

Public Document Pack



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Tuesday 13 February 2024

Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Panel

The **Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Panel** will meet in the **Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield** at **2.00 pm** on **Wednesday 21 February 2024**.

This meeting will be live webcast. To access the webcast please go to the Council's website at the time of the meeting and follow the instructions on the page.

The items which will be discussed are described in the agenda and there are reports attached which give more details.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Muscroft', on a light-colored background.

Julie Muscroft

Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning

Kirklees Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair/Clerk of their intentions prior to the meeting.

The Panel members are:-

Member

Councillor Timothy Bamford
Councillor Hannah McKerchar
Councillor Matthew McLoughlin
Councillor Will Simpson
Councillor John Taylor
Jane Emery (Co-Optee)
Garry Kitchin (Co-Optee)

Responsible For:

Agenda

Reports or Explanatory Notes Attached

Pages

1: Appointment of Chair

To appoint a Chair for the meeting.

2: Membership of the Panel

To receive apologies for absence from those Members who are unable to attend the meeting.

3: Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1 - 8

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 10 January 2024.

4: Declaration of Interests

9 - 10

Members will be asked to say if there are any items on the Agenda in which they have any disclosable pecuniary interests or any other interests, which may prevent them from participating in any discussion of the items or participating in any vote upon the items.

5: Admission of the Public

Most agenda items take place in public. This only changes where there is a need to consider exempt information, as contained at Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. You will be informed at this point which items are to be recommended for exclusion and to be resolved by the Panel.

6: Deputations/Petitions

The Panel will receive any petitions and/or deputations from members of the public. A deputation is where up to five people can

attend the meeting and make a presentation on some particular issue of concern. A member of the public can also submit a petition at the meeting relating to a matter on which the body has powers and responsibilities.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10, Members of the Public must submit a deputation in writing, at least three clear working days in advance of the meeting and shall subsequently be notified if the deputation shall be heard. A maximum of four deputations shall be heard at any one meeting.

7: Public Question Time

To receive any public questions.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, the period for the asking and answering of public questions shall not exceed 15 minutes.

Any questions must be submitted in writing at least three clear working days in advance of the meeting.

8: Environment Strategy: Everyday Life

11 - 76

The Panel will consider the draft Environment Strategy: Everyday Life and the draft Cabinet report.

Contact:
Robert Green – Senior Climate Change Officer

9: Work Programme 2023/2024

77 - 86

The Panel will consider its work programme for 2023/24.

Contact:
Jodie Harris, Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

Contact Officer: Jodie Harris

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCRUTINY PANEL

Wednesday 10th January 2024

Present: Councillor Jo Lawson (Chair)
Councillor Timothy Bamford
Councillor Hannah McKerchar
Councillor Matthew McLoughlin
Councillor Will Simpson
Councillor John Taylor

Co-optees Garry Kitchin

In attendance: Councillor Moses Crook
David Shepherd, Strategic Director for Growth and Regeneration
Graham West, Service Director - Highways and Streetscene
Elizabeth Cusick, Operational Manager, - Highways and Streetscene
Chris Firth, Compliance and Performance Manager – Highways
Mark Scarr, Head of Highways
Katherine Hunt, Operational Manager, Highways and Street Scene
Philip Waddington, Group Engineer
Yvonne Atkinson , Highways Capital Programme Manager.

Apologies: n/a

- 1 Membership of the Panel**
No apologies were received
- 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
The Panel considered the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 25th October 2023 and 6th December 2023

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the previous meetings be approved.

3 Declaration of Interests

No Interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

All items were considered in the public session.

5 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No public questions were received.

7 Kirklees Highway Safety Update

6 The Panel considered the Kirklees Highways Safety Update report which set out the work delivered within the financial year (2023/24).

Councillor Moses Crook, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Housing and Highways introduced the item and explained that the report provided a review of the areas of work undertaken by the Highways Safety Team along with the proposed works to year end. The report also included reference to collision data, which was monitored to target resources and achieve the greatest possible safety improvements contributing towards the Vision 0 agenda. Key highlights included an extensive education programme to support the safety of young people and the Councils shared 2038 climate change targets. This included delivery of; training programmes to 4847 school children, 6456 'Bikeability' training sessions and the 'Theatre in Education Programme' which had been delivered to 1360 secondary school children. Alongside the comprehensive training package, was the promotion of the mode shift programme and once schools had signed up there had been demonstrable reduction in car use by 6.3%. Councillor Crook shared that the programme was forward looking in terms of establishing patterns of behaviour for the next generation, supporting the councils shared ambitions to the climate change agenda, supporting active travel and making a meaningful contribution to keeping communities safe and healthy.

Elizabeth Cusick, Operational Manager, - Highways and Streetscene presented the report, and it was highlighted that:

- The Council had a statutory duty under the 1988 Road Traffic Act Section 39 to promote road safety through education, training, engineering, and publicity.
- These responsibilities and duties were administrated by the Highway Safety Team and included Casualty Reduction, Community Traffic Measures and Road Safety.
- The delivery of the statutory responsibilities included:
 - Monitoring all collisions reported to the Police.
 - Analysing and investigating the reported evidence on circumstances and related contributory factors.
 - Developing yearly programmes of work and interventions for priority locations with a history of personal injury collisions.
 - Undertaking Road Safety Audits (RSA) for new schemes on the highway.
 - Developing the Education and Training packages.

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- In Addition to the Statutory Duties revenue funding was also used for several other streams of work i.e. - refreshing road markings, safe routes to school, mode shift and small-scale safety interventions etc...
- Key Road Safety Stakeholders (including the road user) and strong partnership working across Kirklees and West Yorkshire was integral to delivering Vision 0.
- Data showed that at present, there had been an approximate 5% reduction in casualty numbers when compared with the data from 2022.
- This created an average saving of approximately £3.3mil with the average cost of a collision costing approximately at £92,000 per casualty.
- More importantly this was saving lives and reducing the risk of injury and trauma in communities.
- Work from April to November 2023 included the:
 - Delivery of 13 capital schemes (now completed) and 9 schemes which were on site to be completed by year end and supported by CRSTS-1 funding.
 - The early 2024-25 and 2025-26 forward programmes using injury collision data and first year rate of return prioritisation (both years to be CRSTS-1 funded at £925,000 each year).
 - The integration of the West Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership's new criteria into the team, and the promotion of a number of new locations for Average and Community Safety Cameras.
 - 4847 school ages pupils received training which was an increase of 2843 compared to the same point last year.
 - 62 schools had signed up to Modeshift and Warwick Road and Batley High School were named Kirklees Schools of the Year at Modeshift Regional Awards.
- Looking forwards there were plans to; expand the road safety training programmes, deliver 7 capital schemes, continue to identify and promote new locations for Safety Cameras, launch the Kirklees Highways Road Safety Strategy and to continue the integration and promotion of Vision 0.

In the discussion to follow, questions and comments were invited from the Panel, with the following issues being covered:

- In relation to the School Streets Trial, it was advised that this involved closing streets outside of schools during morning/evening pick up times except for some residential traffic. The trials found that residents altered driving time to avoid peak hours, but a key challenge was that the scheme was reliant on schools capacity to manage the equipment to close roads and monitor them.
- In relation to the reduction in casualty figures and the link to preventative measures, it was advised that the decrease was attributed to a combination of key factors including vehicle safety innovation, engineering, and human behaviour change. Casualty data was monitored prior to intervention and after implementation to provide an understanding of its effectiveness. It was also noted that Kirklees's performance was good when compared with statistical neighbours.
- Driver behaviour was noted as a key influential factor resulting in unavoidable incidents and it was recommended that the collision data be filtered to

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differentiate between avoidable and unavoidable cases, highlighting where targeted action could be taken.

- A need to understand more about the difference between the nature of collisions in urban and rural areas was highlighted and it was recommended that the collision data be filtered to demonstrate this.
- There were concerns that multiple minor incidents in one location were not recorded in the data and it was recommended that ways to record this be investigated.
- It was highlighted that it was important to showcase examples of success in relation to interventions made in high-risk areas to demonstrate which schemes were effective, it was recommended that officers undertake work to highlight successful outcomes.
- In relation of expanding and supporting mode shift it was advised key challenges included the dependence on schools capacity, but work was being undertaken to encourage Vision 0 and promote increase in uptake.

RESOLVED: The Panel noted the Kirklees Highways Safety Update and recommended that:

1. The collision data be filtered to differentiate between avoidable and unavoidable casualties.
2. The collision data be filtered to help identify trends and differences between the nature of incidents in urban and rural areas of Kirklees.
3. The recording and consideration of locations where there were multiple minor incidents be investigated.
4. Work be undertaken to showcase examples of successful interventions made in high-risk areas to demonstrate which schemes were effective.

8 **2 Year Highways Capital Plan Update**

The Panel considered a report setting out the progress of the 2 Year Highways Capital Plan 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Councillor Moses Crook, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Housing and Highways introduced the item and explained that the programme was essential as well-maintained highways were safer and led to a reduction in carbon emissions. It was through this programme of work, that Kirklees kept the road network running smoothly despite challenges such as the impact of climate change (which increased damage to highways and drainage infrastructure), increased traffic and funding issues. The City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) which funded a large portion of the programme stipulated the promotion of active travel, public transport, and modal shift which in turn supported the Councils 2038 climate change ambitions. Highlights of the work undertaken included the street lighting programme - leading to a significant reduction in electric use over time, the LBUR programme, and the continuing maintenance of the PROW network.

Chris Firth, Compliance and Performance Manager – Highways gave a presentation which gave an overview of the programme of works included in the Capital Plan for 2023/24 and 24/25, the funding allocations for 2023/24 and the next steps. It was also noted that:

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- The programmes of works and individual schemes included: Highways Maintenance, Structures, Street Lighting, Public Rights of Way (PRoW), Highways Drainage, Highways Safety and Network Management (UTMC).
- Of the 4 key programme areas (Asset Management, Safer Roads, Network Management and Developer Contributions) had a total expenditure of just under £28mil of funding made up of grants and contributions.
- In relation to Assets there was a need to continue to invest in countering natural and user derived deterioration, to allow these assets to meet the expectations of their users.
- Governance arrangements to manage the Highways Capital Programme included:
 - The appointment of a Capital Works Programme Manager in 2023/24.
 - Monthly Highways Capital Programme Board meetings (chaired by the Head of Highways).
 - Monthly Capital Spend Monitoring spreadsheets, which included scheme progress and budget information.
 - Highways Capital Procedural Guide and Scheme Delivery Checklist to standardise the approach, with regular audits to ensure compliance.
 - Compliance with West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) Governance for financial claims and monitoring and evaluation of schemes funded via CRSTS.
- The next steps included the:
 - Continued management of the delivery of the 2023/2024 schemes within the Capital Plan through regular monthly monitoring of programmes and budgets.
 - Developing a rolling 2-year Capital Plan using whole life planning and condition data to manage asset deterioration using a risk-based approach.
 - The accurate recording of asset data in order to understand what the Council owned and its condition.
 - A 2-year Highway Capital Plan 2024/25 and 2025/26 would be produced to be taken to Cabinet in June 2024.
 - Continued work with the WYCA to maximise funding available for Highway Maintenance to reduce the national backlog.
 - Working with West Yorkshire Colleagues to review and update the Highway Policy and Strategy

In the discussion to follow, questions and comments were invited from the Panel, with the following issues being covered:

- In relation to the inspection frequency of adjoining roads, it was clarified that this was determined by a hierarchy system and the regularity of inspection could be between 3-6 months.
- In relation to the governance arrangements, it was advised that work was being undertaken to streamline the process and feedback loop.
- The commitment to good governance was welcomed by the Panel and highlighted as comprehensive, and the importance of robust processes to successful delivery was noted.
- Gratitude was expressed to the Highways team for the work undertaken over the Christmas period during the inclement weather, and it was agreed that thanks be given to officers.

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- In relation to Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS), it was clarified that there could be room for minor alternations to the location of a SID and if residents or ward councillors had suggestions or questions, they should contact the service by email. In response to a request from a Panel member with regards to updates of future moves and planned locations it was agreed that the specific area be investigated.
- In relation to deferred schemes, it was confirmed that these would be delivered in the next financial year.
- In relation to hazardous potholes, it was noted that spot fixes degenerated quickly, and generated a longer-term cost. It was further advised that upon receiving report of a pothole there was a 28-day target date within which the hazard must be removed. It was not always practical to take out large areas of the highway, but when safety inspectors felt it was necessary a request for a larger repair would be put forward.
- In relation to expired street lighting columns, the replacement would be brought in line with current standards which may also mean updating lanterns as well as the columns.
- In response to a question around the potential impact changes to national policy and climate change targets may have on local schemes it was agreed for a discussion to be held with officers in the Councils Transportation team and for an update to be provided to the Panel thereafter.
- In relation to Highways drainage, the importance of minimising flooding from blocked drains to mitigate the risk of further damage to the highways was noted. It was advised that due to the budget, a reactive approach to blocked drains was currently taken but a review of funding was to be undertaken with the ambition to re-introduce a limited amount of cyclic cleaning. It was also highlighted that the Council could only clear gullies on the public highway and that clearing blockages in private carrier drains relied on working closely with Yorkshire Water and Private Landowners. It was further agreed that the specific location where there were issues with blocked drains raised by the Co-optee be visited and investigated.
- It was noted that the A636 Denby Dale Road in the report should be changed to Wakefield Road for clarity.
- It was advised that the scheme listed from Blackmoorfoot Road to Dryclough Road was in development for the future years plan and proposals would be put forward as the scheme developed.
- The emphasis of net zero and climate change objectives in the report was welcomed by the Panel.
- It was requested that further opportunities for pre-decision scrutiny in respect of the Capital Plan be considered.

RESOLVED: The Panel noted the 2 Years Highways Capital Plan Update and it was recommend that:

1. Thanks be given to Highways Officers for the work undertaken over the Christmas period during the inclement weather.
2. That clarity around the location and future planned moves of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS) be investigated provided to the Panel.

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3. The Panel be provided with information about the potential impact the recent changes to national policy and climate change targets may have on local schemes following discussion with Transportation Officers.
4. The issue of blocked drains in the specific location raised by Co-optee (Garry Kitchen) be investigated.
5. The road name A636 Denby Dale Road be amended in the report to Wakefield Road for clarity.
6. Further opportunities for pre-decision scrutiny in respect of the Capital Plan be considered.

9 **Work Programme 2023/24**

The Panel considered its Work Programme for the 2023/24 municipal year.

RESOLVED: The Panel noted the work programme, and it was agreed that:

1. The Home to School Transport item be added to the work programme (in the new municipal year) for pre-decision scrutiny.
2. The link to use of pesticides be clarified.

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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

COUNCIL/CABINET/COMMITTEE MEETINGS ETC

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Environment & Climate Change Scrutiny Panel

Name of Councillor

Item in which you have an interest	Type of interest (eg a disclosable pecuniary interest or an "Other Interest")	Does the nature of the interest require you to withdraw from the meeting while the item in which you have an interest is under consideration? [Y/N]	Brief description of your interest

Signed:

Dated:

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your disclosable pecuniary interests under the new national rules. Any reference to spouse or civil partner includes any person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or as if they were your civil partner.

Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner, undertakes.

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses.

Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority -

- under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
- which has not been fully discharged.

Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.

Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.

Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) - the landlord is your council or authority; and the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.

Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -

(a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and

(b) either -

the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or

if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

Report title: 'Environment Strategy: Everyday Life'

(Key Words: Environment, Sustainability, Top-Tier, Strategy)

Cabinet date	June 2024 <i>(Dates to be confirmed in May Council, post-election)</i>
Cabinet Member	Clean and Green Portfolio Holder -
Key Decision	Yes
Eligible for Call In	Yes
<p>Purpose of Report: To note the contents and ambitions of the 'Environment Strategy: Everyday Life' as developed by a process of co-design with people who live work and study in Kirklees.</p> <p>To seek Cabinet endorsement for the draft 'Environment Strategy: Everyday Life' and recommend it for approval and publication by Council as a key strategy within the four top-tier.</p>	
<p>Recommendations: That the Cabinet notes the report and endorses the proposed 'Environment Strategy: Everyday, Life,' as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, recommending its adoption by the Council.</p> <p>For Cabinet to delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Corporate Strategy, Commissioning & Public health, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Greener Kirklees to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish the Partnership Pledge and associated monitoring and evaluation process via the Environment Strategy Partnership Group. • To establish the governance structure, associated board and necessary policies and procedures to effectively govern the implementation of the strategy within the Council. • To Deliver any future minor alternations for the strategy. • To meet the ambition (targets and objectives) outlined within the 'Environment Strategy, Everyday life.' • To apply for and accept external (i.e., non-council) funding for the implementation of the partnership pledge process and any actions associated with achieving the strategies targets, in accordance with the Council's Financial procedure rules. 	
<p>Reasons for Recommendations: Officers recommend adoption of the strategy by the Council, as to achieve 'Our Vision' and 'Shared Outcomes' outlined within the Council Plan 2024 / 2025, alongside the Council Leaders priority for 'delivering a greener Kirklees and leading on the climate emergency', we need to address the environmental challenges we face. Our social and economic ambitions are all underpinned by the environment – it's the air we breathe, the resources we use, the food we eat, where we live, work, and relax.</p> <p>Officers recommend delegating authority to the relevant Strategic Director to help translate the strategy from paper into on-the ground action and impact. These steps are necessary to effectively embed practices into Council operations, track progress against the ambition of the strategy whilst influencing, guiding, and encouraging partners across the district to take action.</p>	
Resource Implication:	

There is no direct capital investment associated with this strategy.

The management and delivery of the strategy will require dedicated human resource within the Council. In-light of on-going budget challenges, the utilisation of existing resource and obtaining external funding to 'capitalise' this capacity is being considered.

The strategy will also help coordinate the existing internal and external resources currently being used for environmental workstreams, enabling us to maximise resource efficiency through the identification of gaps and the duplication of effort.

Date signed off by Strategic Director & name:

Rachel Spenser-Henshall, Strategic Director, Corporate Strategy, Commissioning and Public Health – 26th October 2023 at a Senior Leadership Team (SLT) Meeting

Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?

Isabel Brittian, Service Director Finance (S151 Officer). TBC – reports due 26th Feb.

Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?

Julie Muscroft, Service Director, Legal, Governance & Commissioning. TBC – reports due 26th Feb.

Give name and date for Cabinet / Scrutiny reports:

Katherine Armitage – Strategic Director Environment & Climate Change.

Give name and date for Cabinet reports.

Robert Green – Senior Climate Change Officer

Electoral wards affected: The strategy will impact all electoral wards.

Ward councillors consulted: All ward councillors were consulted via their political party group meetings on two occasions: December 2022 and March 2023. More details on this consultation can be found in Appendix 1 to this report.

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1. Executive Summary

1.1. Context to the Strategy:

The 'Environment Strategy: Everyday, Life' is a high-level framework to help inform and provide direction for action across the district, not just within Kirklees Council.

This strategy does not just look at climate change, but the broader environmental picture – addressing the ecological and the climate emergencies, whilst tackling social and economic challenges through environmental action.

It is a reflection of the people who live work and study in Kirklees, having been developed via a process of co-design, involving 1039 residents and 549 representatives of partner organisations, businesses, institutions, and community groups across Kirklees. Partners were engaged with on multiple occasions, helping evolve the content over time to deliver a strong, ambitious, and successful strategy for all, that is both realistic and achievable.

1.2. What is the strategy's ambition?

The strategy's vision is to: *"Make the environment a priority in all decision-making, whether big or small. We want to harness the power of the natural environment to enhance the lives of the people who live work and study in Kirklees, fostering healthy, happy, and better-connected communities."*

This vision is encompassed within four themes, which contain 12 headline targets and 31 wider objectives, all underpinned by our three always-on priorities. (see Appendix 1 to this report for detail).

1.3. Why is the strategy needed?

The environment underpins everything. Our survival and wellbeing depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment. It is our home. It gives us the air we breathe, places to relax and resources for our businesses and jobs. To achieve the social and economic ambition of our Council Plan 24/25 and the other top tier strategies, we must also tackle environmental issues.

Addressing environmental sustainability is also what people who live work and study in Kirklees told us matters to them - they care about those broader environmental issues and its day to day problems.

This strategy builds upon the Climate Emergency declared by Kirklees in 2019 and will help address the Council Leader's key priority for the Council in "Delivering a greener and healthier Kirklees and leading on the climate emergency" by taking a bigger picture approach to environmental issues. Reducing our carbon emissions and building resilience to severe weather events are a vital part of this strategy, but it also factors in the ecological emergency and how we can use environmental action to tackle broader social and economic challenges.

This strategy also helps to address key environment targets set by national government, such as the Environment Act 2021, whilst also laying foundations within Kirklees Council for the impending legislative reporting requirements on biodiversity, as set out in the 2023 update to the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

1.4. What will the impact of this strategy be?

By tackling all our environmental challenges, we can improve the health, wealth, and happiness to our residents.

The strategy is structured by four themes ('Closing the Loop', 'Bringing it Home', 'Nurturing Nature' and 'Kirklees on the Move') which represent the areas and activities where action and change would have the biggest positive impact on our environment, society, and economy.

Our three-always on priorities ('Sustainable Economic Development', 'Resilient Futures', 'Environment for All') represent the benefits that can be experienced by taking environmental action.

This strategy will help develop a greater resilience of our people and places to future challenges, a just transition with a focus on equity, make the environment accessible to all.

It will also help save people money, which is more important than ever given the global energy crisis, cost-of-living crisis, and high inflation rates all mounting pressure on people's wallets.

2. Information required to take a decision.

2.1. Background

The Strategy is one of the council's four top-tier strategies, sitting alongside the Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the Inclusive Communities Framework, and the Inclusive Economies Strategy.

Each of these top-tier strategies support the others to achieve the overall vision of the Council Plan 2024/2025. Success in one, translates into success in another.

This strategy is also key in helping achieve the 'Clean and Green' shared outcome within 'Our Council Plan 2024/25', which aims to "Ensure people in Kirklees experience a high quality, clean, sustainable and green environment".

Furthermore, this strategy is also fundamental in achieving one of the Council Leader's key priorities for the Council – "Delivering a greener and healthier Kirklees and leading on the climate emergency".

2.2. Cost breakdown

To effectively manage and embed this strategy within Council operations, dedicated human resource within the Council will be required. In-light of on-going budget challenges, the utilisation of existing resource and obtaining currently unidentified external funding to 'capitalise' this capacity is being considered.

The strategy also aims to co-ordinate existing resource and actions across partners and within the Council, maximising resource use and community capital.

The approval of this strategy will not result in a direct need for capital investment.

Action that stems from this strategy – delivered through the action plans and policies that will feed into it, will also focus on cost-positive measures (ultimately action that saves or even generates residents and the Council money), alongside cost-neutral (i.e. invest to save action).

2.3. Timescale

The strategy sets ambitious targets with dates to drive progress. While some of these targets extend to 2038 and 2050, it will be essential to establish interim / steppingstone targets that reflect the urgency of immediate actions and facilitate effective monitoring of progress. These interim / steppingstone targets will be incorporated within the associate plans, policy and strategies that sit beneath the top tier Environment Strategy.

By implementing both long-term targets and interim milestones, we can effectively drive progress towards the ultimate vision of environmental sustainability in Kirklees, whilst tracking and evolving our approach along the way to ensure maximum effectiveness.

The timeframe of the decision-making pathway for the Strategy through Kirklees Council governance is set out in section 6 of this report.

2.4. Expected impact/outcomes, benefits & risks (how they will be managed)

The positive impacts and outcomes from this strategy include:

- Improved physical and mental health and wellbeing for our residents, as the Strategy promotes a cleaner and healthier environment.
- The creation and development of green jobs, fostering economic growth while ensuring a sustainable workforce equipped with green skills and knowledge.
- Enhanced social engagement, cohesion, and inclusivity across all our communities and places. The Strategy aims to create spaces and initiatives that bring people together, fostering a sense of belonging and unity.

- Inspiring and empowering our young people, providing them with opportunities to actively engage in environmental initiatives and becoming champions of sustainability.
- Establishing a renewed reputation for our district as a green leader, where our actions speak louder than words. This will enhance our standing among other communities and attract attention as a place committed to sustainable practices.
- Saving people money, addressing fuel poverty, and offering value for money in delivery.
- Co-ordinating and bringing together environmental activity across Kirklees, bringing people together under a shared vision, focusing work, generating maximum value and impact for the district.

Through the careful management of risks and proactive measures via the monitoring, evaluation and reporting process outlined within the strategy, any potential risks associated with implementing the strategy will be effectively mitigated.

2.5. Evaluation

As detailed within the strategy, the delivery of its ambition (targets and objectives) will be monitored and evaluated through a pre-agreed process, involving partners via the Environment Strategy Partnership Group.

2.6. Sustainability

Sustainability lies at the heart of this strategy, driving its vision and objectives. The strategy recognises that addressing environmental sustainability in Kirklees goes beyond just minimising negative impacts. Instead, it focuses on maximising the wider co-benefits that sustainable practices bring to our community.

The vision, themes, and targets are firmly grounded in the principles of sustainability. They are designed to create a balance between environmental, social, and economic considerations. By aligning with the three always-on priorities of sustainable economic development, resilient futures, and environment for all, the Strategy ensures a holistic approach that promotes long-term sustainability.

2.7. Services & agencies involved.

The development of this Strategy has been a collaborative and inclusive journey, involving council colleagues, elected members, the Kirklees Climate Commission (KCC), partner organisations and community groups.

This collaborative approach fosters a shared sense of responsibility and ownership, whilst ensures that all voices are heard, and that the Strategy reflects the diverse perspectives and expertise within our community.

In total, the co-design process incorporated 1039 residents and 549 representatives of organisations, involving 14 separate occasions of engagement with Council Colleagues and Ward Councillors, 8 with the Kirklees Climate Commission and 9 with residents.

Implementing the Strategy will require concerted efforts from all sectors of the council, as well as active participation from local businesses and residents. It is through this collective action that we can drive meaningful change, promoting sustainable practices, and nurturing a thriving and resilient Kirklees for current and future generations. We need to work together to make a lasting and positive impact on our environment and community.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

This strategy is a partnership document at its core and recognises that we all have a part to play in delivering successful environmental sustainability. That is why the development of this strategy has been centred around a co-design process, involving the people who live, work and

study in Kirklees, enabling the targets and objectives to be a reflection of the thoughts and ambitions of Kirklees in the round.

Our commitment to 'Shared by People' has meant that we have actively sought input from the people of Kirklees to help shape this Strategy and we have followed the 'Working Alongside' and the 'Kirklees Inclusive Communities Framework' guidance.

3.2 Working with Partners

As a continuation of our co-design process, to successfully deliver this ambitious strategy we need collaborative participation, involvement, and ownership from partners across Kirklees. That is why we encourage people, organisations, and businesses across Kirklees to sign up and pledge their support to deliver our collective ambition for a greener Kirklees.

As of 23rd January 2024, we have 10 signed pre-approval pledges: Home-Start Kirklees, River Holme Connections, Moors for the Future Partnership, Uniform Exchange, Holme Valley Climate Action Partnership, Greenhead College, Success 2 Recovery, Kirklees Active Leisure, Kirklees Climate Commission and Third Sector Leaders.

3.3 Place Based Working

The strategy acknowledges the different needs of communities in Kirklees and promotes a tailored approach to address specific environmental challenges. By adopting this strategy, the Council can create localised solutions, engage communities effectively, address disparities and promote fairness.

The co-design process for the strategy ensured that all 'places' across Kirklees were worked with. During the citizen sessions undertaken, specific consideration was given to those places and communities which are more commonly under-represented in processes of engagement – as emphasised by the resident survey.

Adopting a place-based approach in the delivery of the 'Environment Strategy; Everyday, Life' can help foster a thriving community by aligning environmental initiatives with each area's unique characteristics and aspirations. It can help ensure a sustainable future that benefits all residents in Kirklees.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

Having a positive impact climate change and air quality is fundamental to the 'Environment Strategy; Everyday Life.' The strategy incorporates the Councils 'Net Zero and Climate Ready by 2038' targets, aligning its vision and targets towards achieving the objectives set out within the Kirklees Climate Change Action Plan (as approved by Council in December 2022).

As a core aspect of the Councils Clean and Green shared outcome, improving air quality is considered one of the expected impacts from implementing this strategy. This is demonstrated by the dedicated objective for air quality within the 'Kirklees on the move' theme, being: *"Continue to reduce air pollutant emissions and subsequent improved air quality for all in Kirklees. (RF) (E4A)"*

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

The four themes and three always-one priorities within the 'Environment Strategy; Everyday Life' can help to create environments that prioritise the well-being and development of children, providing them with healthier, safer, and more sustainable surroundings to grow and thrive. They support the "Best Start in Life" and "Aspire and Achieve" outcomes.

3.6 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications of approving this strategy on the people who live work and study in Kirklees.

However, in-direct financial implications will be seen from the action that stems from this strategy – delivered through the action plans and policies that will feed into it. This includes reduced energy bills by improving energy efficiency of buildings, reduced cost to our health services by improving air quality, access to greenspace and enabling active travel modes, and a reduction in recovery costs from severe weather events by helping to improve the resilience of our people and places to climate change.

The Council is not required to commit any capital investment by approving this strategy.

To effectively manage and embed the strategy within Council operations, dedicated human resource will be required. In-light of on-going budget challenges, the utilisation of existing resource and obtaining currently unidentified external funding to ‘capitalise’ this capacity is being considered.

Various funding streams available at a regional, national, and international level will also be explored to help Kirklees maximise opportunities for securing financial support, grants, and partnerships to implement the strategy effectively.

It is also important to note that as a top-tier strategy, the support of all areas of the Council is required to help deliver it successfully – the resource implications and follow-on action should not be held by one service area alone.

3.7 Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications or binding issues associated with this strategy.

The strategy could in-directly influence council policy or plans with legal status in the future, such as the Local Plan, which would give consideration to strategies such as this.

3.8 Other (e.g. Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)

3.8.1 Risk

The approval of this strategy will have no direct impact on the Councils Corporate or Service Area specific risk.

The implementation of this Environment strategy would function as a mitigating control / action to ‘Key Corporate Risk 8 – Climate Change’, by helping to embed best-practice environmental and climate change thinking into policies, procedures and decision making throughout the council to reduce risk and address challenges.

The delivery of the strategy will have no direct impact on the Armed Forces Covenant. By delivering against our Always-on priorities and working towards a just transition, action stemming from the strategy will generate benefits that the Armed Forces Community would be able to access.

3.8.1. Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

An IIA has been completed as part of the development of the strategy, the detail of which is appended to this report. The case I.D is IIA549496696, found on the Council website: [Integrated Impact Assessments - IntegratedImpactAssessment \(kirklees.gov.uk\)](https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/IntegratedImpactAssessments-IntegratedImpactAssessment)

3.8.2. Human Resources

The management and delivery of the Environment Strategy Partnership Group will require dedicated human resource within the Council. In-light of on-going budget challenges, the utilisation of existing resource and obtaining currently unidentified future resources is being considered.

The Environment & Climate Change Service Area has had success in obtaining external funding to capitalise positions, through mechanisms such as West Yorkshire Combined Authority, which is an option that will be explored for the strategy.

4. Consultation

As part of the development of this Cabinet Report, the following colleagues were consulted, completing a review of this document:

- Strategy & Policy Team: Completed by Nick Howe (Strategy & Policy Service Manager)
- Portfolio Holder Cllr Aafaq Butt on the 22nd of January 2024. No cabinet report specific comments were received from the Portfolio Holder.
- Executive Leadership Team: Attendance on the 6th of February 2024
- Executive Board: Attendance 12th February 2024
- Environment & Climate Change Scrutiny: Attendance on the 21st of February 2024.
- Legal Team: due 26th February 2024
- Finance Team: due 26th February 2024

5. Engagement

This strategy has been co-designed with the people who live, work and study within Kirklees, enabling it to be a reflection of the thoughts and ambitions of Kirklees in the round, and not just those of the council. This includes:

- **Tailored for Kirklees:** Partners asked for the Environment strategy to take a 'tailored for Kirklees' approach, rather than follow an existing technical off-the-shelf model, to enable the unique characteristics of Kirklees and its people, to stand out.
- **Designed with, not for:** Involving 1039 residents and 549 representatives of partner organisations, businesses, institutions, and community groups across Kirklees. Partners were engaged with on multiple occasions, helping evolve the content over time to deliver a strong, ambitious, and successful strategy for all.
- **Engage those who have not yet had their say:** We engaged community groups from across Kirklees who are not commonly involved in the process of helping create a Kirklees-wide strategy. We gave everyone a voice, developed relationships, and sought to incorporate a wider variety of perspectives.

As part of the strategies co-design process, all of Kirklees' Ward Councillors were given an opportunity to be engaged on two-occasions, via their political party group meetings (Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Green and Independents), held both in-person and virtually.

Ward Councillors were firstly given the opportunity to comment on and influence the ambition outlined within the strategy, before then being fed-back the changes made because of their input, confirming the outcome.

6. Options

6.1 Options Considered

The options considered for recommendation are:

- To recommend to Council that this strategy should be adopted.
- To recommend to Council that this strategy should not be adopted.

6.2 Reasons for recommended Option

By adopting this strategy, we will demonstrate straight that, as a Council and as a District, Kirklees takes Environmental issues and challenges seriously and are committed to achieving the Clean and Green Shared outcome in 'Our Council Plan 2024 / 2025', the Council leaders key priority for the Council to deliver a greener Kirklees and lead on the Climate Emergency, alongside addressing the Ecological emergency.

The strategy will also help generate numerous co-benefits for the people who live work and study in Kirklees, supporting our social and economic ambitions.

7. Next steps and timelines

If recommended for adoption by Cabinet, the strategy will go to Council.

If adopted by Council, the strategy will be launched shortly afterwards. This launch will activate our communication strategy and dedicated webpage on the Council website, the publication of the Partnership Pledge, alongside the Councils internal 'Learning & Organisational Development Module' on the strategy.

8. Contact officer

Robert Green – Senior Climate Change Officer
Robert.green@kirklees.gov.uk
Int: 71984 Ext: 01484 221 000

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

The Council declared a 'climate emergency motion' in January 2019 and established the cross-party Climate Emergency Working Party (CEWP) to identify practical measures to reduce emissions across the district. Found here:

<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=10123>

A Climate Emergency was first declared for Kirklees at the Council Meeting of January 2019 considering growing global awareness of the detrimental effects of climate change on people and the environment worldwide. Found here:

<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=10123>

Kirklees council has not before had a co-designed top tier environment strategy.

10. Appendices

Appendix 1: 'Environment Strategy: Everyday Life' Report
Appendix 2: 'Env Strategy Resident Survey Outputs'

11. Service Director responsible

Katherine Armitage – Service Director Environment and Climate Change
Katherine.armitage@kirklees.gov.uk
Int: 75302 Ext: 01484 221 000

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Environment Strategy

Everyday, Life.

2024

PARTNERSHIP FOREWORD

We are proud to present Kirklees' new 'Environment Strategy: Everyday, Life.' This strategy is not just a document, but a collective vision that serves as a guiding light for a greener, more resilient future for our people and places.

As we stand on the precipice of unprecedented global challenges, it has never been more important to commit to a more environmentally sustainable Kirklees.

In an era defined by climate change, biodiversity loss and resource depletion, collaborative action and partnership working is critical. Together, we recognise that addressing these challenges requires unity, determination, and innovative solutions.

Our collective of partner organisations, representing diverse sectors across Kirklees, has come together to co-create this strategy. Underlining our shared commitment to making a difference.

The foundation of this strategy is the belief that a thriving environment is inextricably linked to the health and prosperity of our communities. We recognise that the pursuit of environmental sustainability is not just a matter of choice, but a fundamental responsibility. By working together, we aim to close the loop, nurture nature, improve our buildings and homes and get people and goods moving across Kirklees in a greener, more sustainable way.

As partners, we acknowledge that our journey towards sustainable development is not without its challenges. It requires investment, adaptability, and a commitment to learn from our successes and failures in equal measure. By collaborating, sharing knowledge, and building on the existing work, dedication and passion of the people who live work and study in Kirklees, we will be better equipped to tackle these challenges head-on.

We invite you to join us on this journey. Together, we can create a future that is not only sustainable but also vibrant, thriving and enriched by our natural surroundings. It is our shared legacy, our gift to current and future generations.

[Kirklees Active Leisure](#)

[Kirklees Climate Commission](#)

[Success 2 Recovery](#)

[Home-Start Kirklees](#)

[Greenhead College](#)

[Uniform Exchange](#)

[Moors for the Future](#)

Everyday, Life

An Environment Strategy for Kirklees

One of our four 'top-tier' priority strategies



This means the environment will be considered as a central priority in every decision we make.

Why? Because we know that our wellbeing and our economy, depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment. **It underpins everything.**

Our vision is of...

Making the environment a priority in all decision-making, whether big or small. We want to harness the power of the natural environment to enhance the lives of the people who live work and study in Kirklees, fostering healthy, happy, and better-connected communities.

Our strategy has four thematic areas...

-  **Nurturing Nature:** Green spaces, nature recovery and biodiversity.
-  **Bringing it Home:** Good buildings, clean energy and more sustainable neighbourhoods.
-  **Closing the Loop:** Taking radical action on circularity in resources.
-  **Kirklees on the Move:** Better, greener transport options for all.













And three 'always-on' priorities...

- Sustainable Economic Development:** Supporting progressive, sustainable opportunities for prosperity.
- Resilient Futures:** Greater ecological, social, and economic resilience, including strong action on climate adaptation, particularly to protect the most vulnerable.
- Environment for All:** Supporting fairness, greater inclusion, diversity and accessibility.

Delivering co-benefits of...

- Better physical, mental health and wellbeing for residents.
- The provision and development of green jobs, skills and improved productivity.
- Greater social engagement, cohesions and inclusivity across all our communities and places.
- Providing inspiration to and encouraging greater engagement with our young people.
- A renewed reputation as a green district, where our actions speak just as loudly as our words.

Our 12 headline targets

-  **1** Zero avoidable waste by 2038.
-  **2** Growing the sharing economy in Kirklees to be a national leader.
-  **3** Nature in Recovery by 2030.
-  **4** All degraded peatland to be in restoration by 2038.
-  **5** Increase Kirklees tree canopy cover to 21% by 2050.
-  **6** All homes in Kirklees to be within a 500m or 5 minutes' walk away from accessible green or blue space by 2038.
-  **7** Good buildings – all buildings in Kirklees to be energy efficient, at a minimum of EPC C by 2030.
-  **8** Net Zero Energy supply by 2038.
-  **9** Sustainable neighbourhoods programme launched by 2026.
-  **10** 60% of journeys within Kirklees to be Sustainable Journeys by 2030.
-  **11** 100% of fleet vehicles to be zero carbon by 2038
-  **12** All of Kirklees homes to be within 1km of public transport connection point via safe pedestrian route by 2038.

COUNCIL FOREWORD

Welcome to our 'Environment Strategy: Everyday, Life.' The goal of this strategy is to outline our collective vision for the environment and provide a framework for its delivery.

Since declaring a Climate Emergency in 2019, we have taken important steps to become Net Zero and Climate Ready by 2038, demonstrated by Kirklees Council winning the '[Award for Impact](#)' from the Royal Meteorological Society and an A grade for environmental reporting from CDP.

However, we recognise that our ambitions for Kirklees need to go further than the climate emergency. We need to focus on broader environmental issues too, such as the ecological emergency, while also generating benefits for our residents and our places.

The environment underpins everything we do. Without a thriving healthy environment, all the other plans we have for a better future for Kirklees cannot succeed. We are making the environment a priority.

By taking action to improve the environment, we will generate broader benefits such as improving our health and wellbeing, stimulating sustainable economic development, and creating a more inclusive society.

Co-designed with people who live, work and study in Kirklees, this document becomes the Council's fourth top-tier strategy, giving the planet a seat at the table. The strategy brings together and helps coordinate the environmental work partners are already delivering across Kirklees and identifies new work to deliver a sustainable Kirklees.

Through our co-design journey, the structure of this strategy has evolved to become a reflection of the ambition, hope and expectation of people, organisations, and business across Kirklees.

But our joint working doesn't stop with co-design. We intend to co-deliver too. We have developed a partnership pledge open to all people, organisations, and businesses across Kirklees.

I invite you to pledge your support to help achieve our vision and ambition for a greener Kirklees. Together we can make a difference.

Councillor Aafaq Butt



Cabinet Member for Culture and Greener Kirklees

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INTRODUCTION

In Kirklees, we know that the environment matters. Without a thriving, healthy environment all the other plans we have for a better future cannot succeed.

The environment **underpins everything**.

It is our home. It gives us the air we breathe, places to relax, resources for our businesses and jobs. It's where nature can thrive.

We want to make sure the environment is a priority. That's why we have made this a top tier strategy alongside the 'Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy', 'Inclusive Communities Framework' and 'Inclusive Economy Strategy'.

Our top tier strategies are interconnected and cover all areas of sustainable development – environmental, economic, and social. Together, they are helping us to **deliver a sustainable Kirklees**.

We know the environment is not something any one organisation can address alone. That's why this strategy has been co-designed, bringing together council officers, key partners and people who live work and study in Kirklees.

As a result, this strategy **encompasses the environmental work delivered by Kirklees Council and partners and captures new, ambitious ideas** for the future. Ideas that will take our action to a new level.

We will deliver the strategy in the same way we have produced it – together. Like all our top tier strategies this is a **partnership document**.

WHAT IS OUR AMBITION

The ambition of our strategy is encompassed within a **vision and four themes** which contain **12 headline targets** and **31 objectives** all underpinned by our **three always-on priorities**.

VISION

We are committed to making **the environment a priority in all decision-making**, whether big or small, to create a flourishing and sustainable Kirklees. We want to harness the power of the natural environment to **enhance the lives of the people who live work and study in Kirklees**, fostering **healthy, happy, and better-connected communities**.

To deliver this strategy, we will work together as **a partnership**. Our commitment is to ensure that Kirklees is a place where it's easier than ever to make clean, green choices and that **fairness** is a factor in the decisions we make.

When it comes to the environment, we all have a part to play and this is **one strategy, for all**.

THEMES

Our strategy is structured in four themes:



Closing the Loop: Taking radical action on circularity and resources.



Nurturing Nature: Green spaces, nature recovery and biodiversity.



Bringing it Home: Good buildings, clean energy, and more sustainable neighbourhoods.



Kirklees on the Move: Better, greener, and more affordable transport options for all.

ALWAYS-ON PRIORITIES

Each of the four themes is underpinned by our ‘**Always-on**’ priorities. These are the three principles by which we have developed and will deliver the strategy:



Sustainable Economic Development (SED) how the Kirklees environment strategy only supports progressive, sustainable opportunities for prosperity and wealth creation across the borough, and actively seeks to counter short term economic growth plans that work against our nature and climate targets.



Resilient Futures (RF) how the Kirklees environment strategy delivers greater ecological, social, and economic resilience for the future, including strong action on climate change adaptation, particularly to protect the most vulnerable people. This theme also ensures that our people are resilient and ready for the future, not least through learning new, transferable green skills.



Environment for All (E4A) how the Kirklees environment strategy can support fairness, greater inclusion, diversity, and accessibility, particularly for people from ethnic minority backgrounds and those with disabilities. These groups have routinely been given less support on environmental issues and are also proven to be most at risk when it comes to environmental pressures.

TARGETS

Our strategy has **12 headline targets** split across our four themes:



We also have **our climate emergency target**, which applies to all our themes, being:

- Net Zero by 2038.
- Climate Ready by 2038.

WHY IS THIS STRATEGY NEEDED

Our strategy is based around the core principles of environmental sustainability, with an understanding that **our survival and wellbeing depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment.**

Living more sustainably is crucial because our planet, like a delicate balancing act, has certain limits or 'planetary boundaries' that we must not exceed to maintain a stable and habitable place for us to thrive.

Think of Earth as a spaceship with finite resources and a delicate life support system. When we exceed the limits on things like carbon emissions, deforestation, and biodiversity loss (or in the case of the spaceship – food, water, and oxygen) we risk disrupting the balance that sustains life as we know it. Living sustainably is about ensuring we stay within these limits, preserving the health of our planet to secure a liveable future for generations to come.

WHAT WILL THE IMPACT OF THIS STRATEGY BE?

By becoming a more environmentally sustainable district we will deliver health, wealth, and happiness to the people who live, work, and study here.

This strategy is structured by our four themes as they represent the areas and activities within Kirklees that put the most pressure on our environment, and those areas and activities where action and change would have the biggest positive impact.

We have made the three Always-on priorities a vital part of our strategy as they represent the benefits that can be experienced by taking environmental action across the four themes. These demonstrate that it's not just the environment that will profit from this strategy, and that our efforts to become more sustainable do not come at the expense of households or the wider Kirklees economy.

For many households in fuel poverty continuing to take measures to decarbonise social housing will see monthly bills come down as we become more sustainable. More widely, some of the important technologies we need to deploy, such as electric vehicles or heat pumps, are increasingly comparable in cost to their less sustainable alternatives and can offer considerable cost savings in the longer term.

Action to reduce waste will save the district money. At a household level, everything from reducing food waste to adopting more re-use and repair, will also save money. More sustainable travel choices can reduce costs too, particularly if residents can dispense with one car, which in the UK costs the average household between [£3,000 - £5,000 each year](#).

The [Institute for Government](#) outlines that the overall cost of achieving Net Zero by 2050 in the UK will involve considerable investment (probably around £1.4 trillion) but will result in an overall return on investment of over £200 billion. As one of the largest local authorities in the UK, it's vital that Kirklees sees that sustainable wealth creation opportunity unlocked for our residents.

Impact Case Study – The Northern Forest

Launched in 2018, the Northern Forest is transforming large areas of Northern England with through an ambitious tree planting programme. Together, the Woodland Trust and four of England’s northern Community Forests are planting at least 50 million new trees across 10,000 square miles of land, stretching from Liverpool to Hull, with a considerable number being planted in Kirklees. After the first five years, a study by Liverpool John Moores University assessed the programme’s impact and found it has:

Put 302,000 extra households within a 10 minutes’ walk from a publicly accessible woodland.

Created 423,626 m³ of water storage, delivering a 33% improvement in flood mitigation.

Delivered an 11.6% improvement in air purification and sequestered 19,000 tonnes of carbon each year; and

Delivered an overall associated annual economic uplift worth over £43 million in ecosystem services.

For more information please visit: [The Northern Forest: Planting 50 Million Trees | The Woodland Trust](#)

SAVING PEOPLE MONEY

As work on this strategy has progressed, the context has shifted. The people of Kirklees have witnessed a global energy crisis with huge increases in their monthly bills, a cost-of-living crisis with high inflation, and subsequent pressure on those with mortgages have seen interest rates double or even triple. It will be vital that every aspect of this strategy is shown to:

1. Offer excellent value for money and efficiency in delivery, minimising the impact on Council funds and ensuring other services can continue to be delivered;
2. Delivers opportunities to save our residents money through lower bills, general lower costs, and no-cost benefits like access to nature;
3. Supporting the idea of a ‘just transition’ in that poorer households are not disadvantaged by for example, a transition to Net Zero; and
4. Bring direct economic benefits to the region through new jobs, business opportunities and an upskilled and efficient economy.

HOW WILL THIS STRATEGY BE DELIVERED

This strategy is a high-level framework to provide direction for action. Being Kirklees Council's first Environmental Strategy, it will become the **Council’s fourth top-tier strategy**, sitting alongside the ‘Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy’, ‘Inclusive Communities Framework’ and ‘Inclusive Economy Strategy’.



These four strategies will work in harmony to deliver their individual and collective aims, ultimately helping to implement Kirklees’ Council Plan 2024/25.

As a high-level document, the Environment Strategy provides the ambition for Kirklees Council and partners to achieve. It is not a detailed action plan – the detailed actions will come through the plans that feed into our strategy.

For the Council, examples of documents that provide this detail include, but are not limited to, the [Kirklees Waste Strategy 2021–2030](#), the [Air Quality Action Plan 2019–2024](#), the [White Rose Forest Plan 2021–2025](#) and the [Kirklees Climate Change Action Plan](#).

Partners also have their own action plans and strategies. Our strategy is designed to support these, providing an area-wide ambition, commitment, and partnership to continue to deliver this vital work.

KIRKLEES COUNCIL PLAN 2024/25

Our Council Plan 2024/25 is the driving force for the four top-tier strategies, providing a mandate for their development and ultimate delivery. It creates a shared sense of purpose, aiming to bring together our collective insight, expertise, and resources **to achieve greater impact** and make our **local places even better**.

A more in-depth summary of how our strategy addresses the Council Plan and its shared outcomes is outlined in Appendix C.



CLOSING THE LOOP



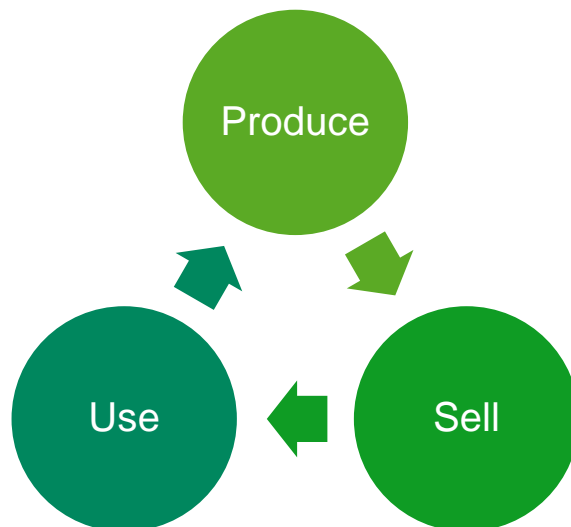
“Creating opportunities for communities to share and reuse items to reduce consumption is key.” (Resident voice)

We want to make the most of every resource we have, reduce waste, or even stop it from happening in the first place. We want to create a district where products are made with sustainable materials then reused, repurposed, or recycled so they are used to their fullest extent.

Locally and globally people are consuming more and that has an environmental impact. The way we make and use products contributes to climate change and biodiversity loss. According to [WRAP](#), 45% of global emissions can only be tackled by changing the way we make and consume products and food. We need to move from a linear economy to a circular one.

A linear economy is one where natural resources are taken out of the ground, turned into goods, then often put back into the ground as landfill or incinerated.

A circular economy is different. It designs out waste and pollution at the start by trying to make goods from sustainable materials, ensure goods are made to last and can be easily and affordably repaired. Then it keeps those materials in use as long as possible, increasing the sharing of products, reusing, remanufacturing, and recycling.



A circular economy might sound like an abstract future concept, but it's not. The circular economy is already contributing to reducing emissions and economic growth. [A report by WRAP](#) from November 2021, shows that in the UK between 2014 and 2019 almost 90,000 new jobs were created in the circular economy. It's expected to create 550,000 jobs by 2030.

We also want to promote a greater sharing economy within Kirklees.

The circular and sharing economies are complementary, working together they will have a more profound impact on our environmental challenges. Where the circular economy is about how the goods are manufactured and then taken apart and re-made or used as new goods, the sharing economy is more about what we do with these goods during their lifespan, how we maximise the full potential of something.

The sharing economy can refer to activities such as ridesharing, the use of a holiday let, renting out a parking space or driveway for a limited period or even sharing goods and resources, such as lawnmowers or bikes, with your neighbours and friends.

In everyday life 'closing the loop' might mean...

- more opportunities for residents to save money through sharing, like being able to pick up a power-tool from the library alongside a book.
- communities where people are involved in growing food and reducing food waste; where residents can walk to buy fresh, affordable produce; and where everyone has the skills to prepare healthy and sustainable food.
- building on our textile heritage to become a centre for sustainable textile innovation alongside encouraging new green industries that boost skills, opportunities, and economic growth.

WHAT WE'VE DONE

Across Kirklees we have a track record of taking action to shape consumer behaviour and re-use, re-imagine and re-purpose our waste.

Organisations and individuals have shown how circularity is good for the planet, our pockets and is supporting residents through the cost-of-living crisis. Since 2011, Kirklees' [Uniform Exchange](#) has had 295,000 items donated, supported 182 schools and given 15,000 bags of uniform to families.

[Woven In Kirklees'](#) 2023 celebration of innovation in textiles focused on the environmental impact of textiles. As Kirklees is home to a huge number of textile manufacturers, retailers, artists, and designers it's no surprise that 15,000 people took part in over 100 events. From an Upcycled fashion show in Dewsbury, Mission to Mend roadshows and growing natural dyes, the festival linked sustainability and Kirklees' unique textile heritage.

Repair cafes have been established in Huddersfield, Holmfirth and Dewsbury, fixing everyday objects from clothing to electronics, while the third sector organised a ['Zero Waste and the Circular Economy'](#) conference in April 2023 to bring together c.100 delegates from businesses, organisations and individuals across Kirklees and the Yorkshire Region to work together to 'Close the Loop'.

Partner Case Study 1: University of Huddersfield and UK Fashion and the UK Fashion and Textile Association (UKFT)

Huddersfield University and the UK Fashion and Textile Association are working together to find a solution to the huge problem of fashion waste.

We throw away enough clothing every year to fill Wembley stadium 17 times over. Huddersfield University and UKFT, are developing new ways to recycling fibres and yarns for use in agriculture and in the built environment.

As well as helping solve some of the fashion industry's most pressing environmental problems, the projects are looking at how the growth of the circular economy can boost manufacturing opportunity, jobs, and the economy in Kirklees.

[Future Fashion Factory.](#)

Partner Case Study 2: New Huddersfield Reuse Shop

A new re-use shop, run by partner organisation [Revive](#), opened on Upperhead Row, Huddersfield in February 2023.

During its launch, over 97 tonnes of items were donated by residents to be sold on in the shop including unwanted textiles, small electricals and furniture. The delivery of this re-use shop is a milestone action within Kirklees Councils Resources and Waste Strategy, with the objective of supporting the circular economy in the district – all while raising funds for good causes and generating jobs and volunteering opportunities for local people.

[New reuse shop on the Kirklees Together website.](#)

A summary of data for Closing the Loop can be found in Appendix D.

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

TARGETS

- Zero avoidable waste by 2038 (SED).
- Grow the sharing economy in Kirklees to be a national leader (SED).

Zero Avoidable Waste Explained

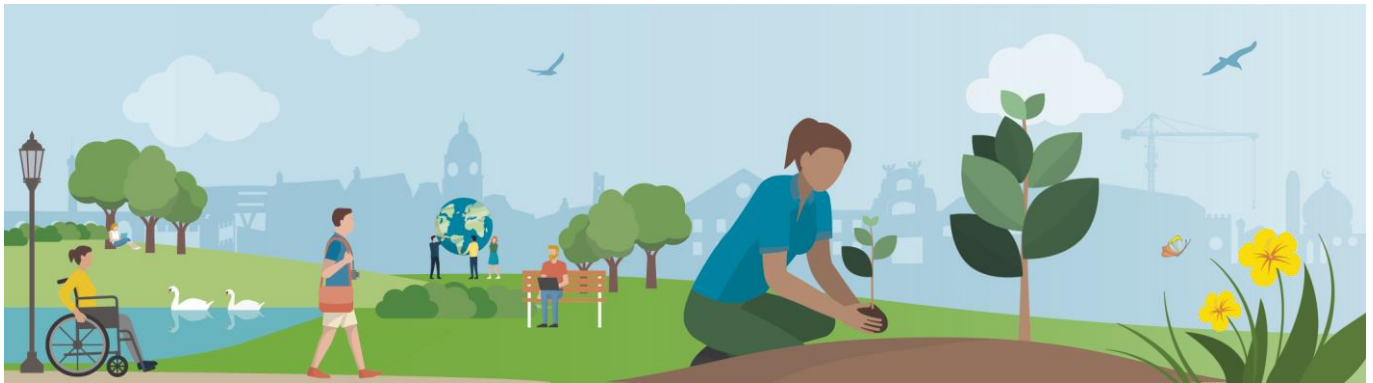
The term avoidable means eliminating waste where it is technically, environmentally, and economically practical to do so, covering all waste streams: residential, commercial, construction and industrial.

OBJECTIVES

- Adopting circular economy principles (where little or nothing is wasted) and becoming more responsible producers and consumers. (SED)
- Putting re-purposing, reuse and repair before recycling and disposal, keeping products and materials in use for as long as possible. (SED)
- Securing 95% diversion from landfill by 2030. (RF)
- Providing separate food waste kerbside collection by 2028. (SED)
- Achieving a 60% reduction in food waste by 2030. (SED)
- Designing our buildings, industrial practices, and urban infrastructure to minimise the resources they use and the waste they produce. (SED)
- Helping Kirklees to continue its journey to be leading circular textile innovators. (SED)
- Ensuring our decision making and policy supports a shift towards a sharing-economy. (SED, E4A)
- Supporting sustainably produced, locally grown and reared produce. (SED)
- Making Kirklees is an epicentre for sustainable and resilient food production, consumption, and waste practices. (SED, RF)
- Develop skills for the circular economy, creating new job opportunities and appropriate education and upskilling resources. (SED)
- Reviewing procurement policies and practice to embrace a circular economy approach. (SED)

KEY: SED = Sustainable Economic Development; RF = Resilient Futures; E4A = Environment for All.

NURTURING NATURE



“Local residents are passionate about the natural environment and feel that protecting this is protecting part of their personal identity.” (Political voice)

We want to protect and expand existing natural habitats and create new spaces for wildlife. We want to ensure that everyone has access greenspace and can benefit from the natural environment.

Set against the backdrop of the Pennine Moors and Peak District parkland, we have some of the UK’s most stunning countryside.

From the blanket bogs on our moors and ancient woodlands on our steep valleys, to rare flowers such as marsh helleborine on our old industrial sites, Kirklees is rich in nature.

When surrounded with Kirklees’ great greenspaces it might be easy to think the nature crisis is restricted to far-off places like the Amazon or Great Barrier Reef. It’s not. It’s right here on our doorstep. Nature in the UK is in decline, and we are a country that is already one of the most nature depleted in the world. The [State of Nature Report 2023](#) shows that since the 1970s UK species have declined by 19% and nearly 15% of species are currently classified as threatened with extinction.

It’s not just nature reserves or protected habitats and species that matter. All greenspaces matter, from gardens to grass verges and parks. Greenspaces and parks make us happier and healthier, so much so that according to research completed by [Field In Trust](#), across the UK they provide £34.2 billion of wellbeing benefits, reduce heart disease, obesity, and depression – saving the NHS over £111 million per year.

Our natural environment also performs valuable services, like reducing flooding, storing and cleaning our drinking water and absorbing carbon. The Sphagnum moss that grows on Kirklees moorlands can absorb 20 times its weight in water and the Peatlands can contain more than twice the amount of carbon stored in forests.

In everyday life, this might look like...

- all residents in Kirklees having access to a rich, thriving natural environment, which improves their physical and mental wellbeing.
- our buildings and infrastructure enhancing the natural environment they are in, supporting local biodiversity, acting as a catalyst to nature recovery.

– our industries and communities working together to conserve our natural environment, adding to the value and services it provides so we can continue to benefit from them.

WHAT WE'VE DONE

Actions to clean up, protect and restore our greenspaces and local wildlife is the focus of many organisations, businesses, and individuals within Kirklees.

We have planted 59ha of new trees across the district through community partnerships and volunteers, helping to absorb carbon emissions, bring together communities and restore shared community spaces.

Third sector organisations, such as [Natural Kirklees](#), [EPIKS](#) and [River Holme Connections](#), work tirelessly to improve our natural environment. From making footpaths more accessible and planting new woodlands, to working in partnership on landscape recovery projects that will deliver benefits to our rural communities by improving soils, increasing biodiversity, enhancing water quality, and reducing flood risk.

Educating individuals on the natural environment has also been a core theme of action. The 'Outdoor Study and Conference Centre' at [Cliffe House](#) runs child-centred nature-based educational activities for all, while the third sector organisations such as [Success 2 Recovery](#) offer the 'The Great Outdoors Project', working with adults in Kirklees to take their first steps into nature.

Partner Case Study 1: Moors for the Future Partnership – MoorLIFE 2020

MOORLife was an ambitious five-year project, investing €16 million (EU funded) to protect areas of blanket bog. Its conservation work resulted in stabilising and revegetating 52.5ha of bare peat; installing 16,432 mini-dams for re-wetting; planting nearly three million sphagnum plug plants; working with 334 land managers to share best practice; and ultimately protecting 95 sq.km of active blanket bog.

For more information, [MoorLIFE 2020 | Moors for the Future](#)

Partner Case Study 2: White Rose Forest and Woodland Creation

Kirklees Council is a key partner and the accountable body of the White Rose Forest, which has the aim of establishing 2,500ha of new tree canopy cover in our river catchments and 1000ha of new tree canopy in our urban areas and along our major transport routes by 2025.

Since declaring a Climate Emergency in 2019, Kirklees Council has created 59ha of new tree canopy cover across the district.

For more information, [Woodland creation | Kirklees Council](#)

A summary of data in Kirklees for Nurturing Nature can be found in Appendix D.

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

TARGETS

- Nature in recovery by 2030. (RF)
- All degraded peatland to be in restoration by 2038. (RF)
- Increase Kirklees tree canopy cover to 21% by 2050. (RF, E4A)
- All homes Kirklees to be within 500m or five minutes' walk away from accessible green or blue space by 2038. (E4A)

'Green and Blue Space' Explained

Green space is any vegetated land within an urban area. This includes parks, gardens, playing fields, play areas, woodland and other natural areas, grassed areas, cemeteries and allotments, green roofs, and green walls, as well as green corridors like rights of way, canal towpaths and disused railway lines.

Blue space includes canals, rivers, streams, ponds, lakes, and reservoirs.

OBJECTIVES

- Conserving, enhancing, and investing in our natural environment and biodiversity, eradicating pollution, and re-imagining management practices. (RF, E4A)
- Prioritising green and blue infrastructure and nature-based solutions in all activities, refurbishments, and developments to restore and improve our natural environment. (RF)
- Taking a brownfield first approach to new development that supports nature recovery and biodiversity net gain. (SED, RF)
- Making regenerative agriculture (the conservation and rehabilitation approach to food and farming) a common practice in Kirklees. (SED, RF)
- Supporting our Community Forest partnership for the region, White Rose Forest, to plant more trees as part of the wider 50m tree Northern Forest. (RF, E4A)

KEY: SED = Sustainable Economic Development; RF = Resilient Futures; E4A = Environment for All.

BRINGING IT HOME



“We really, really need to insulate our homes, both for the environment and to reduce energy poverty.” (Resident voice)

We want to enhance the places we call home by making them more sustainable, with people living and working in buildings that are good for them and the planet. We want our neighbourhoods to be places we are proud of, which improve our health and wellbeing, giving us a platform from which to thrive.

The places in which we live, work and study in Kirklees are a mix of the traditional and the modern, centuries old villages steeped in local history and legend; buildings and locations made famous by writers, film, and television; and vibrant towns full of art, creativity, and local produce.

The quality of our homes and the strength of our communities has a massive impact on our quality of life. This theme is all about enhancing that quality by creating sustainable buildings and neighbourhoods that are energy efficient, affordable, and conducive to modern living and the social, economic, and environmental challenges we face.

In the UK, the [NHS spends an estimated £1.4 billion each year](#) on treating people affected by poor housing. In 2021, 17.3% of Kirklees’ households were classified as ‘fuel poor’, which means after paying for heating, the households disposable income puts them below the official poverty line.

Ways to address these challenges exist. According to the [Energy Saving Trust](#) improving the energy efficiency of homes through loft insulation could save £240 per year on energy bills for a mid-terrace house and up to £445 per year on for a detached house, and replacing single-glazed windows with A-rated double glazing could save £165 per year.

In everyday life this might look like...

- neighbourhoods where people can easily meet their daily needs, socialise, and feel safe.
- high quality urban environments where homes and buildings have been designed and built to a sustainable standard, keeping the occupants warm in the winter, cool in the summer and don’t cost the Earth to run.
- Kirklees being home to sustainable neighbourhoods that feature everything from community allotments and gardens; community renewables; sustainable education programmes; a sustainable food strategy; and tough action on antisocial behaviour such as fly tipping and littering.

WHAT WE'VE DONE

Developing our skills and providing funding, support, and guidance to 'bring it home' is the primary focus of many partners across Kirklees.

Third Sector Leaders run a '[Community Buildings and Energy Project 2023](#)'. It aims to improve the quality of community buildings in the district by providing the skills needed to manage the buildings and helping communities to access the necessary finance and technical advice needed to do improvement works.

This is coupled with '[Community Grants for Climate Projects](#)', run in partnership with Kirklees Council and West Yorkshire Combined Authority, which offers £5,000 to £50,000 to support climate friendly projects such as local, clean energy solutions and energy efficient buildings.

Organisations such as [One Community](#) also facilitate the provision of Household Support for food, cost of living or energy poverty, where grants of up to £10,000 are available for eligible people through either the 'Household Support Fund' or the 'West Yorkshire Mayor's Fund'.

Partner Case Study 1: Retrofit at Abbey Road

Kirklees Council carried out the first full house retrofit in the district. Run as a pilot scheme to help measure carbon reduction and inform future schemes, eight properties in Abbey Road, Fartown had a 'fabric first' approach of insulating loft, cavities, and the external walls as well as the installation of renewable technologies, including a heat pump for heating and Solar PV/solar thermal panels.

The Abbey Road scheme made the finals in the 'Best Social Housing Category' at the MJ awards, which recognise excellence and innovation in Council Services.

For more information; [Abbey Road Retrofit Scheme, Huddersfield | INCA \(inca-ltd.org.uk\)](#)

Partner Case Study 2: Free energy-saving health checks

All Kirklees Council housing tenants have been offered free energy health checks to reduce carbon and save them money.

3,500 houses across Kirklees were offered energy health checks. Tenants' energy tariffs were reviewed to make sure they were not overpaying on their bills. Qualified surveyors recommended the most energy efficient settings for boilers, and identifying repairs that could make homes warmer and cheaper to run. The health checks also offered tips on how to stay warm, offered debt advice, and support on claiming benefits where eligible.

For more information: [Council housing tenants receive free energy-saving health checks on their homes – Kirklees Together.](#)

A summary of data for 'Bringing it Home' can be found in Appendix D.

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

TARGETS

- All buildings (residential, commercial, public) in Kirklees to be energy efficient, at a minimum to EPC C by 2030. (RF, E4A)
- Net Zero energy supply by 2038. (SED, RF)
- Sustainable neighbourhoods programme launched by 2026. (RF, E4A)

'Sustainable Neighbourhoods' Explained

Helping communities in Kirklees achieve a balance between the social, economic, and environmental aspects of sustainability, in line with the unique needs of that community. A sustainable neighbourhood has three key features: a vibrant street life, walkability, and affordability.

For more information [A New Strategy of Sustainable Neighbourhood Planning Five principles.pdf \(unhabitat.org\)](#).

OBJECTIVES

- Ensuring that good energy efficient homes (new or renovated) are accessible to all residents, irrespective of economic standing. (RF, E4A)
- Increasing our energy independence and resilience through low-impact, renewable sources. (SED, E4A)
- Enhancing the resilience of our buildings to the physical impact of future environmental change, with a focus on reducing the vulnerability of occupants. (RF)
- Making all new buildings built in Kirklees climate ready and operationally Net Zero. (E4A)
- Adopting a fabric first approach¹ in all new builds and building refurbishment practices. (RF)
- Reduce the building performance design gap (this is the gap between the predicted energy use at the design stage, versus the actual energy use when occupied). (RF)
- Developing a dedicated sustainable neighbourhood's programme featuring everything from educational programmes on sustainable lifestyles to allotments and community-owned green space. (RF, E4A)

KEY: SED = Sustainable Economic Development; RF = Resilient Futures; E4A = Environment for All.

¹ Refers to the sub and superstructure of the building and how it is constructed to minimise heat loss, including levels of insulation, detailing and airtightness.

KIRKLEES ON THE MOVE



We should be striving to make our district somewhere where it's simple, sustainable, and safe for everyone to get around (Resident Voice).

We want to get the district moving in a more sustainable way. Connecting communities across Kirklees and giving residents equal access to opportunities through affordable, reliable, and sustainable travel choices.

The need to move people and goods are essential to our everyday lives – enabling people to get to work, socialise and access services.

Kirklees is a varied district – comprising of key commuter hubs such as Dewsbury and Huddersfield with well-connected regional train stations, coupled with rural communities that have more limited public transport options.

The transport sector is a significant polluter. Emissions from petrol and diesel vehicles are major issues when it comes to climate change and are the primary source of poor air quality in Kirklees. A [government report in 2022](#) shows the devastating impact poor air quality is having on public health, contributing up to 36,000 premature deaths a year and costing the NHS and social care system an estimated £1.6 billion between 2017 and 2025.

The cost of running a car is unaffordable for some of our residents, with the [2021 census](#) showing 22.7% of Kirklees households do not have access to a car or van. These individuals, primarily on low incomes, need to walk, wheel, cycle or use public transport.

The 2021 Census also shows that driving a car or van is the district's leading choice for commuting to work, used by 53.1% of residents, with 20.6% choosing a more sustainable option such as walking, wheeling, cycling or public transport.

We want active and sustainable travel options to be the obvious and easy choice. Active travel not only improves people's health and wellbeing, but a recent report by [Sustrans](#) shows that it's worth £36.5 billion a year to the UK economy.

In everyday life this might look like...

– easy and affordable ways to get to where we need to go with minimal impact on the environment.

– walking, wheeling, and cycling becomes the most attractive choice for short journeys, with public transport made convenient, reliable, and affordable for longer ones.

– if we need to use a car, we are met with less congestion and a greener more affordable vehicle option. Businesses have green fleets and appropriate charging is available for all electric vehicles.

WHAT WE'VE DONE

The transport sector and people's behaviours are changing. From 2021 to 2022, we saw an 8% increase in commuters choosing a more sustainable mode of transport over a private car or van.

We're investing in our infrastructure, encouraging behaviour change and making sustainable modes the easy and affordable choice. Dewsbury and Huddersfield will benefit from the multi-billion-pound [TransPennine Route Upgrade](#) investment, making the trains more frequent, faster, cleaner and reliable between Manchester, Leeds and York.

Walking and cycling within Kirklees has been improved, building on the success of the 7.3 mile [Spenn Valley Greenway](#). The Canal towpath between Slaithwaite and Milnsbridge is part of a £2.7 million investment to develop long-term accessibility on a continuous active travel route to Huddersfield Town Centre.

A £14 million revamp of [Dewsbury Bus Station](#) has been announced to make bus travel more attractive for residents, businesses, and commuters. Coupled with the 'Mayor's Fares' £2 cap on bus tickets, buses are becoming the affordable choice for people to move within Kirklees and to neighbouring places like Halifax, Wakefield, Bradford and Bingley.

Local people and organisations are also making a huge difference. Cycle and scooter storage has been installed in local schools through the '[Mac's Bikes](#)' memorial fund to promote active travel by students and teachers, with the charity '[Streetbikes](#)' striving to transform people's lives by providing cycling sessions for all abilities and repairing and re-homing unwanted or donated bikes back into the community.

Partner Case Study 1: Seven Schools achieve Modeshift Stars Awards

Ashbrow School, Birkby Junior School, Bramble Primary Academy, Golcar Junior and Infant Nursery School, Hartshead Junior and Infant School, Kirkheaton Primary School and Pentland Infant and Nursery School have all been presented with the Modeshift Stars Bronze standard for their commitment to sustainable travel.

When the pandemic hit, the schools continued their journey to improve the health and wellbeing for their children, encouraging parents, pupils, and staff to choose healthier and more climate friendly modes of transport to and from school.

For more information: <https://kirkleestogether.co.uk/2022/03/21/seven-schools-achieve-modeshift-stars-awards/>

Partner Case Study 2: Environmental Projects in Kirklees (EPIKS)

EPIKS is a not-for-profit business that runs environmental projects across Kirklees.

They operate a fleet of e-bikes and offer taster sessions, training and led rides so that people can experience the value of e-bikes as a low carbon mode of travel. This involves taking e-bikes

to places of work, community groups and events. Their 'Walk, Wheel, Ride' project also gives tailored support to people on all aspects of active travel.

For more information, please visit: [E-Bikes Projects | EPIKS - Environmental Projects In Kirklees](#) or [Walk Wheel Ride: cycling, wheeling and walking in Kirklees](#).

A summary of data for Kirklees on the Move can be found in Appendix D.

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

TARGETS

- 60% of journeys within Kirklees to be Sustainable Journeys by 2030. (SED, E4A)
- 100% of fleet vehicles to be zero carbon by 2038 (RF).
- All of Kirklees homes to be within 1km of public transport via a safe pedestrian route by 2038 (E4A).

Sustainable Journeys Explained

Sustainable journeys covers modes of transport that have low to no impact on our environment when used, such as walking, cycling, public transport (buses and trains), alongside electric and low emission vehicles.

OBJECTIVES

- Prioritising public or active modes of transport over private vehicle use wherever feasible. (E4A)
- Ensuring that our infrastructure (i.e. transport, highways, electric vehicle charging) can function and operate as normal in the face of future environmental challenges. (RF)
- Making our transport network and infrastructure² accessible, affordable, and reliable for all in both urban and rural areas. (E4A)
- Delivering the infrastructure that promotes and facilitates the safe use of active travel modes such as cycling and walking. (E4A)
- Ensuring that our decision-making and policies actively support low-traffic neighbourhoods with a shift towards more active and public forms of transport. (E4A)
- Continuing to reduce air pollutant emissions and subsequent improved air quality for all in Kirklees. (RF, E4A)
- Develop a reliable and resilient electric charging network for the district. (E4A, RF)

KEY: SED = Sustainable Economic Development; RF = Resilient Futures; E4A = Environment for All.

² Refers to networks and infrastructure associated with all modes of transport (i.e. mass transit, active, electric vehicle charging network).

DELIVERING OUR STRATEGY TOGETHER

PLEDGE TO SUPPORT THE STRATEGY

The vision for a more environmentally sustainable Kirklees can only be achieved by communities, business, residents, organisations, and the public sector working together.

To achieve this, we have developed our Partnership Pledge. Whether you are a business, organisation, or an individual – we are asking you to voluntarily pledge what you can to both help support and deliver our collective ambition.

HOW DOES PLEDGING WORK?

A pledge is individual to you or your organisation. It can be made around the strategy and its vision, one or more themes or even a single or a group of targets. All pledges, however large or small, help achieving our ambition.

The various options for pledging for organisations, businesses and individuals are:

1. **Strategy** – pledge to support the strategy in its entirety.
2. **Theme(s)** – pledge to support one or more of the themes.
3. **Target(s)** – pledge to support one or more of the individual targets.

WHAT DOES PLEDGING MEAN?

Signing a pledge is a two-fold commitment. Firstly, it is to support and take action to contribute to achieving our overall vision for a more Environmentally Sustainable Kirklees. Secondly, it's to participate in our monitoring, evaluation and reporting process. All pledges are voluntary and legally non-binding.

HOW WILL THE STRATEGY BE GOVERNED

An 'Environmental Strategy Partnership Group' will be established with the following objectives:

- To facilitate the sharing of best practice and collaborative, joined-up environmental actions across the district.
- To monitor, evaluate, and report on progress against the vision and ambitions outlined within this document on an annual basis.

Chaired by the Service Director for Environment and Climate Change at Kirklees Council (on an interim basis until an appropriate independent chair can be identified), the partnership group will meet quarterly and be made up of pledgers who represent partner organisations, the community, and Kirklees Council.

The partnership group will be structured across four sub-groups which align with the four core themes of the strategy. Each sub-group will contain three leads who will sit on and report into the partnership group:



The scope of these lead roles are as follows:

- **Partner Lead:** A member of a partnership organisation, they will provide technical direction and oversight for their theme.
- **Community Lead:** A representative of a community group or a Kirklees resident, they will focus on the ‘Always on’ priorities in relation to their theme.
- **Council Lead:** A Kirklees Council employee who represents a relevant service area to their theme, they will help co-ordinate the sub-group and the annual monitoring, evaluation, and reporting process.

Each of the sub-groups will be made up of pledgers, those who sign up to the partnership pledge, whether individual residents or representatives of organisations, businesses, agencies, and community groups.

RESOURCING THE STRATEGY

This top-tier strategy for Kirklees is an ambitious one, and a clear question to be answered is ‘how will it be resourced’?

This is both a critical and a common question for local authorities, many of which have declared climate or nature emergencies but are also working within the context of over a decade of budget cuts and austerity, exacerbated by strains brought about through the Covid-19 pandemic. According to the Local Government Association (LGA) this key issue of how to fund climate action is one of their member’s major concerns.

Help is available and blending diverse resource streams to meet the challenge is possible. The LGA itself has comprehensive ‘green ambition’ advice for local authorities on financing their sustainability commitments. Also, the 3Ci Commission on climate investment is developing a new model focused on how to invest in Net Zero.

More widely, there are many innovative (and mainstream) ways to resource the measures outlined in this strategy, some of which the Council already adopts including:

- Co-funding with a Combined Authority or National Government
- Public-Private Partnerships, particularly with property sector

- Leveraging spend on other programmes (e.g. infrastructure, transport, housing).
- Recirculating cost savings in areas such as reduced energy use
- Accounting for local economic impact of co-benefits (e.g. jobs created or better health outcomes).
- Pursuing major national funding programmes (e.g. Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, Levelling Up, Nature for Climate).
- Major programmes exploring the Public Works Loan Board and UK Infrastructure Bank.
- Procurement value added (e.g. through Social Value frameworks).
- Section 106 and Community Interest Levy.
- Retained Business Rates for sustainable business programmes.
- Town or city-centre based work within budgets of Business Improvement Districts.
- Biodiversity offsets, net gain, and natural capital accounting.
- Co-delivery through utility funds for land management.
Nature-related financial disclosures from private sector partners to support strategic aims.
- Green Bonds, Community Investment Bonds, and debt finance.
- Levy mechanisms which can directly fund sustainable projects.

With so many schemes and resources available, having a well set-out and clear strategy for action such as this one makes bidding for resources faster and more efficient.

MONITORING, EVALUATING AND REPORTING OUR PROGRESS

This strategy is a high-level framework to help inform and provide direction for action, much of which will sit underneath this document, within action plans and associated documents that are developed and delivered by organisations and business (including Kirklees Council) across the district.

We will monitor, evaluate, and report progress against the ambition within the strategy via the following mechanisms:

- Quarterly 'Environmental Strategy Partnership Group' meetings to share best practice, facilitate networking and updates on reporting.
- Annual data collection and subsequent reporting against the ambition of this strategy (targets and objectives).
- Collation and advertisement of case studies, sharing of best practice.

As part of the pledging process for this strategy, pledgers commit to participating in this monitoring and evaluation process.

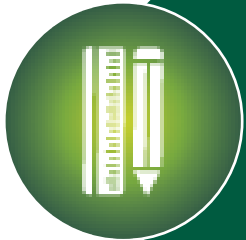
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to all who shared their vision, ambitions, and opinions, donating your time to help co-develop this strategy to achieve a better, more environmentally sustainable Kirklees.

A special thank you to [Creative Concern](#) for facilitating our co-design journey, and for [Support To Recovery](#) for helping engage local community groups.

APPENDIX A: OUR CO-DESIGN JOURNEY

This appendix outlines the work undertaken as part of the co-design process to develop the 'Environment Strategy: Everyday, Life' for Kirklees.



Tailored for Kirklees

- Partners asked for the Environment Strategy to take a 'tailored for Kirklees' approach, rather than follow an existing technical off-the-shelf model, to enable the unique characteristics of Kirklees and its people, to stand out.



Designed with, not for

- Involving 1,039 residents and 549 representatives of partner organisations, businesses, institutions and community groups across Kirklees.
- Partners were engaged with on multiple occasions, helping evolve the content over time to deliver a strong, ambitious, and successful strategy for all.



Engage those that haven't yet had their say

- We engaged community groups from across Kirklees who are not commonly involved in the process of helping create a Kirklees-wide strategy. We gave everyone a voice, developed relationships and sought to incorporate a wider variety of perspectives.



It's got to be about everyday, life

- Partners emphasised how the strategy and its targets need to be simple, accessible, relatable, tangible and meaningful.
- The focus needs to be on collective action – making people and organisations feel engaged, included and accountable.

KIRKLEES COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT

Sitting as Kirklees Council's fourth top-tier strategy, the 'Environment Strategy: Everyday, Life' provides a mandate for all council activity to implement its vision and ambitions, so environmentally sustainable practice becomes the business-as-usual approach. Therefore, it has been imperative for Council Colleagues and Elected Members to be included within the co-design journey of the strategy, to create buy-in and ownership of what it is aiming to achieve.

Figure 1 below outlines the steps taken on this co-design journey (excluding the governance/decision making process to approve the strategy).

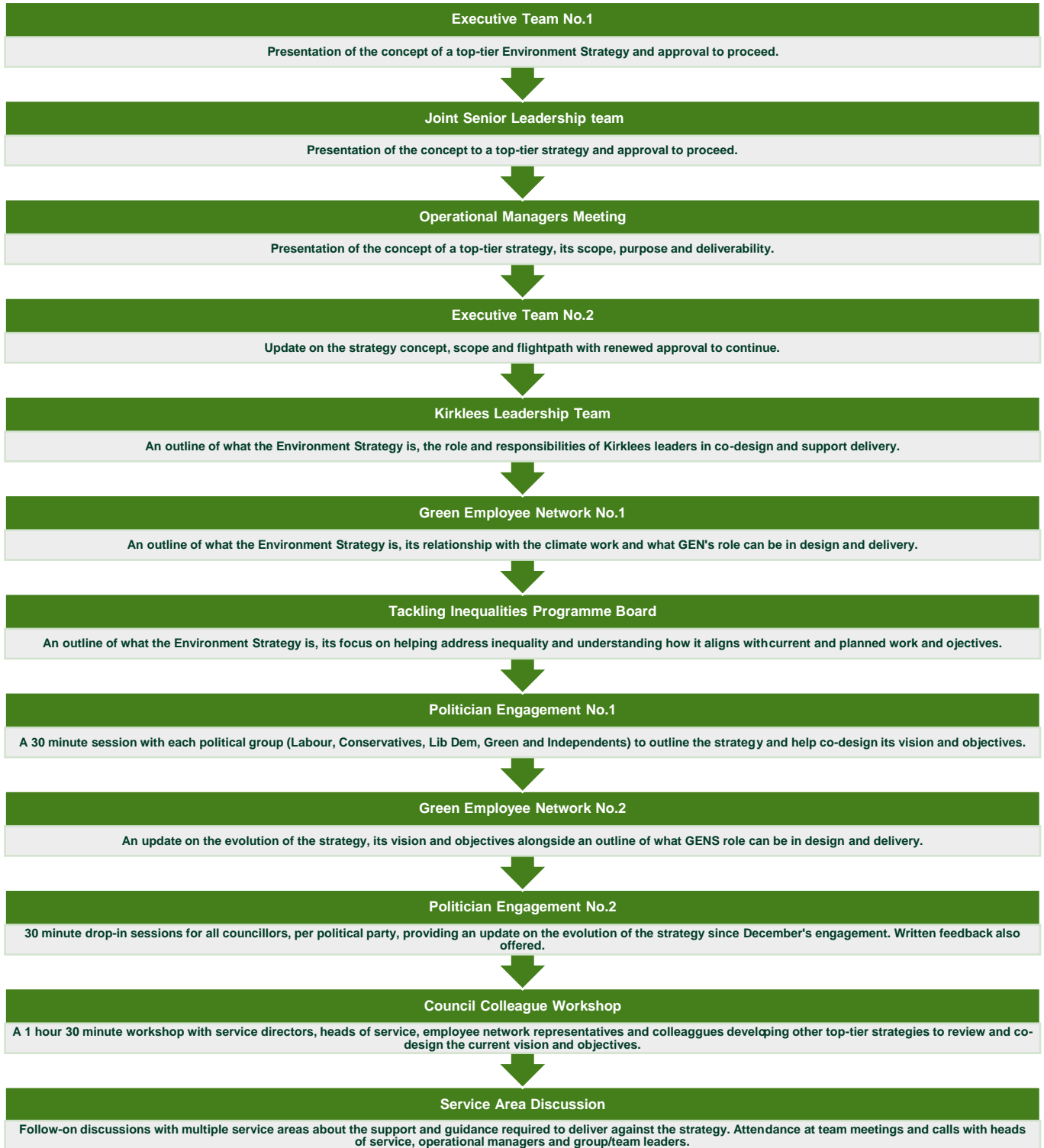


Figure 1: The co-design journey for Kirklees Council Colleagues and Elected Members

PARTNERS

The ‘Environment Strategy: Everyday, Life’ is a partnership document at its core. Embarking on a clearly communicated co-design journey with partner organisations, businesses, institutions, agencies, and residents is essential to the success of the strategy.

Figure 2 below outlines the steps taken on this journey. Steps 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 and 9 (dark blue) were dedicated to the Kirklees Climate Commission; the other steps involved all other partners (green).

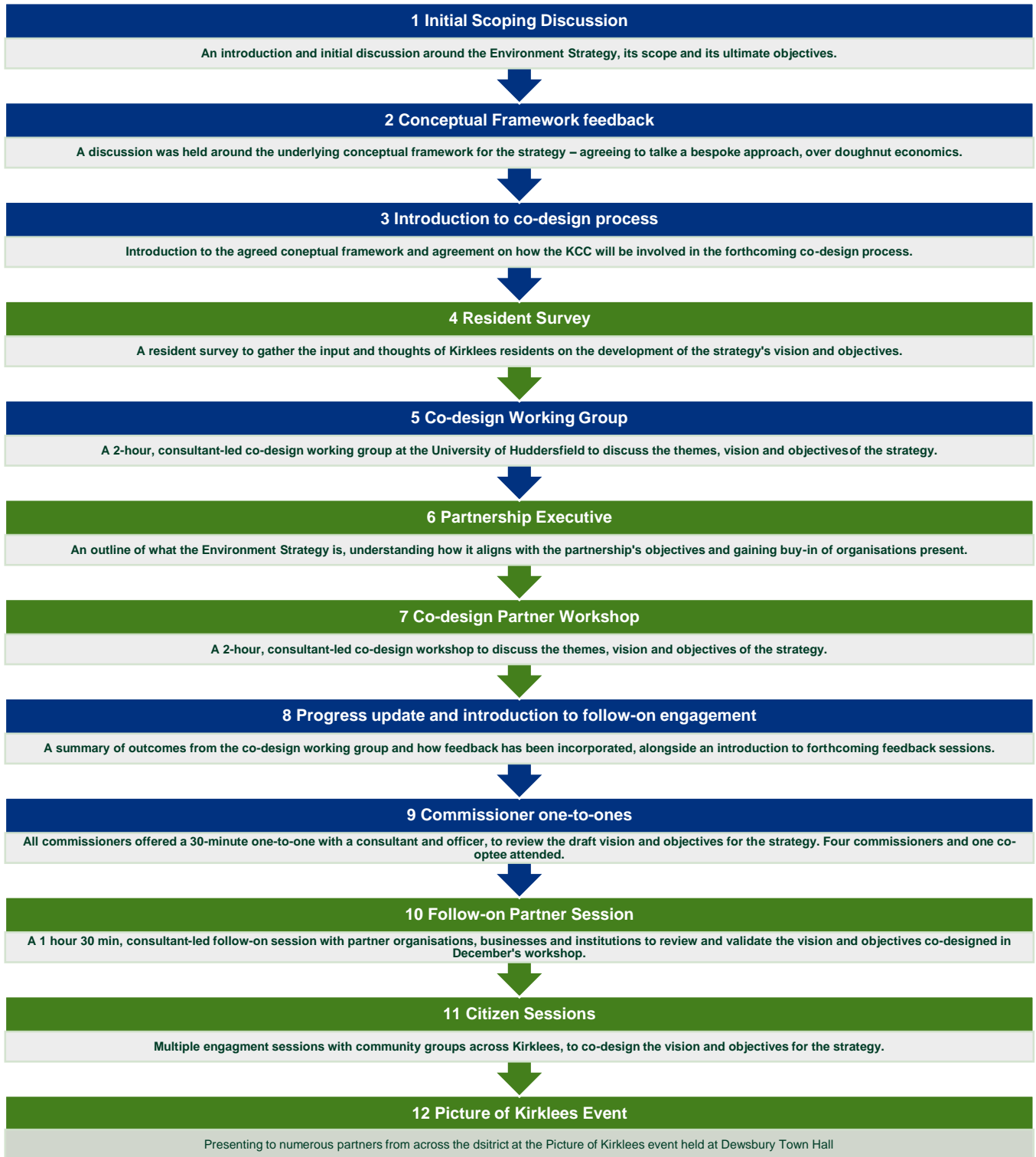


Figure 2: The Co-design journey of the strategy with internal partners

APPENDIX B: RESIDENT SURVEY KEY OUTPUTS

A resident survey was created and published for comment over a three-week period.

The survey was structured around four original themes, which subsequently evolved into the strategy's current themes and 'Always-on' priorities, because of our co-design journey.

APPENDIX C: KIRKLEES COUNCIL PLAN 2024/25

Our Council Plan 2024/25 has an overarching vision for Kirklees to be:

A district that combines a strong, sustainable economy with a great quality of life – leading to thriving communities, growing businesses, high prosperity and low inequality where people enjoy better health throughout their lives.

This vision is supported by **eight shared outcomes** and **four top tier strategies** with recognition that changes in any one of these outcomes impacts the others. For example, a healthier and thriving environment within Kirklees will improve the wellbeing and health of the population – meaning a stronger workforce and a more sustainable economy – and a sustainable economy means more disposable income to help children to have the best start in life. There are countless other examples.

Our ambition in this strategy is for Kirklees to become an environmentally sustainable place, and we have a **shared commitment to achieve this in a fair and just way**. This means ensuring we maintain a sustainable economy, improving the health and wellbeing of the people who live within Kirklees, while tackling inequalities, guaranteeing the outcomes for local places and communities to be fair and equal.

Our **equally weighted** four top tier strategies are partnership-led. The **Environment Strategy: Everyday, Life** will sit alongside the **Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy**, the in-development **Inclusive Economy Strategy**, and the **Inclusive Communities Framework**.

Collectively, these documents explain where we are at in Kirklees – what our opportunities and challenges are, what we most need to do to improve, and the role partners can play to make this happen. **Success in one strategy depends on the others.**



With a shared sense of purpose, we can bring our collective insight, expertise, and resources together **to achieve greater impact** and make our **local places even better**.

The Councils Eight Shared Outcomes

[Our Council Plan](#) has eight shared outcomes – each of which are addressed by one or more of the four tier strategies in Kirklees. For the Environment Strategy, these shared outcomes are as follows:

Clean and Green

This strategy forms an important part of the Council's overarching Clean and Green shared outcome within 'Our Council Plan 2024/45'.

The objective of this shared outcome is:

People in Kirklees enjoy a high quality, clean and green environment.

Our built and natural environment contributes to people's quality of life and makes the district a more attractive place in which to live and invest. We want to connect people and places, improve air quality and green infrastructure and be resilient in the face of extreme weather events and climate change, as well as helping people reduce waste and recycle more.

Shaped By People

Shaped by People is a shared goal, created by our citizens. It was introduced as a foundational shared outcome in 'Our Council Plan 2024/25' (see www.Kirklees.gov.uk/ShapedByPeople). Shaped by People describes how people in Kirklees want things to be in the future. It's about enabling more people to come together to make local places even better, through the shared aspiration that:

We make our places what they are.

This sense of personal agency in the places where we live, work and study is important for the natural environment we call home. By enabling more of this to happen, we can help our environment to thrive.

We have co-developed the vision and ambitions of this strategy in partnership with people who live, work or study in Kirklees. Through a series of engagement activities, we worked with residents, local organisations, agencies, and businesses, enabling them to shape the environmental ambition for our district.

If we are to successfully deliver and achieve this ambition, we must continue to work in partnership, sharing power with all people, organisations, and businesses. By doing this, we can all make a positive change to our environment. We've been told many times during our co-creation process that a culture shift is needed on the environment for Kirklees. This can only happen if the vision has been Shaped by People.

Our shared commitment to Shaped by People means that through the delivery of this strategy, our work will help more people feel inspired to take part, give people confidence to act, help people feel included, respected, and listened to, and help people get to know others in their communities well. We will continue to enable and encourage individuals from all backgrounds, and from all our local places, to share their experiences, ideas, and solutions.

To ensure this strategy's work is shaped and powered by people who live, work and study in Kirklees, we will also be guided by our '**Working Alongside**' shared values (see www.WorkingAlongside.org.uk and the [Kirklees Inclusive Communities Framework](#)):

- Recognise everyone.
- Involve others early.
- Recognise we are coming from different places.
- Work on mutual trust.
- Grow mutual confidence.
- Be flexible with each other.
- Take courage from kindness.
- Share with each other.
- Be open and honest.
- Listen with curiosity.
- Be flexible in our approaches.
- Learn by doing

APPENDIX D: SAMPLE STATE DATA PER THEME

This Appendix provides a summary of baseline data for each of the four core themes; helping provide context to the targets and objectives outlined within our strategy.

More detailed state data is expected to be provided in the “how we are going to achieve this” plans, policies and strategies which will sit beneath the strategy.

CLOSING THE LOOP

The latest data for local authority collected waste in Kirklees, as published by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs for 2020-21, is outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Local Authority collected waste generation data and National Average Data for England from April 2020 to March 2022. EfW = Energy from Waste

Area	Landfilled	Incineration with EfW	Incineration without EfW	Recycled-Composted
Kirklees	11.6%	64.2%	0.5%	25.3%
England Average	7.8%	47.7%	0.5%	41.4%

The updated [Kirklees Council Resource & Waste Strategy 2023](#) has a target to achieve a recycling rate of at least 70% at household waste & recycling centres by 2030, recycle at least 65% of municipal waste by 2035 and achieve a 95% diversion from landfill rate by 2030.

There is currently no data which provides information on the sharing economy within Kirklees.

NURTURING NATURE

Kirklees covers a land area of 40,860ha, of which 11.2% (4,569ha) sits within the Peak District National Park. The 2022 land-use statistics for Kirklees, outlined in Table 2, show the extent of our existing natural environment, which covers 25.8% of land-area within Kirklees. Importantly, 42.1% of our land is used for agriculture, with outdoor recreational spaces occupying 3.31%.

Table 2: Land-use statistics for Kirklees, 2022 (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities)

Land-use Type	Area of Land (Ha)	% of Total Kirklees Land Area
Forestry and Woodland	3,934ha	9.6%
Natural Land	4,002ha	9.8%
Rough Grassland	2,599ha	6.4%
Agricultural Land	17,208ha	42.1%
Outdoor Recreation	1,355ha	3.31%
Residential Gardens	4,184ha	10.2%

Through the local plan, there is also land designated or protected for biodiversity importance in Kirklees as seen in Table 3 below.

In 2021/22 the total land area of biodiversity importance in Kirklees is 6,506ha (which does not include double counted land with more than one designation i.e., ancient woodland that is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSS)).

Table 3: Land Designated or Protected for Biodiversity Importance in Kirklees (Kirklees Council Local Plan Authority Monitoring Report 2021-22)

Designated or Protected Category	2020/21 Area of Land (Ha)	2021/22 Area of Land (ha)
Site of Special Scientific Interest	4,845	4,845
Local Wildlife Sites	1,187	1,187
Local Geological Sites	83	83
Ancient Woodlands	1,083	1,083
Habitats of Principal Importance	Not Available	Not Available

A distinct characteristic of Kirklees’ natural environment is its rarest habitat – peatland. Inventoried in January 2022 by Moors for the Future Partnership, this ecosystem covers approximately 7,900ha. When in good condition, this provides a huge number of benefits to the district and the people who live, work, study, and visit here – storing carbon; improving water quality; helping to reduce the impacts of flooding; and supporting a rich variety of plants and animals.

As outlined in Table 4, Kirklees has 4,230.91ha of deep peat and 3,711.09ha of wet peat. Wet peat is classified as being in good condition, whereas all the deep peats (otherwise known as blanket bogs) are degraded to some degree.

Table 4: Total amount of peat, by type, in Kirklees (Kirklees Peatland Inventory Report – January 2022).

Peat Type	Land Area (Ha)
Deep Peat (over 40cm deep):	4,230.91
Wet Peat (10 to 39cm deep)	3,711.09
Total Amount of Peatland:	7,942

On the flip side, without the continued protection and restoration of this ecosystem, Kirklees’ peatland will generative negative impacts, with the potential to emit ~77,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year, which is equivalent to driving a Ford Focus 20 miles every day, every year, for 38,500 years.

Peatlands Explained

Peatland covers around 12% of the UK land area. It is made up of three broad types - Blanket Bog; Raised Bog and Fen. Ultimately peatland is carbon-rich wetlands, made up of peat soil – formed by partially decayed material that is slowly built up, and natural vegetation such as mosses, sedges, and shrubs.

For more information on peatlands and why they are important, see the Peatland factsheet.pdf (ceh.ac.uk).

As part of the White Rose Forest initiative, Kirklees has access to BlueSky tree canopy cover data, which provides an understanding of the land area (ha) that has tree canopy cover across the district, which is outlined in Table 5. As of 2023, Kirklees has 15.17% tree canopy cover.

Table 5: Current % of Tree Canopy Cover for Kirklees (BlueSky Tree Canopy Cover Data 2023)

Kirklees	Current Tree Canopy Cover In 2023 (Ha)
Total Area	40724.72
Canopy Cover	6178.75
Percentage Coverage	15.17

Based on analysis undertaken by Kirklees GIS team, 99.7% of residential properties within Kirklees have access to either a public greenspace, blue space or right of way within 500m of their homes. Figure 3 portrays the analysis – with the purple overlay acting as the 500m buffer zone around the green and blue spaces mapped.

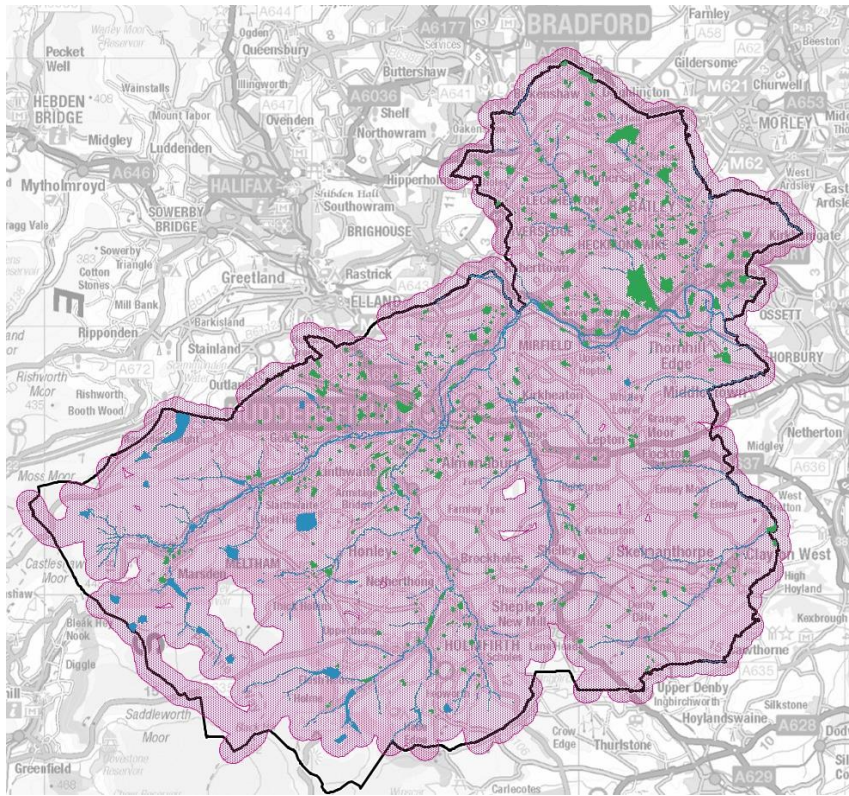


Figure 3: Map of Kirklees showing the 500m buffer zone (purple) around accessible green and blue space (Kirklees GIS Team - November 2023).

BRINGING IT HOME

As of 2021, the Governments [sub-regional fuel poverty data](#) shows that Kirklees has 182,834 households, 17.3% of which are classified as ‘fuel poor’. This is 0.5% higher than for West Yorkshire as a whole.

‘Fuel Poor’ Explained

A household is considered fuel poor if they are living in a property with an energy efficiency rating of band D or below and when they spend the required amount of time to heat their home, they are left with the residual income below the official poverty line.

For more information, visit [What is Fuel Poverty? | National Energy Action \(NEA\)](#).

EPCs Explained

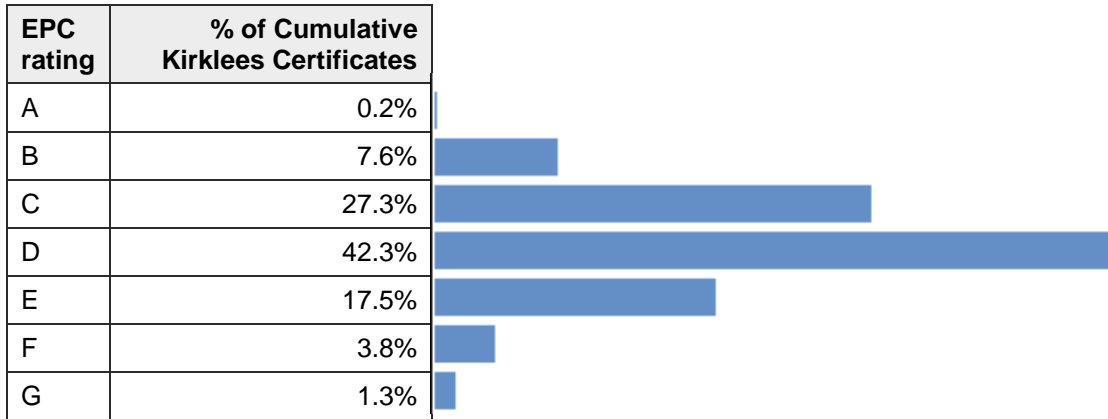
Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) tell you how energy efficient a building is and give it a rating from ‘A’ (very efficient) to ‘G’ (inefficient). They’ll tell you how costly it will be to heat and light your property, and what its carbon dioxide emissions are likely to be, alongside providing possible recommendations for how the rating can be improved.

For more information, visit [the Guide to Energy Performance Certificates - Energy Saving Trust](#)

Kirklees has a total of 160,395 EPC registered for residential properties with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (cumulative figure).

In total, 35.1% of these residential EPCs are rated C or above. The EPC rating with the largest percentage is D, at 42.3%, which is below our headline target objective of a C.

Table 6: Percentage of Kirklees households organised by EPC Rating. Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities - Energy Performance of Buildings Data, 28th February 2023



As a district, Kirklees used 4,993.62 GWh of energy (heating and electricity) in 2021. Based on the UK Energy Brief Data, only 12% of this consumption has been generated by renewable energy sources.

From an organisation perspective, 30.4% of Kirklees Councils 2022/23 energy use (heat and electricity) was generated by renewable sources.

KIRKLEES ON THE MOVE

As of April 2022 in Kirklees, 99.1% of the residential dwellings across the district are within a 500m radius of public transport options – with 97.5% within 500m radius of routes with one or more bus per hour.

In Kirklees, we have 2,129km of local access footways, ~44km of cycle lanes and ~52km of cycle routes, compared to a total of 2784km of road network (from motorway to local road).

Commuter data for Kirklees in 2021 and 2022 is broken down in Table 7 below. For 2021, 38.9% were classified as ‘zero carbon commuters’, whereas for 2022 this has reduced to 29.8%. The cause of this reduction is due to the shift in working at home to working in the office as we recover further from the Covid-19 pandemic. If you exclude those individuals who work from home, the figures are significantly reduced, being 12.6% for 2021 and 20.6% for 2022 – showing an annual increase in sustainable transport modes by 8%.

Table 7: Commuter Data for Kirklees, 2021 and 2022. Mobility ways, February 2023.

Mode	Year	Work at Home	Walk/Run	Cycle	Bus/Coach	Tube/Metro/Tram	Train	Motorcycle	Lift sharing	Drive Alone	Taxi	Other
% of Kirklees population	2021	26.3%	7.1%	0.7%	3.7%	0.0%	1.1%	0.3%	4.9%	53.1%	1.8%	1%
% of Kirklees population	2022	9.2%	9.3%	0.9%	7.7%	0.0%	2.7%	0.7%	12.8	55.39%	0.9%	0.4%

As of October 2023, Kirklees Councils Electric Vehicle Fleet was 6.9% of total Council fleet.

APPENDIX E: IDEAS BOARD FOR ACTION

Below is an ideas board for actions that would contribute to achieving our environmental ambitions, as mind mapped during the co-design process by partners and stakeholders.

We have included this ideas board as inspiration for subsequential action. It is not an agreed list of actions that has been committed too by partners of this strategy.

Table 8: A list of potential ideas, suggested by partners in the co-design process, for action to achieve our environmental ambition. SED = Sustainable Economic Development, RF = Resilience Futures, E4A = Environment for All.

No.	Idea	Theme	Always-On	Targets
1	Look at micro-scale hydro generation potential for waterways in Kirklees.	Bringing it Home	SED, RF	8
2	Build genuinely affordable net zero new houses with low carbon heating and power generation technologies i.e. heat pumps, solar PV, and hot water.	Bringing it Home	SED, RF, E4A	7, 8
3	Refurbish the Council housing stock so that they are energy efficient and use low-carbon sources of heat such as air source heat pumps.	Bringing it Home	RF, E4A	7
4	Develop a Sustainable Food Plan that has a radical new level of ambition of local food production, waste and resilience.	Closing the Loop	SED, RF, E4A	1, 2, 3
5	Encourage industrial symbiosis.	Closing the Loop	SED, RF	1
6	Establish an innovative mattress recycling or re-purpose programme.	Closing the Loop	SED	1
7	Have a comprehensive Climate Adaptation Plan for the Region.	Cross-Cutting	RF, E4A	
8	Further develop educational programmes for behaviour change and culture shift to more sustainable society.	Cross-Cutting	E4A, RF	All
9	Calculate and communicate how much it would cost residents, and the district in the future, if we do not act on climate change.	Cross-Cutting	RF, SED, E4A	
10	Encourage car share schemes.	Kirklees on the Move	E4A	10, 11
11	Install more on-street charging infrastructure.	Kirklees on the Move	E4A	10, 11
12	Pilot car free streets for 1 day a year in urban centres.	Kirklees on the Move	E4A	9

13	Incentivise more e-delivery cycling schemes via Cargo Bikes, such as 'Holme Delivery'.	Kirklees on the Move	SED	10
14	Create a us interchange hub at Waterloo to connect more effectively smaller rural with the larger urban bus services.	Kirklees on the Move	SED, RF, E4A	9
15	Create safer and connected active travel routes, such as greenways, or cycle lanes.	Kirklees on the Move	E4A, RF	10, 12
16	Work with West Yorkshire Combined Authority to radically improve bus transport through a new headline transport vision for the region.	Kirklees on the Move	E4A, SED, RF	10
17	Implement a quiet streets programme for all key neighbourhoods across Kirklees.	Kirklees on the Move	E4A, RF	9, 10
18	Develop mobility hubs in Kirklees to achieve greater connectivity between transport modes within Kirklees and regionally.	Kirklees on the Move	SED, RF, E4A	10
19	Revise Local Planning Policy to better support our environmental and climate ambitions.	Nurturing Nature	SED, RF, E4A	All
20	Leverage parks and public greenspaces to greater effect - making them exemplary locations that have multifaceted benefits for nature and people.	Nurturing Nature	RF, E4A	3, 5, 6
21	Develop a maintenance plan for our parks and greenspace such as Allerton Waste Recovery Park in North Yorkshire.	Nurturing Nature	RF, E4A	3, 5
22	Adopt a brownfield, biodiversity first approach in the Local Development Plan and any supplementary planning document.	Nurturing Nature	SED, RF, E4A	3
23	Fully map Kirklees' Natural Capital, with the view of informing nature recovery plans for the district.	Nurturing Nature	SED, RF	3
24	Develop a rewilding plan for Kirklees.	Nurturing Nature	RF, E4A	3, 4, 5
25	Focus on nature-based solutions in all new infrastructure.	Nurturing Nature	RF	3
26	Protect and restore our peatlands.	Nurturing Nature	RF	4
27	Encourage regenerative agriculture techniques.	Nurturing Nature	SED, RF	3

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APPENDIX B: RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS

THEME 1: MINIMAL WASTE AND THE CIRCULAR USE OF RESOURCES

Question 9 was an open question and received 148 comments.

PROTECTING GREEN SPACES

Preserving and protecting green space by bringing an end to building on green belt landforms the biggest part of this theme. Respondents commented that too many mass housing developments in the area were responsible for damaging natural habitats and taking away the green, open spaces we need. Several respondents stressed that new housing should only be approved on brownfield sites.

“Protection of land that used to be green belt and is now earmarked for hundreds of buildings!”

“What is missing is that you have voted to build hideous houses on an ancient woodland, and you should be ashamed. Wildlife and woodland matter!”

“Stop building on green belt that’s my priority!!!! It’s unmanageable for local communities”.

Generating more biodiverse areas for wildlife, planting more trees and wildflowers, and creating community spaces for growing food were also suggested.

“Creating and protecting nature - green biodiverse areas for wildlife. Encouraging free food e.g., fruit trees, bushes, herbs.”

“Protecting and increasing biodiversity e.g., not using weedkillers.”

“Using nature-based solutions to develop biodiversity and help mitigate climate change.”

TRANSPORT, ROADS, AND TRAFFIC POLLUTION

There were several suggestions made in relation to roads and transport of ways in which pollution could be reduced. Respondents suggested improved efficiencies in road repairs, a reduction in speeding and people leaving their engines running and putting investment into improving/encouraging public transport and active travel.

“Encourage public transport, walking, cycling use to reduce pollutants from car use.”

“Better greener transport and related infrastructure”

“Ensure that road repair is done quickly so cars are not stopped at dig sites for ages.”

“Reduce the volume of traffic speeding through and polluting residential areas.”

Electric vehicles were also mentioned – council funded charge points and electrification of local buses were both suggested. Concerns were also raised however with the affordability of electric vehicles and the difficulty of installing charge points at certain properties.

IMPROVE RECYCLING

Criticism of the current lack of recycling options available in Kirklees were raised – respondents stated that making it easier for people to recycle from home was important, and that many people were unable to compost at home or visit a bottle bank due to many limiting factors. Kerbside glass and food waste collections were frequently suggested, with soft plastics also being mentioned.

“Kirklees has a terrible approach to recycling - there is not enough options at kerbside, even green waste like garden waste is almost impossible to get a brown bin for.”

“I can't recycle glass as the nearest bank is too far away. (No car!)”

“Glass recycling at home, food waste recycling at home, larger variety of options for recycling at the local recycling centre/tip”

“I live in Flockton, we haven't had a glass collection or a glass recycling centre for 5-6 years, this really isn't acceptable”.

Increasing home composting rates and offering incentives to people/businesses to recycle were also suggested.

“Providing incentive to recycle. Clubs and organisations could profit collecting cans to get money back.”

EDUCATION

Several respondents suggested that the best way to encourage people to change their behaviour was to educate them. This would enable them to make well-informed, environmentally friendly choices, and teach them what the consequences are of certain actions (e.g., fly tipping and littering).

Most respondents who commented on this issue suggested that schools and educators of children should play an important role, teaching topics such as waste reduction, recycling, and

sustainability. Wider communication and education of residents of all ages about key issues was also suggested.

“School should play their important part in raising awareness so that children know and apply in their daily life. That would be a big impact on environment in the years to come.”

“Better communication about what exactly Kirklees can recycle from our green bins so that we don't accidentally contaminate a lorry load.”

“Advertising (and TV) campaigns to positively encourage people to be mindful of the knock-on effects of despoiling the countryside with litter and fly tipping.”

“There is no visible form of education to residents in Kirklees around sustainability.”

“Encouraging schools and educators to include waste reduction, recycling etc on the curriculum and to adopt prominent waste reduction policies in their own institutions.”

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BUSINESS

Several respondents commented that the emphasis should be on local businesses making changes as this would have a greater impact than individual householders.

People suggested that businesses should be encouraged to recycle, reduce waste, commit to sustainability targets, use green energy, and have a circular approach to resources.

“I think you are missing the important fact that first it should be the big corporation, developers, and businesses to step up. We, then, will follow.”

“Resource use and emissions in the UK are primarily driven by businesses and industry. Kirklees should aim to regulate local industry and businesses such that they are compliant with minimal waste and circular resource use.”

“Businesses, industry & organisations should also be able to recycle their waste. They currently do not benefit from Kirklees recycling waste collection as households do.”

“It seems like Kirklees will try to tell us to add insulation and to turn off our lights however the big-ticket items such as industry in this area is overlooked.”

Working with businesses and retailers to reduce waste in terms of excessive packaging and production of single use items was also raised.

“You can't reduce when supermarkets, stores, and places like Amazon supply you with so much in additional rubbish with your purchase in. I compost, recycle, food waste down the food disposal, and I still have too much waste provided by companies. Stop bullying homeowners into making changes when change needs to come from business.”

LITTERING, FLY-TIPPING AND WASTE SITES

Preventing fly-tipping and littering was frequently mentioned – respondents suggesting that there should be increased penalties such as larger fines for offenders.

The current approach of limiting access to household waste sites and how this possibly contributed to fly tipping was also raised. Offering free collection of unwanted items was suggested as this was potentially cheaper than clearing up fly-tipping.

Providing accessible collection points for small electrical items and allowing domestic disposal of rubble and soil were both called for.

“A real effort to prevent and remove fly-tipped waste. Investigate, prosecute, publicise, and punish the offenders.”

“Increasing accessibility for managing all waste. The current approach of limiting access just encourages fly tipping. E.g., No provision any more for hard core at sites. Result, hardcore fly tipped in country lanes with increased cost to the council in recovery and disposal, not to mention the eyesore.”

HOMES AND NEW BUILDS

Considering sustainability and energy efficiency when building and designing new build properties forms the key part of this theme. Respondents suggested that all new builds should be eco-friendly and properly insulated.

Addressing the difficulty of adding suitable insulation to older housing and repurposing old or derelict buildings as affordable accommodation were also mentioned.

“Every new building should have solar panels and no new fossil fuel boilers. Also use the rainwater within the building”

“We really need to get insulation homes both for the environment and energy security.”

REUSE, REPAIR AND RE-PURPOSE

Making it easier to reuse and repurpose household items and good quality clothing, such as providing more repair and upcycle hubs, was raised by several respondents.

“Why not have a scheme in place where people can take other people's waste. So rather than tip everything in skips at the recycling centres, create a slightly different set up which allows people to take things i.e., bits of wood or old furniture for an upcycling project etc.”

“Creating opportunities for communities to share and reuse items to reduce consumption. E.g., a library of 'stuff' where things like power washers, lawnmowers etc can be borrowed by people rather than purchasing new.”

“Support creation of repair businesses to prevent throwaway culture.”

Other similar suggestions included a local reusable nappy scheme, and a program of education to develop skills so that people can learn how to dismantle and repair appliances when they break down.

THEME 2: RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Question 12 was an open question and received 71 comments.

PROTECTING GREEN SPACES

This was by far the biggest theme to emerge from the comments to this question. One of the biggest aspects of this theme was respondents calling for a stop to mass housing developments – especially on green belt or agricultural land. Protecting green space was described as vital in the fight against pollution and preserving the health and wellbeing of Kirklees.

“Stop building on our countryside.”

“Allowing the new buildings and utter devastation at Heybeck and Chidswell will destroy my mental and physical health and of those living in our area.”

“We need to keep are green spaces and not concrete over them. This is vital for the wellbeing of everyone.”

“Reducing pollution and protecting green, natural spaces.”

Making use of existing resources and using brownfield sites instead of building new houses on the greenbelt was suggested – such as renovating empty or derelict buildings.

“Protect the natural environment, reuse brownfield sites not greenbelt.”

“Utilising existing empty buildings for housing, offices etc rather than building housing developments in the green spaces which are so important to physical health and well-being. Working with owners of semi-derelict buildings to bring them back into use”.

“Maintain what exists already and restore the amazing historical buildings decaying under our eyes and change them into good homes rather than destroying our green belts for cheap horrible new builds! Leave the green belt green.”

Another suggestion to protect greenspace was to stop urban sprawl by building more high-rise accommodation; and putting a stop to new home developments in areas already densely populated in order to mitigate the strain placed on schools, roads, health systems and sewage networks.

Protecting agricultural land for food production, existing/ancient trees and flood absorption capacity were also raised.

“Mass house building in and around Lepton and Fenay Bridge is going to have a dreadful impact environmentally due to more flooding, more vehicles, more congestion, and more pollution all will felling ancient woodlands and paving over our green spaces. The Kirklees house building plans are a disaster for the community and the local environment.”

ENERGY PRODUCTION / TACKLING POLLUTION

Comments in this theme centred on accessible affordable renewal energy, community-based approaches such as energy community cooperatives, fracking, reducing light pollution at night, renewable resources and making homes and businesses more energy efficient.

“Providing good quality insulation for all starting with Band A housing, getting to those in most need.”

“Again, seriously insulation is key.”

“Wind and Solar is not the answer - we should really be thinking about allocating sites for the Rolls Royce small modular nuclear reactors which are safe and scalable for clean, sustainable, reliable energy. Kirklees should setup an independent energy company and then can sell excess energy to other towns providing a dividend to those living in Kirklees which could be used to invest in the region.”

“Promoting renewable energy production.”

CRITICISM OF COUNCIL

Some commenters were critical of Kirklees Council decision making.

“Kirklees have a terrible environmental record and need to start doing rather than paying lip service.”

“It is hard to believe that given this survey the council are in the brink of allowing a massive Amazon warehouse to be built in Scholes and a housing industrial park in chidswell. Both of these to be built on green field sites. The council needs to talk to itself because you can't be taken seriously when the two things are going on”.

“Forget your 2038 target. Renewables don't produce enough. Look at your turbines on the civic centre, waste of public money, not your money, our money.”

“Council tax is not linked to sustainability and no opportunity to reduce for greener households No viable incentivisation schemes for residents or industry Household recycling centres are inaccessible by the most financially challenged sectors of our community e.g. those who rely on

public transport This survey feels inadequate in the options available - will this be sent to the industrial partners in the area ?”

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Comments in this theme were around building community networks to provide a sense of belonging, community-based compost schemes, and education.

“Encourage community-based approaches e.g. supporting energy community cooperatives.”

“Encouraging community responsibilities to reduce waste. Such as encouraging the use of apps such as share waste so local composts can benefit from other people in our communities. Also, OLIO”

AFFORDABILITY

Commenters were concerned about the affordability of measures, particularly given the cost-of-living crisis.

“The increasing costs affect all but poorest first and hardest (they are often the most vulnerable).”

“If it costs a lot of people won’t do it.”

“No emphasis on shared benefits from tackling climate change. The poorest and most vulnerable could and should gain real benefits. Emphasising that the less affluent cannot meet the costs can become an excuse for not making changes that are equitable. Feeds into climate change action opponent’s agenda.”

ROADS AND TRAVEL

Comments in this theme were around active travel schemes, zero or reduced traffic zones and public transport improvements.

“Resilient communities could also involve having zero- or reduced-traffic zones - adopting a people-centred not traffic-centred urban infrastructure.”

“You left off public transport why? It needs to improve greatly to get cars off the road. Also, we need to keep green spaces and not concrete over them. This is vital for the wellbeing of everyone.”

“Resilient communities could also involve having zero- or reduced-traffic zones - adopting a people-centred not traffic-centred urban infrastructure.”

THEME 3: IMPROVED BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Question 15 was an open question and received 96 comments.

COSIDER LAND USE

This was the largest theme amongst respondents to this question. Concerns were raised about building on greenspace.

“Green spaces in Fenay bridge and lepton are being built on! how is this being allowed when there are brown sites?”

“Stop housing being built near woodland and protect our green belt especially when there are lots of brownfield sites to use. Again, it is down to developers and the council making as much money as possible 😞”

There was also opposition to the new Amazon site.

“The proposed amazon warehouse in Scholes goes against ALL of these!”

“Do not destroy green field sites by building massive Amazon warehouses in them.”

PROTECTION AND CREATION OF GREENSPACES

The next most popular theme was around the protection, maintenance, and creation of greenspaces. Commenters thought this could be built into planning regulations.

“I think Kirklees Planners need to up their game in terms of ensuring the existing habitats are not degraded by the plethora of development sites in our borough. Time and time again developers are allowed to build without adequate provision to enhance biodiversity, alleviate flooding and provide active travel infrastructure. It riles me that you undertake surveys like this from one department then do not enforce the robust statements from the Local Plan. I would also iterate that the wealth of green spaces are not well managed in what could be a much more accessible and diverse blue-green infrastructure in Kirklees.”

Some commenters wanted the protection and maintenance of greenspaces in order to boost biodiversity and to have an impact on carbon absorption.

“Stop mowing as much and sow wildflowers to encourage insects and butterflies which are rapidly declining.”

“Protecting and maintaining healthy trees in public spaces and roadsides especially large old ones that absorb a lot of carbon.”

HOLISTIC/PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

The next most common theme was around taking a holistic approach to improving biodiversity and the natural environment.

“This is so hard to compartmentalise as the theme requires a holistic approach to moorlands, water tables/water systems. tree planting, land use management- “

“Work with schools, to develop grounds as biodiverse, teaching children and trusting them to manage. Working with large landowners, sort out planning rules, encourage builders to be sustainable, include biodiversity, suds etc, or go elsewhere!”

Some commenters also made suggestions of taking a partnership approach.

“Support community groups who are happy to maintain green spaces. Enforce rules about littering and polluting green spaces.”

EDUCATION/SKILLS

Commenters in this theme were concerned with education of the community and in schools.

“Education on biodiversity e.g. help residents to garden with biodiversity in mind.”

“Encouraging early healthy habits. School street schemes to reduce pollution around local schools. To protect the health of our future generations. Lots of councils including Calderdale are already signed up to school streets so it’s time we see Kirklees doing this.”

WATER PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT

Comments in this theme were around moorland regeneration, reducing tarmac and concerns about sewage.

“Moorland regeneration should include restoration of water absorbing areas to reduce rapid water flow flooding lower valleys due to increased extreme heavy rainfall brought on by warmer climates.”

“Limit the use of tarmac on pavements etc. that can lead to overburden of the drainage systems and localised flooding of homes.”

“These sewage firms being allowed to dump massive loads of human waste into our rivers is unacceptable. Stop it now or the public will act.”

POLLUTION/LITTERING PREVENTION

Commenters had concerns about littering and fly tipping and about pollution.

“More needs to be done to tackle littering. Both in respect of punishing the culprits and in bringing together /supporting community groups to clear spaces that are adversely affected.”

“Overuse of traffic control systems for minor roadworks resulting in traffic holdups with engines idling and uselessly pumping waste into the environment.”

SUPPORT FOR FARMERS

The last theme for this question is around support for farmers including adoption of environmentally friendly land management practices.

“Helping farmers adopt more nature-friendly land management practices.”

THEME 4: A LOW EMISSION, LOW IMPACT DISTRICT

Question 18 was an open question and received 98 comments.

LEADERSHIP/POLICY

The most common theme for this question was around the Council taking a leadership role in creating a low emission, low impact district including policy decisions that prioritise this. There were concerns that the 2038 target for net zero was not soon enough.

“The Net Zero Carbon Target needs to be hit sooner than 2038”.

“Net Zero new homes, no new gas boilers, tons of bike routes, zero car neighbourhoods, net zero as the norm”

“Push for a flight free Kirklees through education about the carbon cost of it. Lead by example - have every member of the council pledge to be flight free. Push for the carbon cost of everything we use and buy to be provided at the point of sale, so people actually know what they're choosing. This ignorance that is treasured by polluting businesses should be tackled. People actually want to know the environmental impact of their choices but it's currently a guess and a stab in the dark.”

“Voluntary scheme where residents can contribute additional amount per month/annum via council tax to create a co-operative scheme generating renewable electricity via solar/hydro/wind for residential/business consumers over a period of time. Residents receive % share of profits & additional income feeds back to support council services. Council then benefits via diverse income & sustainable renewable energy; residents receive additional income & we're contributing towards sustainable future. Additional revenues could be used to support social schemes for solar on council buildings, thereby adding additional revenues & cussing costs & carbon emissions.”

CONSIDER AND USE

As in the previous question, commenters had concerns about how land is used.

“To be mindful of taking away farmable land for industry buildings. Most land can be built on but not all land can be farmed. We need more locally grown produce to cut carbon footprints.”

“Protecting our greenfield sites from development, maintaining green corridors for wildlife, protecting our trees, and planting more. Ensuring the natural environment is protected for everyone to enjoy, benefiting our mental health and wellbeing in a natural, positive way.”

“I repeat chidswell and Amazon Scholes both go against this environmental aim. They will forever change the local and wider environment by removing green spaces and adding pollution, air, noise light. These plans have to be agreed by all sections of the council and not just the planning committee who don't seem to care. This is not a joined-up council and nor is it joined up to other local councils who are also proposing massive housing projects in in appropriate areas, i.e. Calderdale and the Clifton project. Which will also impact Scholes by massively increasing the amount of traffic through the village heading to the motorway.”

Concerns were raised around the new Amazon warehouse in this question too.

“Kirklees will not meet net zero emission targets if the Amazon warehouse at chain bar gets built, several thousand vehicles will operate 24 hours a day. Kirklees is granting planning permission in green belt across the whole district, basically everything this survey is trying to promote Kirklees is doing the total opposite. Kirklees is the worst performing council on every level.”

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Some comments were around the need for infrastructure improvements to allow for active travel and electric vehicle charging.

“We need better cycling infrastructure too, otherwise we'll just keep getting more and more cars and more congestion, which is bad in many ways, even if they're EVs. Prioritise active travel over electric vehicles please.”

“EV charging infrastructure required for those without driveways.”

IMPROVED PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACCESS

Commenters in this theme had concerns about the usability of public transport including connectivity and desirability.

“Transport at times is joke particularly the trains - pointless changing transport strategies if they don't work after you have implemented them? Why”

“A hard look needs to be given to public transport. To many oversized and empty buses running on narrow rural roads, belching out diesel fumes. The Lake district pioneered the use of Hopper minibuses with great success years ago. I cannot help but feel that the bleat of more public transport fails to take a hard look at the provision and demand. Look at how cars have improved over the past 20 years, and yet buses are pretty much unchanged over the last 50. Uncomfortable seats, noisy, no entertainment, steamed up windows drafty could and slow. Time for a rethink and an end to feeding subsidies to below standard providers.”

RECYCLE/REUSE/WASTE MANAGEMENT

Concerns were raised about the availability of recycling facilities as well as facilities for people to reuse.

“I think there needs to be an option to have large communal bins near every main road or shop etc. for people to recycle more plastics that cannot be readily recycled through the bins that get collected from households. e.g., like the terrace cycle boxes... so much more would be caught. Also, a stop on large supermarkets using single use plastics in Kirklees. There are cellulose based packaging or paper packaging that could be used.”

“Increased access to circular and zero waste Facilities such as community composting sites for green and food waste, zero waste shopping, Facilities for people to sell, swap and give away unused items that can have a second life such as furniture and clothing. And repair Facilities”

EDUCATION

“I’d do with a reminder about which plastics Kirklees recycles following the addition of extras.”

“Under knowledge and education, include the importance of collective good intent in taking a pride in looking after our environment at every level available to us.”

PROTECTION FOR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

“Protecting our greenfield sites from development, maintaining green corridors for wildlife, protecting our trees, and planting more. Ensuring the natural environment is protected for everyone to enjoy, benefiting our mental health and wellbeing in a natural, positive way.”

LOCALISATION

“That walking, running and cycling will take over as the main form of transport - need to create a better infrastructure - smart district that reduces the need to travel - encourage working close to home.”

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY PANEL – WORK PROGRAMME 2023/2024

MEMBERS: Cllrs Vacant (Chair) John Taylor, Matthew McLoughlin, Timothy Bamford, Hannah McKercher, Matthew McLoughlin , Will Simpson, Garry Kitchen (Coptee) and Jane Emery (Coptee)

SUPPORT: Jodie Harris – Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
THEME/ISSUE	APPROACH / AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES / ACTIONS
Cumulative Impact Assessment	<p>New Issue:</p> <p><u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 4th July 2023</u></p> <p>The purpose of this report is to brief Members of the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Panel on proposals to introduce a Cumulative Impact Assessment Policy under the Licensing Act 2003.</p>	<p>The Panel recommended that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The data be reviewed where it was felt to be incorrect (particularly in relation to Dewsbury Town centre) and be shared with the Panel. 2. The maps be made clearer and shared with the Panel following review with the Public Health Department. 3. Where figures less than 50 had been blocked out in the report that liaison took place with the Public Health Department to obtain actual figures and that these be shared with the Panel. 4. The quality of the report presented be improved and formatted to a higher standard before presentation to the Panel moving forwards. 5. A review of areas be undertaken where streets may be excluded by the boundary line and allow for issues to persist (i.e.- Trinity Street). 6. The ambition for the Public Consultation was made clear and that a statistically valid figure against the overall population for the number of public respondents be set to ensure broad representation and meaningful engagement. 7. Consideration be given to amending the period within which the Public Consultation was to be held to ensure the student population be represented. 8. The Panel be informed with the outcomes of the Public Consultation if approved by the Licencing Panel.

		<p>9. The Panel be provided with information in relation to; those licences that were being reviewed (i.e.- where areas were congested with premises selling cheap alcohol), the scope for refusal and evidence of good practice.</p> <p>10. It was important to be inclusive in the approach and that consideration continue to be given to the inclusion of other areas.</p> <p>11. If the Consultation be approved, that an email be sent to all Ward Members asking them to put forward the areas that they represent for consideration if they felt it would be useful.</p> <p>12. The Panel to be informed if the Consultation was approved and for an update be provided on progress prior to further consideration by Licensing and Full Council.</p>
<p>White Rose Forest – Summary Review 2022/23</p>	<p>New Issue:</p> <p><u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 4th July 2023</u></p> <p>The Panel considered a presentation in relation to White Rose Forest – Summary review 2022/23 and looking ahead to 2023/24</p>	<p>The Panel noted the report, White Rose Forest – Summary review 2022/23 and looking ahead to 2023/24 and recommended that Kirklees specific data be provided in relation to the Green Streets be provided to the Panel.</p>
<p>Waste Strategy Update</p>	<p><u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 30th August 2023</u></p> <p>In 2023/2024, the Environment and Climate Change Panel will receive an update around work undertaken to refresh the strategy in light of recent financial challenges and changes to legislation.</p> <p><i>Background:</i></p> <p><i>The former Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel first scrutinised the new Waste Strategy in 2021. In 2022/23 there was a focus on pre-decision scrutiny of the Waste Strategy Capital Update and the Cabinet decision 2nd August 2022 was taken to approve funds.</i></p>	<p>The Panel noted the Re-profile of the Kirklees Resource and Waste Strategy 2021- 30, and it was recommended that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work be undertaken around increasing capacity for the emptying of community recycling points. 2. Data be obtained to understand any potential impacts the reuse shop may have on local charities. 3. Data be provided to the Panel in respect of the projected impact of contamination.

	<p><i>Overall, the Panel were supportive of the strategy and recommended that, ‘the idea of rewarding individual businesses be considered in the development of the Community Reward Scheme. A joined up and borough wide approach be taken to the reuse shop and bulky waste initiatives in later stages of development’.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Comparison between Kirklees and other Local Authorities with a similar demographic be undertaken in respect of contamination rates. 5. Information in respect of any impact on net zero targets be included in scrutiny reports going forwards. 6. The presentation material be provided to the Panel in advance of the meeting. 7. A mechanism to allow businesses to express their interest in the recycling service be investigated further. 8. Engagement with local businesses around collection points be implemented. 9. The possibility of (i) enabling vulnerable residents to dispose of garden waste through assisted bulky waste collections and (ii) the 5-year timeframe for the ‘Period Dignity Scheme’ be investigated.
<p>Snow Warden Volunteer Scheme Update</p>	<p><u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 30th August 2023</u></p> <p>In 2023/2024, the Environment and Climate Change Panel will receive an update around learning from snow wardens, under the theme of Winter Maintenance.</p> <p><i>Background:</i></p> <p><i>The former Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel reviewed the approach taken to Winter Maintenance 7th September 2021 which included a focus on the link to planning.</i></p> <p><i>Key issues noted included the maintenance of active travel routes during winter and of the challenges around housing growth, resources, and capacity for winter maintenance. It was agreed that the current policy for winter maintenance should be assessed. This work was undertaken an update was given 30th August 2022.</i></p>	<p>The Panel noted the Snow Wardens Volunteer Scheme and recommended that a consistent approach be taken to communications and raising awareness of the scheme across the Council through the provision of (i) social media guidance, (ii) handouts for elected members to share with residents and (iii) the promotion of the scheme through community events.</p>

<p>Council Owned Tree and Woodland Management Policy</p>	<p><u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 25th October 2023</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider the finalised draft replacement Council Owned Tree and Woodland Management Policy.</p>	<p>The Panel noted the draft Council Tree and Woodland Management Policy and recommended that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An update on the work being undertaken with the White Rose Forest in respect of quantifying canopy cover be provided to the Panel. 2. The emergency contact details be added to the councils web page and that a link to the documents referenced be added to the proforma. 3. There should be more transparency around the timeframes in relation to the enforcement of dangerous trees/highways obstructions to manage public expectations. 4. The benefits of green space as an important aspect of public health/mental health be taken forward as an additional consideration.
<p>Air Quality Update</p>	<p><u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 25th October 2023</u></p> <p>Background:</p> <p><i>The former Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel received an update in October 2019. A number of areas to monitor were identified following implementation of the Action Plan.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Which measures have proven effective, and which provide good value for money.</i> 2. <i>Addressing the issue of vehicles with idling engines particularly outside schools.</i> 3. <i>How the planning system can be used/will address issues in relation to infrastructure to encourage sustainable transport/active travel.</i> 	<p>The Panel noted the Update on Local Air Quality Management and the 2023 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) and recommended that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The documents identified in the report as opportunities for pre-decision scrutiny be presented to the Panel going forwards. 2. It be confirmed with the air quality lead, if the output from the incinerator had any impact on AQMA No.9 3. Work be undertaken to investigate Gas to Liquid fuel to increase understanding of any potential benefits as part of the refresh of the Air Quality Action Plan and Air Quality Strategy 4. To maintain a good relationship with Highways England as a key external stakeholder and to continue building on this

	<p>4. <i>Improving infrastructure to encourage travel by public transport/cycling and walking.</i></p> <p>5. <i>Encouraging/ facilitating better options for travel to school to reduce use of private cars.</i></p> <p><i>In 2022/23 the Panel received notification of the publication of the Annual Status Report (ASR) for consideration with a view for a formal update to follow. The ASR provided a look back on Air Quality monitoring data for the calendar year of 2021 as well as some progress made in relation to the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP)</i></p> <p><u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 25th October 2023</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider the 2023 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) and will receive a presentation providing an update on Local Air Quality Management.</p>	<p>partnership as part of the refresh of the Air Quality Action Plan and Air Quality Strategy.</p> <p>5. The scientific literature review in relation to the potential benefits of Roadvent be shared with the Panel.</p> <p>6. Clear, effective, and positive communications be developed with regards to the Roadvent project to increase public understanding of the benefits</p>
<p>2 Year Highways Capital Plan Update</p>	<p><u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 10 January 2024</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider an update in relation to the 2 year Highways Capital Plan</p>	
<p>Highways and Road Safety</p>	<p><u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 10th January 2024</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider an update in relation to Highways and Road Safety.</p> <p><i>Background:</i></p>	

	<p><i>The former Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel received a presentation around Highways Safety which set out The Councils statutory responsibilities, (as per the Highways Safety Act), (i.e.- Safe vehicles, speeds, roads and behaviours as well as Post collision learning and care). The presentation also covered issues in relation to capital funding, and the Vision Zero ambition to eliminate road deaths and serious injuries (KSI's) to zero by 2040 and improve road safety for everyone using a safe systems approach. The Panel recommended that more emphasis be placed on enforcement and that the council continue to promote, persuade and influence driver behaviour as well as maintaining strong partnership work with the Police.</i></p>	
<p>Environmental Sustainability Strategy</p>	<p>New Issue: <u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 21 February 2024</u></p> <p>The Panel will receive an update on the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.</p>	
<p>Waste Re-Procurement</p>	<p><u>Meeting of the Panel to be held 27th March 2024</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider an update on Waste Re-Procurement in relation to work undertaken in the scrutiny of the Waste Strategy update.</p>	
<p>Parks and Greenspace Vision</p>	<p><u>TBC</u></p> <p>The Panel will receive an update in respect of Parks and Greenspace Vision</p>	

<p>Parking Strategy Review</p>	<p><u>TBC</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider an update in respect of Parking Strategy Review. To include use of pesticides.</p>	
<p>Events</p>	<p><u>TBC</u></p> <p>The Panel will receive an update in respect of local events (i.e.- Woven/Pride/Year of Music)</p> <p>-</p>	
<p>Statutory Health and Safety Service Plan 2022- 23</p> <p>Food Safety Service Plan 2023</p>	<p><u>New municipal year</u></p> <p>The Environment and Climate Change Panel will receive an update in respect of the Health and Safety and Food Safety Service Plans.</p> <p><i>Background:</i></p> <p><i>The former Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel received an update on the performance of the Food Safety Team against the priorities set in the Food Safety Service Plan 2022 and the delivery of the Health and Safety Service Plan 2022-23. Overall, the Panel were positive about the updates and recommended that communication with Community Groups to help increase their understanding of the regulations under Martyn’s Law (if brought forward) were key.</i></p>	
<p>LEAD MEMBER BRIEFING ISSUES</p>		
<p>THEME/ISSUE</p>	<p>APPROACH / AREAS OF FOCUS</p>	<p>LEAD OFFICER</p>
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Items scheduled:

- Cumulative Impact Assessment (July)
- White Rose Forest – Summary review 2022/23 and looking ahead to 2023/24 (July)
- Waste Strategy Review (August)
- Snow Warden Volunteer Scheme Update (August)
- Air Quality Action Plan (October)
- Tree Policy (October)
- 2 Year Highways Capital Plan (January)
- Highways and Road Safety (January)
- Environmental Sustainability Strategy (February)
- Waste Procurement (Private Item) (March)
- Parks and Greenspace Vision (TBC)
- Events (Woven/Pride/Year of Music) (TBC)
- Parking Strategy Review (TBC)

Items not yet scheduled:

- Fleet Replacement
- Street Lighting
- Statutory Food Hygiene Plan 2024 – 2025 / Statutory Health & Safety Plan 2024 – 2025
- Future Bereavement Services Offer
- Heat District Energy Network

Upcoming Panel visits Ideas:

- Energy from Waste (EfW) and Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) Scrutiny Visit (September)

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