large housing programmes over the years (Warmzone, Sun Cities, Decent Homes) which have helped reduce carbon emissions in the district (15% by 2009 from 2005 baseline) and improved the SAP<sup>3</sup> rating of the properties. Over the last ten years approximately £38M funding has been secured into the district for energy efficiency and renewable energy schemes for private sector housing in Kirklees; this has had positive impacts for the economy, health and wellbeing and carbon reduction, over 51,000 homes were insulated through the Kirklees Warm Zone.

For **council owned homes** a 30% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020 from a 2005 baseline is forecast. Additionally the council has used the proxy of SAP to calculate the number of properties potentially in fuel poverty in the stock. Through investments since 2005, the council in partnership with KNH has reduced the percentage of council properties with a SAP rating below 65 to 10%; this is a fantastic achievement. Compared to the national Private Sector SAP of 53.1 and local authority

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<sup>3</sup> The Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) is the UK Government's recommended method system for measuring the energy rating of residential dwellings.

rating of 59.6, the council's stock compares very favourably. Despite all this good work, due to rapidly increasing energy costs, reduced household incomes and the forthcoming welfare reforms it is predicted that fuel poverty will worsen in Kirklees over the next few years in line with national projections.

Currently the Kirklees Affordable Warmth Strategy is focussed on the core fuel poverty issues (as defined by the national Hills Review in March 2012). These issues are reflected in the Climate Local Commitments in Appendix 2.

- Supporting the most health vulnerable residents – working with health professionals and social services to ensure those most at risk of physical and mental health, because of cold and damp housing have a home they can afford to heat
- Addressing financial inclusion – particularly supporting residents to get the best energy tariff and save money through reduced energy consumption and paying the best price
- Improving the energy efficiency of all homes – particularly 'hard to treat' homes and the poorest households.

These initiatives are delivering other key council objectives in terms of tackling poverty, integrated investment and delivering health and wellbeing.

There is an opportunity to attract considerable utility 'ECO' (Energy Company Obligation) funding to assist the council to make energy efficiency improvements in both private sector and council housing some of this funding is targeted to those areas of greatest indices of multiple deprivation, some at 'hard to treat' properties which cannot have standard insulation and some at the poorest residents. However, the age and construction of some council and private sector properties is a limiting factor going forward.

### ***Theme 3: Council Operations***

#### ***Leading by example through the efficient use of energy and water in our buildings, street lighting and fuel use by fleet vehicles***

The council has signed up to a 40% reduction target in carbon emissions by 2020 from a 2005 baseline. Emissions have reduced but expenditure on energy has increased by 79% since 2005/6 to approximately £10million in 2011/12, and energy costs are predicted to increase by approximately 10% per year. In addition, the launch of the statutory Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) in 2011 will incur additional costs to the council of approximately £500K pa - which are only set to increase under the current legislation.

In the past, the council has invested in a number of energy management/efficiency and renewable energy technologies. In addition to low cost/ no costs measures, any future investment will need to be focused to areas with quickest paybacks e.g. street lighting, fleet and corporate buildings.

### ***Theme 4: Transport***

#### ***Increasing greener transport and transport connectivity in Kirklees, and reducing related carbon emissions.***

Transport problems, including congestion combined with a lack of investment, will stifle West Yorkshire's economic performance. Road congestion, particularly in the peak periods is a major concern for businesses and the public. Congestion also adversely affects the operation of bus services, reducing their performance and financial viability.

At a national level, the level of cuts to the DfT's capital budgets and revenue costs may potentially retard "greening" transport initiatives and hence could lower long term growth within this sector of the economy.



**My Journey West Yorkshire** is a 15-year Local Transport Plan (LTP) that sets out West Yorkshire's transport needs and ambitions until 2026.

The Plan has three main objectives:

- **Economy** - To improve connectivity to support economic activity and growth in West Yorkshire and the Leeds City Region;
- **Low Carbon** - To make substantial progress towards a low carbon, sustainable transport system for West Yorkshire, while recognising transport's - contribution to national carbon reduction plans;
- **Quality of Life** - To enhance the quality of life of people living in, working in and visiting West Yorkshire.

The Council has invested over £2m over the last 5 years to undertake improvements to the Public Rights Of Way (PROW) network to encourage greener forms of transport, to reduce congestion and to improve connectivity across the district. These improvements link to the aims of the LTP and also to the Kirklees Rights of Way Improvement Plan (2010-20) which sets out key areas of action for future years subject to the availability of resources.

The Climate local Commitments chosen reflect the objectives in the LTP and will help deliver the greatest outcomes in terms of carbon reduction, air quality improvement and economic growth.

## ***Theme 5: Waste***

### ***Developing future plans to reduce waste and maximise diversion from landfill.***

Implementation of the Recycling Plan for Kirklees is now complete. The plan introduced changes which included improved recycling opportunities for householders and the shift to alternate weekly collections. The changes have contributed (since 2007) to a reduction in residual household waste (grey bin) quantities of 27%, an increase in recycling collection quantities of 57%, and an overall reduction in household waste collected of 13%.

Successes here together with the impact of the landfill diversion incentives scheme agreed with our waste disposal contractor, Sita Kirklees Ltd, have resulted in the amount of waste being sent to landfill reducing from 40% to 5% since 2007. This placed Kirklees 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 123 waste disposal authorities in England in 2010/11, with similar performance in 2011/12.

The Council is now refreshing its Waste Strategy to determine its approach for the next 5-15 years, both to secure the improvements already achieved and to explore ways in which further improvements may be made in future.

## ***Theme 6: Natural Environment***

### ***Delivering a setting for investment and maximising biodiversity and reducing costs.***

Human activities already have a dramatic impact upon the natural environment and biodiversity, and the changing climate is likely to exacerbate this. The complex network of natural habitats, accessible green spaces, public rights of way and the wider rural setting all form what is referred to as the 'green infrastructure' of Kirklees.

The Integrated Investment Strategy makes reference to "making Kirklees an attractive place to live and work." A draft Green Infrastructure Strategy is currently being finalised to address how the council will protect and enhance our natural assets and also how they will help deliver economic benefits for Kirklees. When planned and well managed these areas will form a high quality multifunctional habitat that:

- Provides an attractive setting for investment and creates employment prospects
- Supports wildlife and biodiversity
- Supports health and wellbeing, with food growing, and leisure opportunities

- Adds to the economy by enhancing reasons for tourism
- Helps mitigate the impacts of climate change. Acts to reduce floods and manage water better and helps with urban cooling and relief from pollution
- Expands horizons connecting us to new places and adventures, helping us travel safely and benefits learning and discovery

This work will feed into a collaborative approach with Leeds City Region partners to contribute to the Leeds City Region Green Infrastructure Strategy. The work will be undertaken via the White Rose Forest, for which Kirklees is the Accountable Body.

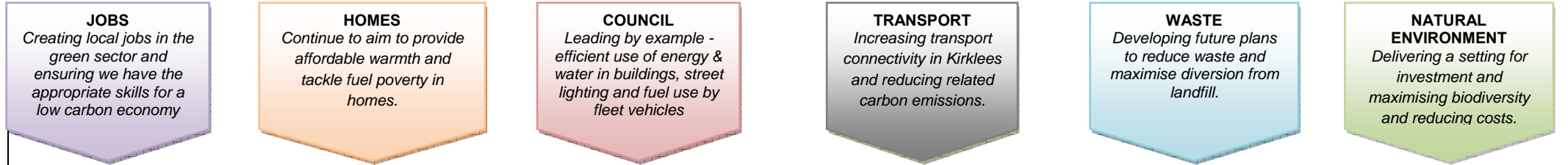
The council has a statutory duty (through undertaking its own functions and planning development management) in relation to upholding protected species legislation. In addition to this, we also seek to deliver biodiversity and green infrastructure enhancements through influencing planning applications (in line with the National Planning Policy Framework, 2012) and also through helping shape how the council undertakes its land management duties (in line with the NERC duty, 2006). Working 'with the grain' of nature can help reduce management costs, deliver biodiversity improvements and create a more appealing setting for investment.

### ***Monitoring Our Progress***

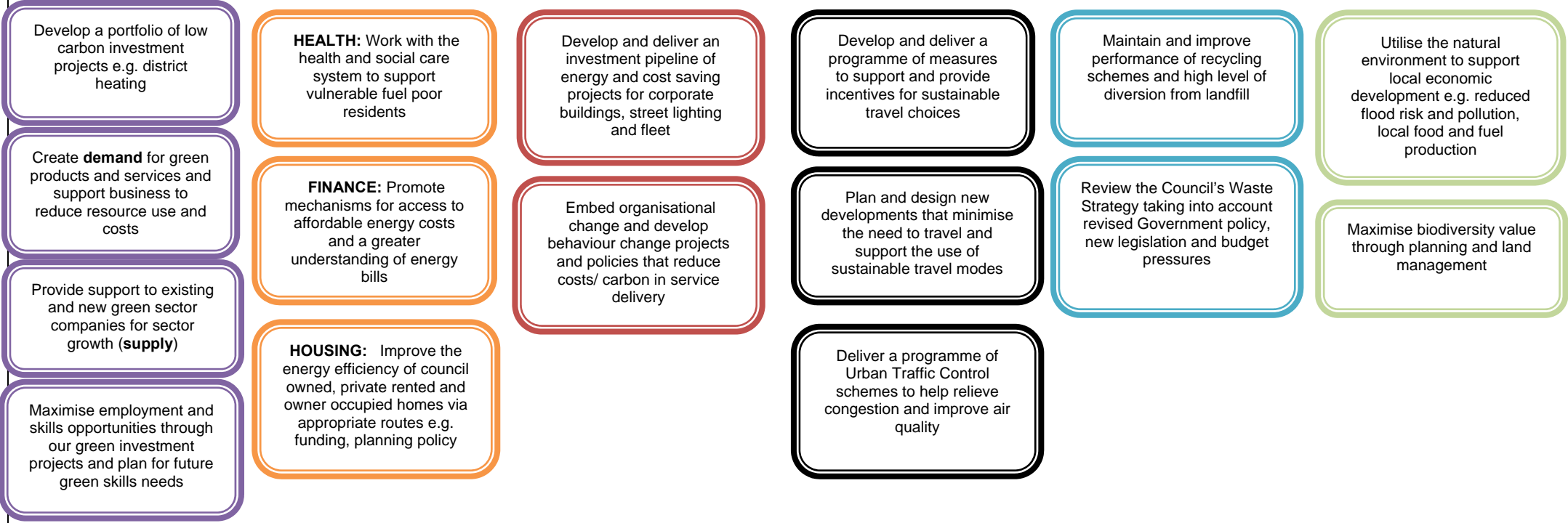
The Council will deliver the commitments outlined in Appendix 2 through joint working locally, regionally and nationally and progress will be reviewed annually through our Corporate Performance Management Framework.

Additionally, a more detailed action plan will be developed and shared with the Local Government Association, and reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it continues to meet council priorities. The council will also publicly report on progress.

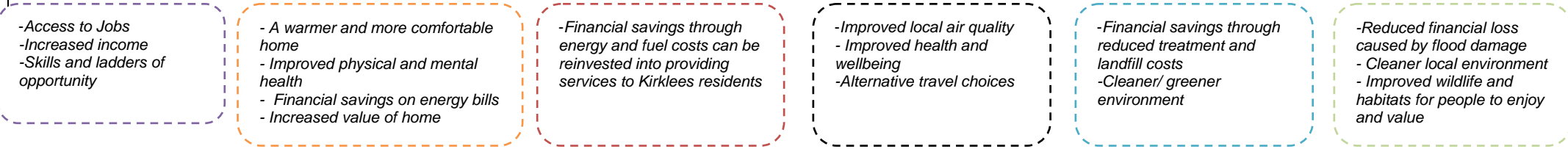
## **Appendix 2- Kirklees Council 'Climate Local' Commitments**



### HEADLINE COMMITMENTS



### WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR KIRKLEES RESIDENTS?



### **Appendix 3 - The Local Authority Fuel Poverty Commitment**

Fuel poverty is a scourge on our communities. It harms the physical and psychological health, welfare and quality of life of our residents.

Local authorities can play an important role in tackling fuel poverty through, for example, our new public health responsibilities, our strategic role in improving housing and our concern to encourage residents to contribute to the local economy and community.

#### **We commit our Council to:**

- Make sure we understand the extent of fuel poverty in our area, its impact on health, housing and quality of life, and to take action to address it
- Make sure that the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, agreed between Councils and local NHS organisations, informs strategies to tackle fuel poverty
- Work with partners such as Health and Wellbeing Boards and advice services to develop effective referral systems to reduce fuel poverty and cold-related ill health
- Develop a strategic approach to improve energy efficiency in all housing and fulfil its potential to create jobs and prosperity in our local communities
- Work with energy companies and related organisations to help make sure the Green Deal, Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and other energy efficiency programmes are delivered effectively in our area
- Administer the benefits we are responsible for efficiently and fairly, and help make sure eligible households receive the benefits to which they are entitled
- Explore ways of reducing fuel poverty that involve the whole community, including community groups and town and parish councils

#### **We want the Government to:**

- Help us meet our ambitions to eliminate fuel poverty in our area
- Make sure Public Health Directors can effectively deliver on their responsibility for meeting the public health outcome on fuel poverty
- Work with the LGA to support local authorities provide peer-to-peer support and sign up to locally appropriate actions and targets
- Help disseminate information and guidance on legislation, policy initiatives and best practice
- Help compile standardised housing stock data on all housing in the country
- Require Green Deal and ECO providers to inform local authorities of works taking place in their area, to enable authorities to report on referrals and outcomes
- Make sure we have the resources to make an effective contribution towards meeting the national target to eliminate fuel poverty by 2016

The Council commits to do everything within its powers to help eliminate fuel poverty in its area.

This commitment was written by the End Fuel Poverty Coalition (EFPC) and local authority officers. For more information on the EFPC, go to our website: **[www.endfuelpoverty.org.uk](http://www.endfuelpoverty.org.uk)**.