

Name of meeting: Council
Date: 7th December 2022
Title of report: Kirklees Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP)

Purpose of report:

- To provide Council with an overview of the draft Kirklees Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) and potential priority actions for carbon reduction and climate resilience as part of the Council's response to the climate emergency. To seek Council endorsement for the draft Kirklees Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) and approve the CCAP to be published as a key plan forming the Council's Policy Framework (Article 4 of the Constitution).
- For Council to make a decision, in principle to continue to progress the next steps of the Climate Change Action plan process, specifically:
 - To organise and deliver appropriate stakeholder engagement events required to prioritise actions by place; and
 - To develop business cases for high priority actions, to be published in Action Plan Version 2 – containing carbon reduction potential calculations and an analysis of funding requirements.
- For Council to delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Environment & Climate Change, in consultation with Culture & Greener Kirklees Portfolio holder to:
 - Deliver any minor alterations to the CCAP and the next stages of action planning
 - Procure external support in the delivery of the next stages of action planning where required
 - To apply for and accept external (i.e., non-council) funding for the delivery of actions within the CCAP in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

Decision made by Cabinet

1. That the Climate Change Action Plan, as set out at Appendix 1, be endorsed and submitted to the meeting of Council on 7 December 2022 with a recommendation of approval.
2. That, pursuant to (1) above, authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (Environment and Climate Change) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Culture and Greener Kirklees to (i) progress the steps as set out in the Action Plan, specifically those as set out at para. 8.2 of the report (ii) make any minor alterations to the Action Plan and the next stages of action planning (iii) procure external support in the delivery of the next stages of action planning where required and (iv) apply for and accept external funding in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules for the delivery of actions within the Climate Change Action Plan.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes If yes give the reason, why: The Climate Change Action Plan will impact all electoral wards.
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?	Key Decision – Yes Private Report/Private Appendix – No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by Strategic Director & name	Colin Parr, Strategic Director for Environment & Climate Change: 4 th November 2022.

<p>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</p> <p>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</p>	<p>Eamonn Croston, Service Director for Finance. Completed 4th October 2022.</p> <p>Karl Larrad, Legal – Head of Corporate, Signed off on behalf of Julie Muscroft – Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning. Completed 4th October 2022.</p>
<p>Cabinet member:</p>	<p>Cllr Will Simpson – Culture & Greener Kirklees</p> <p>The following cabinet members have been consulted due to the relevance of their portfolios:</p> <p>Cllr Naheed Mather – Environment Cllr Paul Davies - Corporate</p>

Electoral wards affected:

All Wards:

1. Summary

- 1.1. In January 2019, the Council declared a Climate Emergency and proposed an ambitious programme of activity to address the emergency and commonly referred to as our Phase 1 Action.
- 1.2. The Council recognises the need to continue moving forward on its pathway to Net Zero by 2038 and to continue to rise to this challenge and be a leader; achieving positive change with the support of our local partner organisations, businesses, and residents in addition to help and support of the national government and regional partners. This continues to be a challenging ambition, but it also remains a great opportunity to improve our quality of life and create a borough that is healthier, more sustainable, and fairer for everyone.
- 1.3. This report summarises the work undertaken to date to produce the next phase, the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) for Kirklees, attached as Appendix 1 with this report.
- 1.4. It is centred on and informed by an extensive process of evidence-based development and stakeholder engagement with residents, key partners, community members and Kirklees Councillors. The plan has drawn on this comprehensive research and sets out a list of 206 actions that could be implemented within Kirklees to achieve 'Net-Zero and Climate Ready by 2038'.
- 1.5. As outlined in the Net Zero Assessment, which forms a key part of the evidence base for this CCAP, Kirklees also has a set of interim or 'steppingstone' emission reduction targets. Laid out in the table below, these demonstrate a reduction against the emission from the year 2000.

Table 1: Kirklees' Emissions Pathway to Reach Net-Zero against baseline levels from 2000 - Adapted from 'A Net-Zero Carbon Assessment for Kirklees' (Gouldson et al., 2021).

Year	Target for Emissions Reduction
By 2025	63%
By 2030	78%
By 2035	87%
By 2040	92%
By 2045	95%
By 2050	100%

- 1.6. This CCAP is the first step in our action planning journey as we move from phase 1 delivery and will remain a core strategic document that will drive our phase 2 response to the climate emergency. It provides a long-list of actions that will be followed-up by a more 'detailed' shortlisted action plan, refined through further activity to identify placed-based priority actions that are accompanied with more specific details of required finance and expected emission reductions.
- 1.7. Phase 2 will end with the publication of Action Plan V2 in early 2024, when the identification of funding sources and subsequent delivery of actions commence.
- 1.8. When phase 2 ends, we will proceed with the implementation of the business cases and commence the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) strategy, as outlined within the CCAP document in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.9. Whilst at present, the CCAP document remains a list of actions, it should not detract from the large-scale investment and activity already being undertaken and implemented by

directorates across the Council in response to climate change. This includes activity linked to mitigation of carbon such as an initial £1 million and further £6 million investment in greening the Council fleet and installing supporting EV infrastructure, promoting modal shift (i.e., away from private cars, towards public transport) and active travel as well as activity linked to adaptation such as analysing work practices, emergency plans to ensure we are prepared for unprecedented weather events. This is also complemented by activity being undertaken by residents, community groups, partners and through our partnerships such as the Kirklees Climate Commission.

- 1.10. The CCAP is not a list of firm commitments, investment proposals or instructions at this point in the process. But it does set out detailed actions that can be taken by the Council, key partners, and members of the wider community to help deliver the districts net zero and climate ready target.
- 1.11. Nationally, local authorities are directly responsible for around 2% of total UK emissions, but they can influence up to 40% of emissions through their activities and powers. Recognising this, Kirklees itself as an authority directly contributes a small percentage of district-wide emissions, therefore any action plan relies on a collaborative effort from these partnering organisations and individuals to decide if, what and how they will change their own activities to help achieve a shared climate ambition.
- 1.12. The CCAP for Kirklees sets out a framework for collective action on climate change to achieve the ambitious target of achieving net zero emissions and being climate ready across the borough by 2038.

2. Information required to take a decision

Background

- 2.1. Signed by the UK in 2016, 191 countries formally approved the Paris Agreement, targeting net zero by 2050, and committing them to limit global warming to well below 2°C, and preferably to 1.5°C, compared to pre-industrial levels.
- 2.2. In 2018, a special report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned that urgent action was needed to cut greenhouse gas emissions and limit global warming to 1.5 degree C, to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change.
- 2.3. The Council declared a climate emergency in January 2019 and established the cross-party Climate Emergency Working Party (CEWP) to identify practical measures to reduce emissions across the district.

2.4. The declaration resolved to undertake various immediate measures such as a completing a full Environmental Audit, explore ways to increase the recycling rate and the setting up a cross-party Councillor-led Climate Emergency Working Party (CEWP) to investigate and report back. In November 2019, a report of these findings was published, which led to the formulation of Kirklees' two-phase approach to climate change action - outlined in Figure 1 below.

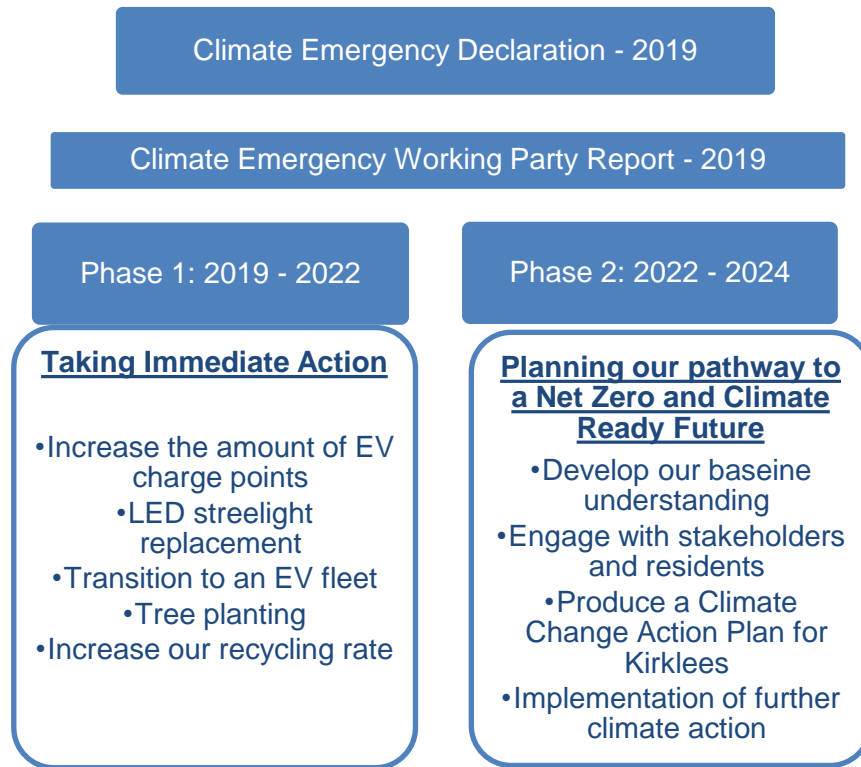


Figure 1: Flow diagram outlining Kirklees' two-phase climate change emergency programme.

2.5. Phase 2 and the development of the CCAP is driven by and aligns with the 'Clean and Green' agenda set out in the Council Plan 2021 / 23, alongside being guided by and meeting the requirements of the Councils commitment to the CDP reporting platform and Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) public reporting platforms and the public scrutiny from the Climate Emergency UK Scorecard action plan checklist.

2.6. When phase 2 ends, we will proceed with the implementation of the business cases and commence the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) strategy, as outlined within the CCAP document in Appendix 1 to this report.

Impact of Climate Change

2.7. Climate change impacts will be felt both globally and locally and will disproportionately affect the most vulnerable members of our community. Rising global temperatures will lead to:

- Rising sea levels and increased flood risk
- More extreme local weather events
- Increased risks to health and well-being
- Local water shortages and increase energy demand
- Threats to local biodiversity including the loss of native trees and wildlife

2.8. Climate change is, by nature, a cross-cutting, holistic issue that impacts and is influenced by the 7 core sectors and an 8th overarching sector, that this CCAP covers, being:

1. Buildings

2. Energy
3. Natural Environment and biodiversity
4. Sustainable Food & Agriculture
5. Waste
6. Water
7. Transport.
8. Cross-Cutting

The 8th 'cross-cutting' sector includes those challenges, opportunities and actions that address two or more of the 7 core sectors.

- 2.9. As a result, the CCAP has influence and relationships with multiple service areas within the council, key partners within Kirklees and regionally and community groups and residents – all of whom have been involved in the stakeholder engagement process completed as part of the CCAP development. The CCAP is found in Appendix 1 of this cabinet report.

Co-Benefits of Climate Change

- 2.10. There are also many associated economic, social and health benefits to reducing carbon emissions, strengthening the case for climate action. A full list of co-benefits used can be seen in Table 2, with examples including:

- Heightened energy security and a reduction in energy poverty due to a more sustainable energy supply.
- More resilient individuals, communities, and infrastructure, seeing a reduced impact from climate hazards.
- Better quality homes and offices and an efficient, cleaner, and more active transport network.
- Better jobs, a more inclusive economy and enhanced green skills and education
- Improved access to high quality green spaces for people within towns/villages
- A more sustainable and localised food chain with improved food security.

Internal Implications and dependencies

- 2.11. The implications, dependencies and relations with Council priorities are linked to the following Council plans and strategies:

- Our Council Plan 2021 – 2023:

The Climate Change Action Plan primarily aligns with the agenda set by the 'Clean and Green' shared outcome, but also has overlap with 'Shaped by people' due to the stakeholder engagement completed and planned in the next steps, alongside 'Sustainable Economy', with the recognition of the potential for climate action to generate co-benefits around economic prosperity for Kirklees.

- Transport Strategy (in-development):

The transport actions within the plan will directly influence the content of the emerging transport strategy. These actions have been developed in close collaboration with Transport strategy and Policy colleagues, with the next steps in stakeholder engagement for the CCAP and the Transport Strategy planned to be aligned to avoid duplication.

- Waste Resources and Waste Strategy 2021 - 2030:

The CCAP clearly states that specific waste actions outlined in the plan, do not cover, or contradict those portrayed within the Councils Waste Strategy. There is only one action that directly relates to the strategy, being: "WAS1.1: Be ready to update the current Resource & Waste Strategy 2021 - 2030, associated activities and assets, to align with emerging Government

policy and the Kirklees climate ambition of being Net Zero and Climate Ready by 2038”, which has been sent to appropriate Waste colleagues for consultation.

- Kirklees Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) 2019 – 2024:

Poor air quality and climate change share many of the same causes and most of the actions taken to address climate change also come with the co-benefit of improving air quality. The CCAP has been developed in collaboration with appropriate Air Quality colleagues and recognises the co-benefit of air quality in all appropriate actions.

- Kirklees Local Plan, Strategy and Policies:

The local plan and associated planning powers are a core mechanisms in helping reduce emissions and improve our resilience across sectors such as buildings, energy, and natural environment & biodiversity. The planning policy team have been extensively engaged with on the development of related actions and will continue to be engaged with throughout the next steps.

Partnership Implications and dependencies

2.12. The implication, dependencies and relationships with key partners includes:

- West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan 2021 – 2024:

The goals and vision of the CCAP to be “Net Zero and Climate Ready by 2038” align with those set by WYCA. Appropriate WYCA colleagues have and will continue to be engaged throughout the CCAP process to ensure alignment and collaboration to achieve our shared ambition.

- Kirklees Climate Commission (KCC):

The KCC, as an independent advisory body for climate actions within Kirklees, have been heavily engaged with throughout the process of the CCAP and the associated evidence base through the Energy and Climate Change Teams role as the secretariat. The KCC will continue to be regularly communicated with and be involved in future engagement processes.

Resident & Community Implications and dependencies

2.13. The impact that this CCAP will have on Kirklees residents and community members is that it will provide direction and reassurance of our plan of action, the implementation of which is expected to generate co-benefits around health and wellbeing, environment, economic prosperity, and essential public services.

2.14. Through stakeholder engagement, such as the workshop and resident survey, residents have and will continue to be a key part of the CCAPs development and journey to strive for a plan that positively benefits all of Kirklees.

Cost breakdown

2.15. As this version of the CCAP is not a list of commitments and instructions at this stage in the process, there are no cost associated with its approval.

2.16. As we progress through the process of climate action, with the placed-based prioritisation of actions via stakeholder engagement and the development of business cases for high priority actions, the indicative financial requirements (i.e., cost) of implementing these actions will be identified.

2.17. The Net Zero and Climate Ready vision for Kirklees is ambitious and aspirational. Its success will be tempered by the funding that is available to work with (capital and operational) and the level of ownership, engagement and uptake that can be achieved.

To achieve our climate ambitions, we must seek new ways of doing things and seek new approaches to identify and access necessary investment – both as a council and more broadly as a district.

Timescale

2.18. The CCAP is the first step in the action planning journey towards achieving Kirklees’ “Net Zero and Climate Ready by 2038” target.

2.19. The actions within the CCAP, are categorised by 3 different timescales, being:

- Short-term: 0-5 years
- Medium-term: 5 to 10 years
- Long-term: 10+ years.

2.20. The timescales for the development to date of the CCAP and the forthcoming steps in the process, are as follows:





Table 2: Timescale for CCAP process to date and anticipated.


Task:	Completion Date
Evidence Base Development	January to March 2022
Identifying challenges and opportunities	March to August 2022
Action Identification via associated stakeholder engagement	June to August 2022
Initial action prioritisation	August 2022
Draft CCAP V1	September 2022
Cabinet CCAP Approval	November 2022
Council Approval	December 2022
Publication of CCAP	December 2022
Publication of Evidence base	December 2022
Placed-based prioritisation of actions, aligned with transport strategy engagement	Summer 2023
Development of business cases for high priority actions	Autumn 2023
Write-up and approval of Action Plan V2	Late 2023 / early 2024
Implementation of Action Plan Monitoring and Evaluation process	2024 onwards.

Benefits & Risks

- 2.21. In the development of this action plan, the broader impacts / outcome, is the expectation that Kirklees as a district, will reduce its area-wide carbon emissions and become more resilient to the impacts of climate change, achieving the “Net Zero and Climate Ready by 2038” target.
- 2.22. Furthermore, the co-benefits that could be generated by the actions within the plan have also been recognised and are outlined below.

Table 3: Benefits criteria used for the prioritisation of actions with associated symbols for the headline categories.

Co-benefit Category	Criteria	Definition
Health and Wellbeing 	Air Quality	Reduced exposure to particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), NO ₂ , O ₃ , SO ₂ or airborne toxins.
	Physical Health	Increased life expectancy, or reduced incidents of diseases or deaths attributed to pollution, poor sanitation, or lack of access to nutrients or a lack of physical exercise.
	Wellbeing	Reduced levels of stress/anxiety, time spent working/commuting, and increased gender equality in housework/childcare.
Environment 	Water Quality and Management	Reduced levels of dissolved oxygen, phosphorous, nitrates, faecal matter; sedimentation, chemicals, and/or heavy metals in freshwater and marine water bodies, alongside better management of water resources.
	Habitat	Increased creation, preservation, or restoration of natural environments.
	Biodiversity	Enhances local biodiversity.
	Green Space	Increased percentage of urban area that is greenspace, urban tree canopy, and/or access to parks, alongside increased rural space that is protected or more sustainably managed.
Economic Prosperity 	Employment	Increased employment rate, access to quality jobs (full-time versus temporary; high-paying versus low-paying), and total number of jobs.
	Income and Poverty	Increased income and social mobility - especially for vulnerable populations, reduced poverty rate.
	Cost of Living	Reduced cost of living or utility cost savings.
	Skills and Training	Increased access to green skills training and programs.
Essential Public Services 	Housing	Increased availability of affordable housing, reduced proportion of residents living in poor quality housing with poor energy efficiency, reduced proportion of income spent on rent or mortgage.
	Mobility	Increased proportion of population within walking distance of transit (e.g., 500 m), share of trips by sustainable, active modes, reduced transportation costs.

	Energy	Increased proportion of population with access to clean, 'green' electricity, reduced energy bills and poverty.
	Waste Management	Increased proportion of households with access comprehensive recycling collections (inc. food waste and glass), reduced waste generation and littering.
	Water	Reduced risk of surface or riverine flooding.
Inclusivity and Civil Society 	Stakeholder Engagement	Increased engagement with public/private entities outside of district council.
	Social Justice	Reduced socioeconomic or health disparities between groups based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or other identity.
	Community Representation	Increased representation of specific community groups, including civil society, academia, business, and vulnerable populations.

2.23. There are minimal risks associated with the publication of this plan, due to the non-committal nature of the CCAP at this stage in the process.

2.24. The core risks with this CCAP comes primarily from potential communication and publication of the documentation. Specifically associated with the positive and negative response expected from the public, partner organisations such as the Kirklees Climate Commission.

Evaluation

2.25. As detailed within the Climate Change Action Plan, the evaluation of actions identified within the report will be undertaken through four-stages:

- Through stakeholder engagement: By the most appropriate mechanisms determined at the time of evaluation, a cross-section of Kirklees stakeholders will be engaged to feedback their evaluation of the on-going impact and outcomes of the actions implemented as part of the integrated climate change action plan.
- By evaluating the emission reduction achieved by the actions implemented, against the existing district-wide emissions inventory for Kirklees and the districts steppingstone and absolute science-based targets.
- By evaluating against pre-determined adaptive capacity: The Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment has established Kirklees' current 'adaptive capacity' for the hazards and associated risks assessed. Using this pre-determined assessment, elements of adaptive capacity will be evaluated against the relevant indicators within the indicator database, alongside being cross analysed against the findings of the stakeholder engagement.
- By evaluating the social and economic impact of events. Utilising the indicator database as a baseline.

2.26. Nominated individuals, indicatively the Energy & Climate Change team, will also engage with Action Owners, key stakeholders, and residents, to help formulate lessons learned (both positive and negative) in relation to on-going implementation of climate change related actions to ensure there is an opportunity for further evaluation and monitoring. Lessons learned will be collated in-line with the 3-yearly reporting cycle.

Reporting on Action Outcomes

- 2.27. A 3-year reporting cycle will also be established for publishing the outcomes of the monitoring and evaluation process defined above, which will remain in-place until the district wide target of Net Zero and Climate Ready by 2038 is achieved.
- 2.28. The 3-yearly "Progress Report" will be shared with Kirklees' Climate Change Board and appropriate stakeholders and will include, as a minimum:
 - Action Implementation status and any issues encountered
 - Recommendations for revisions to any Climate Change Actions
 - Changes to key indicators
 - Potential new Climate Change Actions for considerations.

Sustainability

- 2.29. Reducing climate emissions and becoming more resilient to the current and future impacts of climate change, is a core focus of broader, globally recognised sustainability thinking and practices.
- 2.30. This CCAP is a key strategic piece of work for the Council to help address climate change – both carbon reduction and climate adaptation. The broader consideration for the three pillars of sustainability – economic, social, and environmental, can be seen in the co-benefits outlined.
- 2.31. An Environment and Sustainability Strategy is currently under development by the Council, with the expectation that this CCAP will be a core aspect of the strategy.

Services & agencies involved

- 2.32. The development of the action plan has involved an extensive stakeholder engagement process, which has involved internal cross-service area workshops and external stakeholder workshops including agencies. Specific engagement activity included:
 - An online resident survey, which saw 1,499 respondents across each Kirklees Council Ward over a 4-week period.
 - A virtual workshop for Kirklees Council Colleagues
 - An in-person workshop with the Kirklees Climate Commission.
 - Attendance at all political party group meetings to engage with Kirklees Councillors, prior to internal governance processes.
 - A virtual workshop for 26 external stakeholders, incorporating residents, organisations, community groups, agencies, and businesses across Kirklees.
- 2.33. Specific service areas were also consulted with representation received from departments such as:
 - Highways and Street scene
 - Homes and Neighbourhoods
 - Environment Strategy & Climate Change
 - Development
 - Culture and Visitor Economy

3. Implications for the Council

- **Working with People**

3.1. Addressing climate change is not something that the Council can achieve alone for the borough of Kirklees. Instead, a strong working relationship with partners is essential to develop real action in Kirklees. The Climate Change Action Plan in its development, sought to adopt five core principles it adhered to, one of which was 'Shaped by People' and further aligning with the Council's key principles as set out by "Our Council Plan". Further to this, we recognised that all residents and businesses within Kirklees are allies, with rights and responsibilities to deliver this strategy for Kirklees, working inclusively to ensure all aspects of Kirklees society are represented.

- **Working with Partners**

3.2. A key theme of tackling the Climate Emergency is collaborating with other partners, regionally and on the national stage. Throughout the development of the CCAP we recognised that a strong working relationship with partners was essential to develop real action in Kirklees. Stakeholder engagement was a critical element of the CCAP, used to inform key challenges and opportunities that each of the sectors would face, alongside the actions that can be adopted by the Council, key partners, and community groups to address the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities.

3.3. Advised by the Citizen Engagement Reference Board (CERG), several stakeholder engagement techniques were applied to inform the development of the CCAP including resident surveys, ward councillor discussions, in person workshops and presentations.

3.4. Moving forward, stakeholder engagement will remain a core pillar of the next steps in our Climate Emergency response in the agreement of high-priority actions by place and the development of associated business cases.

- **Place Based Working**

3.5. The nature of the current CCAP document has not enabled a strong-focus on place-based working, however, this will become a core focus in the next steps of the climate emergency response.

3.6. This CCAP lists 206 climate actions across 8 sectors that apply to Kirklees district. It is our intention to undertake place-based stakeholder engagement with the aim of agreeing high priority actions for that place, which will then progress towards business case development.

- **Climate Change and Air Quality**

3.7. Tackling climate change is at the heart of this CCAP document, outlining actions that will achieve carbon reduction for the district, but also how the district can become more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

3.8. A comprehensive monitoring & evaluation strategy is outlined within the CCAP, which will establish a 3-year reporting cycle on the progress against agreed actions, whilst also measuring progress against our Net Zero by 2038 goal and associated stepping-stone reduction pathway.

- **Improving outcomes for children**


3.9. The evidence base for the CCAP, identifies "Children and Youth" as a vulnerable population group for Kirklees, alongside recognising children and youth as a key stakeholder in completed and future climate change action plan engagement.

- 3.10. As a result, the climate change action plan outlines several actions that focus on schools and young people, which includes necessary infrastructure investment, education, and capacity building actions alongside considerations around the resources in place to help, especially young people, in dealing with climate related anxiety, depression, and suicide.
- 3.11. Furthermore, Kirklees Council have and will continue to deliver a Young Persons Climate Festival helping educate, inform, and giving young people a change to get involve with the various environmental initiatives taking place across Kirklees.

4. Financial Implications for the people living or working in Kirklees Council

- 4.1. In the development of the CCAP, the co-benefits regarding economic prosperity have been assessed for each of the actions identified, as seen in the table below.

Table 4: Co-benefits identified in the CCAP around economic prosperity.

Co-benefit Category	Criteria	Definition
Economic Prosperity 	Employment	Increased employment rate, access to quality jobs (full-time versus temporary; high-paying versus low-paying), and total number of jobs.
	Income and Poverty	Increased income and social mobility - especially for vulnerable populations, reduced poverty rate.
	Cost of Living	Reduced cost of living or utility cost savings.
	Skills and Training	Increased access to green skills training and programs.

5. Other (e.g., Integrated Impact Assessment/Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

Integrated Impact Assessment

- 5.1. A stage 1 IIA has been completed, with no requirement for stage 2. It be found under “Environment and Climate Change” for 2022 on the council website: [Integrated impact assessments | Kirklees Council](#)

Legal

- 5.2. As the CCAP shown in Appendix 1 of this report is not a list of commitments and instructions, there are no broader legal implications in the approval of this plan.
- 5.3. The UK legal framework is set out in the Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended in 2019) and commits the UK to achieving “net zero” by 2050 by placing a legal duty on the Secretary of State to ensure that by 2050 the net zero carbon account is reduced by 100% compared to 1990 levels. There are no legal target obligations on local authorities. The council’s declaration improves on the UK 2050 target. However, there are numerous government plans and strategies which emphasise the importance of action by local authorities which are key to understanding the available funding, challenges, and opportunities, including the Ten Point Plan for Green Industrial Revolution (Nov 2020); the Heat and Building Strategy (2021); the Net Zero Strategy (2021); and the British Energy Security Strategy (2022).
- 5.4. The Council will carry out any procurements in accordance with the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules (May 2022) and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. Applications and acceptance of grant funding offers will be in accordance with the Council’s Financial Procedure Rules (May 2022).

- 5.5. The Council must have due regard to its public sector equality duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.
- 5.6. The adoption of a CCAP as part of the Council's Policy Framework under Article 4 of the Constitution is a decision for Council.
- 5.7. Local authorities have a general power of competence to "do anything that individuals generally may do" subject to any restrictions or limitations in other legislation (section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 and acting reasonably in public law terms.

Financial

- 5.8. As the CCAP shown in Appendix 1 of this report is not a list of commitments and instructions, there are no broader financial implications in the approval of this plan. However, Our Net Zero and Climate Ready vision for Kirklees is ambitious and aspirational and as we progress through this process, it's success will be tempered by the funding that is available to work with (capital and operational) and the level of ownership, engagement and uptake that can be achieved.
- 5.9. To achieve our climate ambitions, we must seek new ways of doing things and seek new approaches to identifying and accessing necessary investment – both as a council and more broadly as a district.

Communication issues:

- 5.10. Communication plays two vital roles for this Climate Change Action Plan – comms around the publication of the plan and then the utilisation of comms to help successfully deliver the actions within the plan itself.
- 5.11. A communication strategy is being developed by the Comms team within the Council for the publication and advertisement of the plan, alongside striving to ensure we are prepared for the anticipated public response to the plan. As with the placed-based approach to action prioritisation, the comms strategy will not be a one-size fits all, but rather tailored to be accessible to the variation in anticipated audience.
- 5.12. A ~3-minute animation will also be commissioned as part of the comms strategy, to portray, in an accessible way, what we as a Council have done, what we are doing and what we plan to do, in relation to the climate emergency response and the Climate Change Action Plan.
- 5.13. The CCAP has been specifically designed to adhere with the best practice, globally recognised approach to climate action planning and is expected to satisfy the reporting criteria outlined by CDP reporting platform, Global Covenant of Mayors and the Climate Emergency Scorecard – all credible organisations designed to guide and scrutinise Climate Change Action Plans.

However, climate change is a high-profile issue, with a broad scale of opinion. It is therefore anticipated that the CCAP will generate both positive and negative responses from opposite ends of the climate change spectrum.

- 5.14. A core focus of this criticism is expected around the non-committal nature of this CCAP at this stage in the process. To combat this, we are striving to clearly communicate how the next steps in our action plan process will result in firm commitments, once we have developed and identified – through extensive resident and stakeholder engagement, a refined number of high-priority actions by place, which will be accompanied by a business case providing indicative costs and carbon figures.
- 5.15. It is also recognised that the use of communication will be a key mechanisms utilised by action owners to deliver and implement all associated actions within the CCAP. It will be particularly pertinent for those with an action type on "behavioural awareness-raising and

capacity building” alongside “monitoring, data collection, analysis, assessment, research and collaboration”.

6. Consultees and their opinions

- 6.1. Legal Review: The legal review completed on this cabinet report provided minor amendments to the wording of the options and recommendations put forward.
- 6.2. Financial Review: The financial review completed on this cabinet report had no comments on the options or recommendations put forward in this report.
- 6.3. Review by portfolio holders: Cllr Simpson (Green and Clean), Cllr Davies (Environment) and Cllr Mather (Corporate) were consulted and had no comments on the options or recommendations put forward in this report.
- 6.4. Review by Economy and Neighbourhood Scrutiny Panel completed on the 18th of November. Comments from this are summarised below:
 - Ensure that the communication strategy for the CCAP is accessible to all, both professional and lay audiences, whilst reflecting the placed-based approach of action prioritisation and using relatable stories to engage with residents.
 - Set out more clearly, a baseline year by which emissions reduction for the district will be assessed against.
 - Breakdown the timescales of Phase 2 delivery, into a more recognisable short-term window, from 2022 to 2038 to 2022 to 2024, acknowledging that a further phase of work will be introduced upon the implementation of actions and the monitoring and evaluation strategy.

The full minutes for the meeting will be published in due course on the Council website for the [Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel](#).

7. Next steps and timelines

Governance:

- 7.1. The below Table 4 outlines the governance flightpath for the CCAP, covering both the meetings already attended, and those it is due to be taken to.
- 7.2. The action plan is to be taken to Council on the 7th December, after cabinet, as a requirement under Article 4, Part 2 of the Constitution.

Table 5: CCAP Governance flightpath

Meeting	Date
DLT (Deputy Leadership Team)	15 th Sept
ET (Executive Team)	20 th September
Portfolio briefing meeting	via e-mail
LMT (Leadership Management Team)	10 th Oct
Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel	18 th Oct
Cabinet:	16 th Nov
Council	7 th Dec

CCAP Process:

Table 6: Next steps and timescale for CCAP

Task:	Completion Date
Council Approval	December 2022
Publication of CCAP	December 2022
Publication of Evidence base	December 2022
Placed-based prioritisation of actions, aligned with transport strategy engagement	Summer 2023
Development of business cases for high priority actions	Autumn 2023
Write-up and approval of Action Plan V2	Late 2023 / early 2024
Implementation of Action Plan Monitoring and Evaluation process	2024 onwards.

- 7.3. Once an approval is obtained from Council, the action plan will be published on the Council website, alongside the associated appendix reports and evidence base.
- 7.4. The Energy and Climate Change team will then begin to progress into the next steps of the action planning processes, planning, developing, and implementing a placed-based prioritisation of actions via stakeholder engagement with residents and allies across Kirklees.
- 7.5. This engagement will then inform a short-list of high priority actions per sector, by place, which will then have a business case developed. This business case will outline indicative financial and carbon implications, which will form part of a firm commitment within V2 of the Action Plan.
- 7.6. Action Plan V2 will then go through the formal governance process for approval, before being published on the Council Website, which is currently anticipated to occur in late 2023 to early 2024.

8. Officer recommendations and reasons

- 8.1. That Council notes the report and endorses the proposed Climate Change Action Plan as set out at appendix 1 to this report and recommend its adoption by Council

Reason: To recognise and accept the key challenges, opportunities, climate risks and associated actions that either face or can be taken by Kirklees Council, key partners, and community members within the district.

- 8.2. That Council delegates the authority to the Strategic Director for Environment & Climate Change, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Greener Kirklees; to progress the next steps set out in the Climate Change Action Plan. Specifically:
 - Publish the CCAP on the Council’s Website and make available to the public and partners as required
 - Organise and deliver appropriate stakeholder engagement events required to prioritise actions by place.
 - Develop a Climate Change Action Plan Communication and Engagement Strategy
 - Develop business cases for high priority actions, to be published in Action Plan Version 2 – containing carbon reduction potential calculations and an analysis of funding requirements.
 - Further develop and then deliver the monitoring & evaluation strategy for the climate change action plan.

Reason: Progressing phase 2 of our climate emergency response will require the development of more detailed businesses cases for high priority actions – providing the potential action owners

with the appropriate information, such as carbon reduction potential and funding requirements / cost, to be able to implement these actions. To effectively prioritise these actions, a more extensive process of place-based action prioritisation is required, which can only be achieved through stakeholder engagement. This will ensure that these actions reflect the different economic, social, environmental, and built-environment characteristics across the communities of Kirklees.

- 8.3. For Council to delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Environment & Climate Change, in consultation with Culture & Greener Kirklees Portfolio holder to make any minor alterations to the CCAP and the next stages of action planning

Reason: To recognise and accept that minor alterations may be required to be made to the CCAP report and the actions outlined within it, alongside the next steps in the action planning process. As laid out within the CCAP document in the “it is” part of the executive summary and the Monitoring & Evaluation Strategy”, this is a flexible and evolving document and planning process, reacting to stakeholder consultation and developments in both approach and technologies.

- 8.4. For Council to delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Environment & Climate Change, in consultation with Culture & Greener Kirklees Portfolio holder to procure external support in the delivery of the next stages of action planning where required

Reason: As part of the next steps in the action planning process there may be a requirement to procure external expertise in the delivery of stakeholder engagement and the development of business cases for prioritised actions, involving finance and carbon calculations, where these skills and or capabilities are not held by internal council colleagues.

- 8.5. For Council to delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Environment & Climate Change, in consultation with Culture & Greener Kirklees portfolio holder to apply for and accept external (i.e., non-council) funding in accordance with the Council’s Financial Procedure Rules for the delivery of actions within the CCAP.

Reason: Our Net Zero and Climate Ready vision for Kirklees is ambitious and aspirational but is, in part, tempered by the funding that is available to work with (capital and operational). To achieve our climate ambitions, we must seek new approaches to identifying and accessing necessary investment.

9. Cabinet Portfolio Holder’s recommendations

- 9.1. The portfolio holder, Cllr Will Simpson, agrees with the officer recommendations set out in section 8 of this report.

10. Contact officer

Shaun Berry – Operations Manager Air Quality, Energy, Climate Change
Shaun.berry@kirklees.gov.uk

Robert Green - Environment Officer for Climate Change
Robert.green@kirklees.gov.uk

11. Background Papers and History of Decision

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>

12. Service Director responsible

Katherine Armitage, Service Director for Environmental Strategy and Climate Change

13. Appendices

- 1. Kirklees Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP)
- 2. CCAP Appendix A: Existing Actions
- 3. CCAP Appendix D: Survey Output