



Environment Strategy

Everyday, Life.

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 working together across all sectors, sharing knowledge, building on our existing work, raising awareness, and cascading key messages and information across our networks and the local community, 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](#)

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 Yusra Hussain



Cabinet Member for Culture and Greener Kirklees

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



Zero avoidable waste by 2038.



Growing the sharing economy in Kirklees to be a national leader.



Nature in Recovery by 2030.



All degraded peatland to be in restoration by 2038.



Increase Kirklees tree canopy cover to 21% by 2050.



All people who live work and study in Kirklees to have access to high quality green and blue and space within 5-10 minutes / 500m walk by 2038.



Good buildings - all buildings in Kirklees to be energy efficient, at a minimum of EPC C by 2030.



Net Zero Energy supply by 2038.



Sustainable neighbourhoods programme launched by 2026.



60% of journeys within Kirklees to be Sustainable Journeys by 2030.



100% of fleet vehicles to be zero carbon by 2038



All of Kirklees homes to be within 1km of public transport connection point via safe pedestrian route by 2038.

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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.



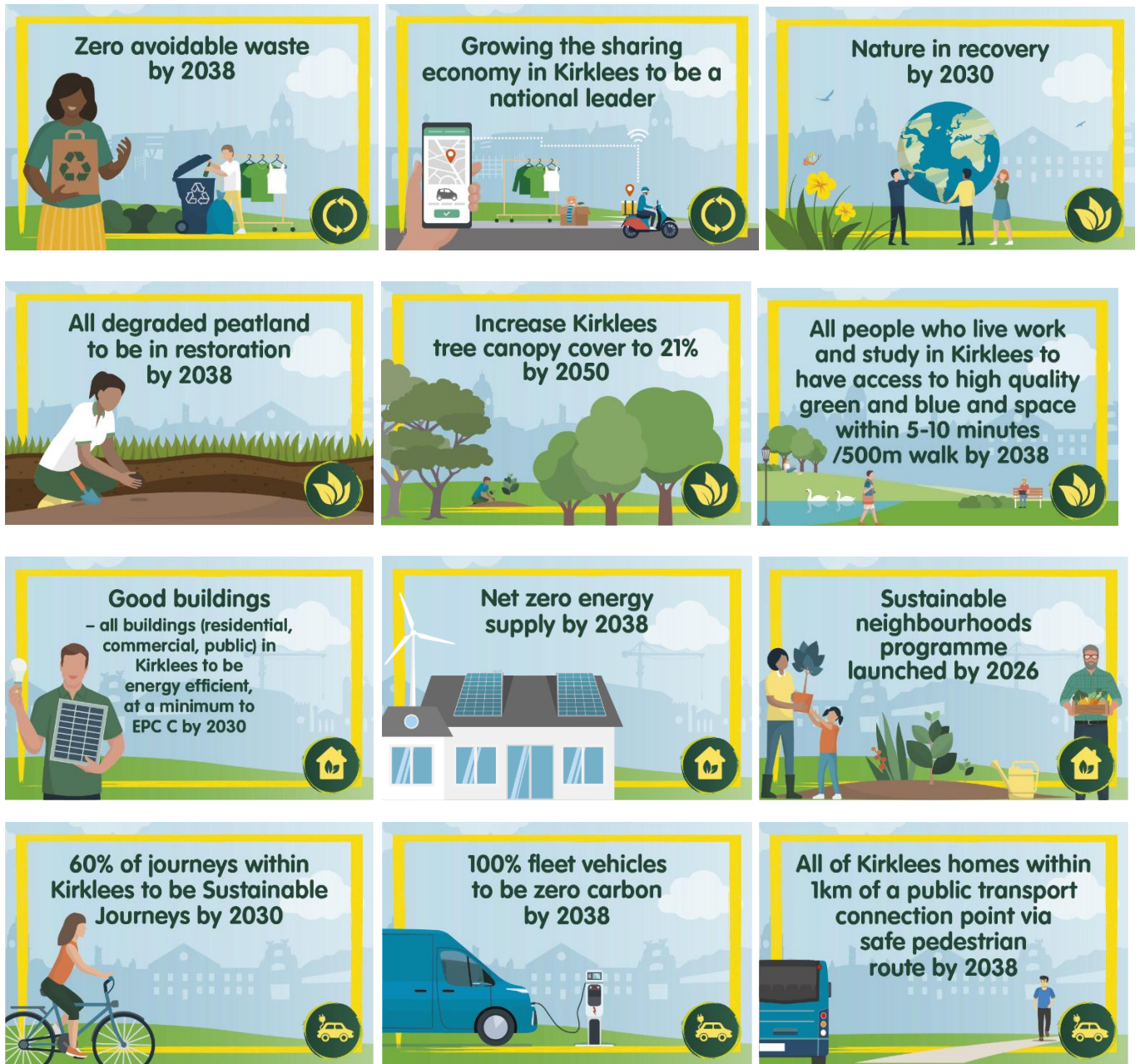
Resilient Futures (RF) how the Kirklees environment strategy delivers greater ecological, social, and economic resilience for the future, including strong action on climate change adaptation, particularly to protect the most vulnerable people. This theme also ensures that our people are resilient and 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.

A graphic outlining more detail on these targets, how they link to the always-on priorities, who can pledge to them and a definition for each target, can be found in Appendix B.

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 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.



Vision

Our vision for Kirklees is to be a district which 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.

Shared Outcomes

- Well
- Best start
- Independent
- Aspire and achieve
- Sustainable economy
- Shaped by people
- Safe and cohesive
- Clean and green

Partnership Strategies

- Environment Strategy
- Inclusive Economy Strategy
- Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Inclusive Communities Framework

Kirklees Council Plan

- Working smart and delivering efficiently and effectively
- Working with people and partners using a place-based approach
- Our values and behaviours
- Our day-to-day services
- Our 3-year priorities
- 12-month deliverables

CLOSING THE LOOP



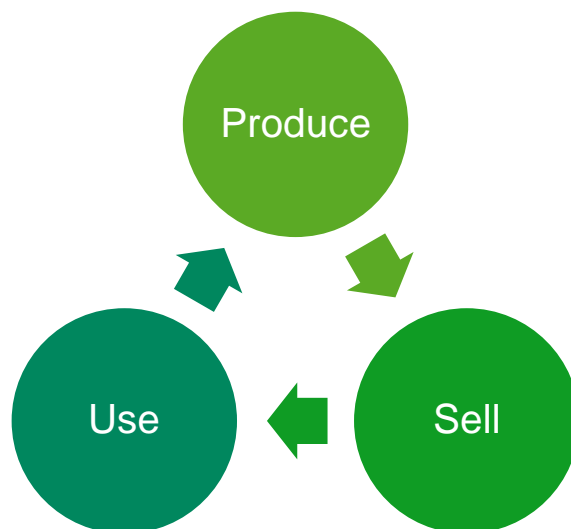
“Creating opportunities for communities to share and reuse items to reduce consumption is key.” (Resident voice)

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

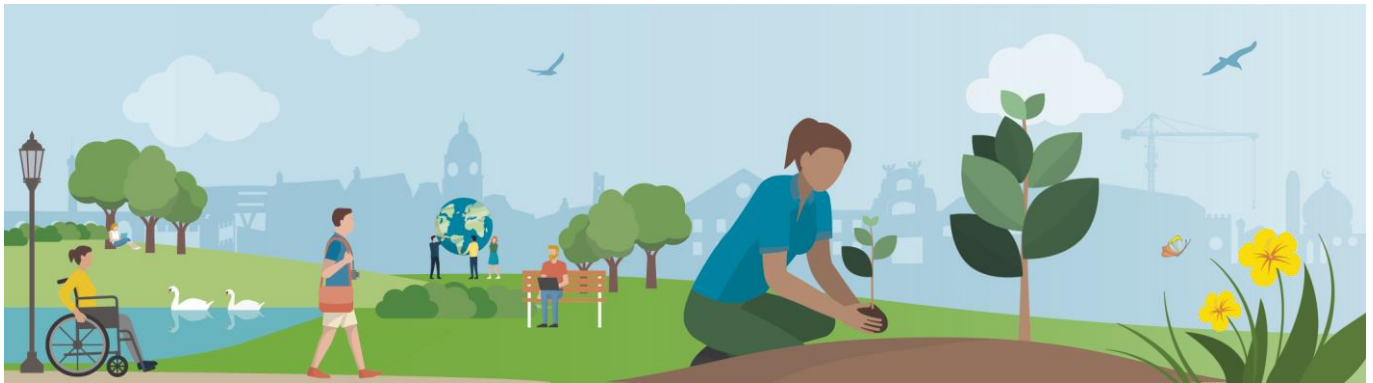
The term avoidable means eliminating waste where it is technically, environmentally, and economically practical to do so, covering all waste streams: residential, commercial, construction and industrial.

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 people who live work and study in Kirklees to have access to high quality green and blue and space within 5-10 minutes / 500m walk by 2038. (E4A)

'Green and Blue Space' Explained

Green spaces include parks, recreation grounds, public or private gardens, playing fields, play areas, woodland, and other natural areas, grassed areas, cemeteries and allotments, green roofs, and green walls, as well public right of ways (PROWS), such as bridleways, footpaths, canal towpaths and disused railway lines.

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

'High Quality' Explained

Quality of green and blue space looks at the physical, social, environmental, and visual qualities of each space and the value it adds to the people who use it, dependent on its intended function.

For more information on how this is currently assessed, please look at section 4.3.5 and 4.3.6 in [Open Space Study 2015 \(revised 2016\)](#) (kirklees.gov.uk).

OBJECTIVES

- Conserving, enhancing, and investing in our natural environment and biodiversity, looking at issues like peatland restoration and invasive species management, 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 biodiversity 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

- Good buildings - all buildings (residential, commercial, public) in Kirklees to be energy efficient, at a minimum of 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.

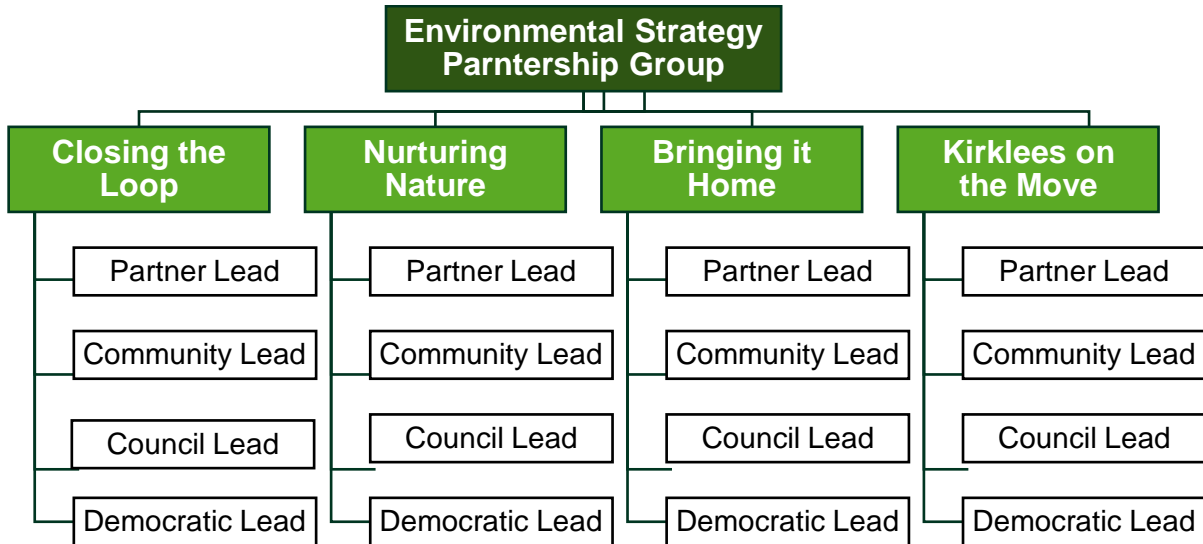
HOW WILL THE STRATEGY BE GOVERNED

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 indicatively structured across four sub-groups which align with the four core themes of the strategy. Each sub-group could contain four 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.
- **Democratic Lead:** A Kirklees Council Ward Councillor who acts as a democratic representative for the associated theme.

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 from both the public and private sector, 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.
- 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.

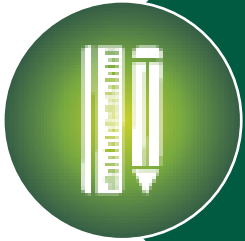
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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.



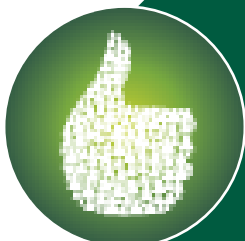
Designed with, not for

- 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).

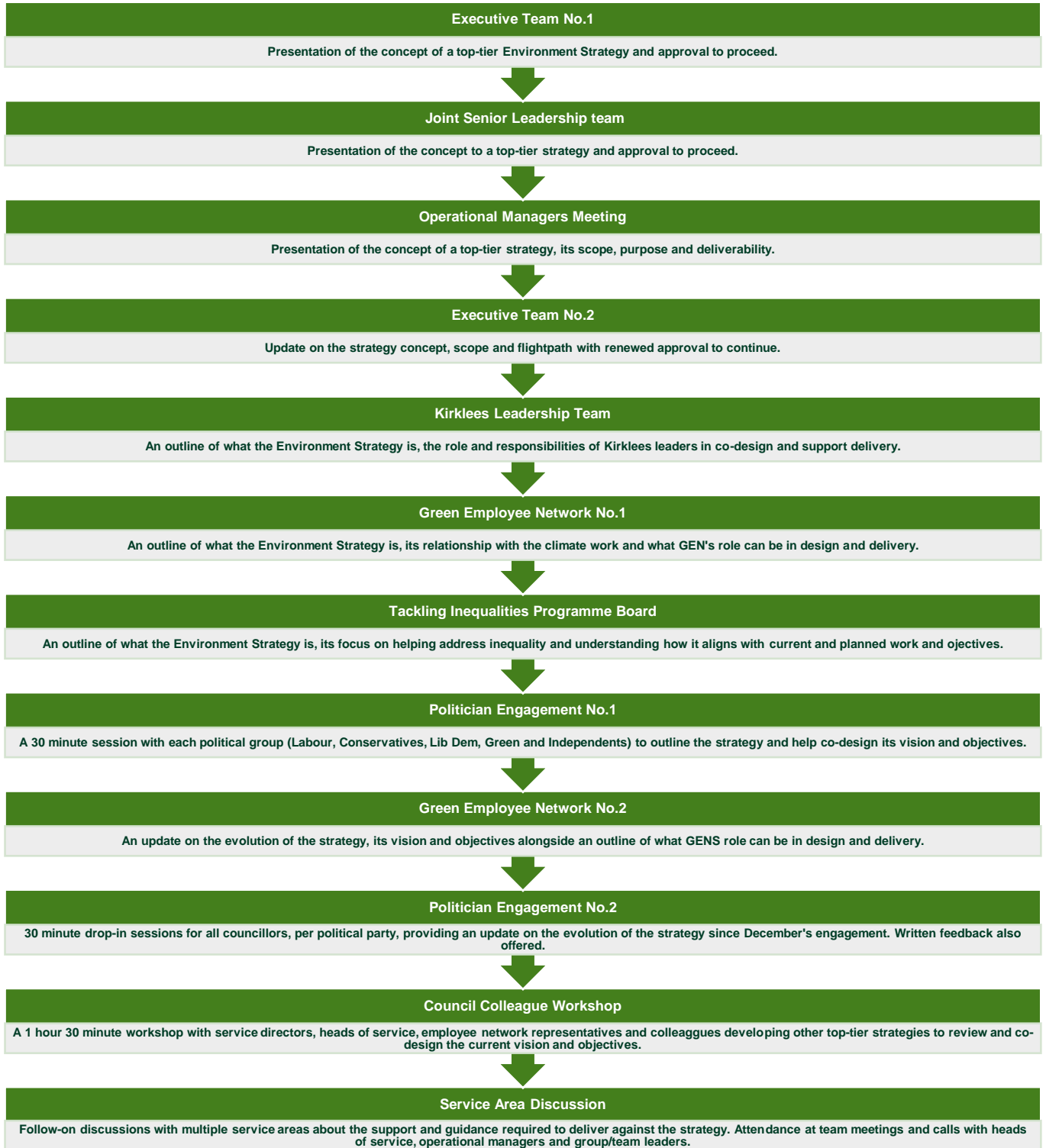


Figure 1: The co-design journey for Kirklees Council Colleagues and Elected Members

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).

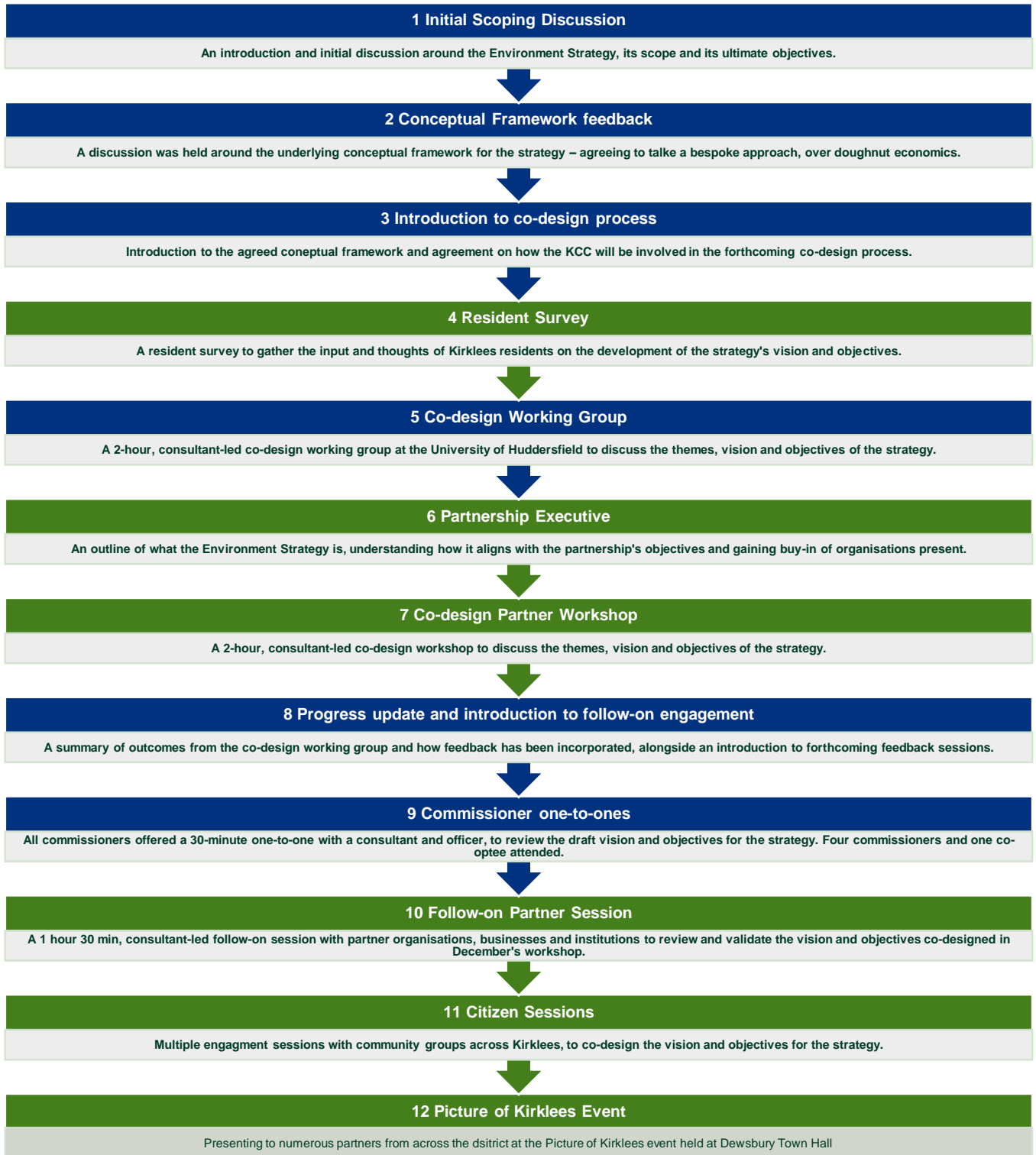






































Figure 2: The Co-design journey of the strategy with internal partners

APPENDIX B: 'OUR TARGETS' PLAN ON A PAGE

Our targets	'Always-on' priority	Who could pledge to this target?	More about this target...
 <p>1 Zero avoidable waste by 2038.</p>			<p>'Avoidable waste' refers to the things that we throw away that could have been prevented or avoided in the first place. It's the things we discard that still have value or could have been used more efficiently. Examples of avoidable waste include the food we throw away because it's gone bad before we could use or sell it, or designing out avoidable waste in our manufacturing and industrial processes – making them more efficient and less resource intensive.</p>
 <p>2 Growing the sharing economy in Kirklees to be a national leader.</p>			<p>The 'sharing economy' is about sharing resources, like cars, bikes, skills and equipment. It's focused on making more efficient use of these resources, whilst saving money and reducing waste. Examples include passing un-wanted clothing on to others rather than throwing it away, using tool libraries to borrow a drill rather than buy a new one, the use of car clubs, or community spaces that have multiple uses i.e. village halls used for exercise classes and makers markets.</p>
 <p>3 Nature in Recovery by 2030.</p>			<p>Nature recovery is the journey our district undertakes to enhance the health of our landscapes, wildlife and habitats by restoring them naturally. These areas have suffered damage or harm from things like pollution, deforestation and climate change. Activities include protecting wildlife and planting forests. Nature recovery is important because it helps protect the environment and keep ecosystems working properly – ensuring that we have clean air, water and places to enjoy nature.</p>
 <p>4 All degraded peatland to be in restoration by 2038.</p>			<p>Peatland is one of Kirklees most precious natural habitats and is located in areas such as Marsden Moor and Holme Moss. Unfortunately, a lot of our peatland has been damaged or deteriorated over time due to human activity or changes to our weather and climate. Restoration is about returning the peatland back to it's original state or condition, so the services it provides our communities can be enhanced – such as helping protect us from flooding, improving local water quality, storing carbon and supporting local biodiversity.</p>
 <p>5 Increase Kirklees tree canopy cover to 21% by 2050.</p>			<p>Tree canopy cover looks at the amount of ground area in the district covered by branches, leaves and stems from trees as viewed from above. This target is designed to ultimately increase the amount of trees within Kirklees. Tree canopy cover is important as it provides shade and helps regulate local temperatures in hot weather (especially in our towns and villages), provides a home for birds and other animals, whilst also helping to clean the air we breathe and absorb carbon dioxide.</p>
 <p>6 All people who live work and study in Kirklees to have access to high quality green and blue and space within 5-10 minutes / 500m walk by 2038.</p>			<p>'Access to green and blue space' simply means having easy ways for everyone in Kirklees to get to natural areas like parks, forest, gardens and bodies of water such as lakes, rivers and reservoirs. When we talk about access, we're talking about making sure everyone has the opportunity to enjoy and spend time in these natural areas due to their benefits for our physical and mental health and wellbeing.</p>
 <p>7 Good buildings – all buildings in Kirklees to be energy efficient, at a minimum of EPC C by 2030.</p>			<p>Buildings are where we live, work, socialise and relax. This target is about improving the quality of those buildings to ultimately reduce how much energy they take and money they cost to run. EPC stands for Energy Performance Certificate. These are the nationally recognised way by which we grade the energy efficiency of our homes – they show how much energy the building uses and give it a rating from A to G, A being the best, G the worst.</p>
 <p>8 Net Zero Energy supply by 2038.</p>			<p>This target focuses on how we can reduce the greenhouse gas emissions we produce when generating the heat and electricity we use. When we talk about 'net zero' we're aiming to produce as much clean, renewable energy (like solar or wind power) as we consume. We can do this by using energy more efficiently, investing in renewable sources and finding ways to offset any remaining emissions. We ultimately want to find a balance where the energy we use doesn't harm the planet and we're not using more energy than we can sustainably produce.</p>
 <p>9 Sustainable neighbourhoods programme launched by 2026.</p>			<p>Sustainable neighbourhoods is all about making our neighbourhoods healthier, happier, safer and more sustainable for everyone who lives there, now and in the future. The focus is on making it easier to walk, wheel or cycle around, improving public transport connections and creating places where people can gather and connect with each other. It's about making sure that the way we live, work and play in our neighbourhoods helps everyone who lives there to have a good quality of life, whilst not impacting our natural environment.</p>
 <p>10 60% of journeys within Kirklees to be Sustainable Journeys by 2030.</p>			<p>Sustainable journeys are about finding ways to travel that are good for the planet and our health, without compromising on cost or convenience. This involves making choices that reduce our impact on the planet, whilst still getting where we need to go. Examples might be to choose electric cars over petrol / diesel if you can afford too, choosing to cycle or walk / wheel for shorter journeys if you're able, or using public transport like trains and buses where feasible.</p>
 <p>11 100% of fleet vehicles to be zero carbon by 2038.</p>			<p>Applicable to businesses and organisations with a vehicle fleet, this target is about having a fleet of vehicles which don't produce carbon emissions when they are being used. This can be achieved by replacing diesel / petrol cars with electric or other alternative fuels that don't produce harmful emissions. This will help improve the air quality of the areas where these fleets operate, whilst reducing the carbon footprint of the organisation or business.</p>
 <p>12 All of Kirklees homes to be within 1km of public transport connection point via safe pedestrian route by 2038.</p>			<p>Simply put, this target is about having easy ways to access public transport connection points like bus stops or train stations. We want to make it more convenient for residents to use public transport to get around. A 'safe pedestrian route' is a path or a way for people to walk or wheel to and from these connection points – making it easy and safe for them to do so.</p>

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 2022/23 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 2022/23)

Designated or Protected Category	2020/21 Area of Land (Ha)	2021/22 Area of Land (ha)	2022/23 Area of Land (Ha)
Site of Special Scientific Interest	4,845	4,845	4,845
Local Wildlife Sites	1,187	1,187	1,187
Local Geological Sites	83	83	83
Ancient Woodlands	1,083	1,083	1,083
Habitats of Principal Importance	Not Available	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 an indicate, high-level analysis undertaken by the Kirklees GIS team, 99.7% of residential properties within Kirklees lie within 500m of green space, blue space, or public rights of way (PROW) 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.

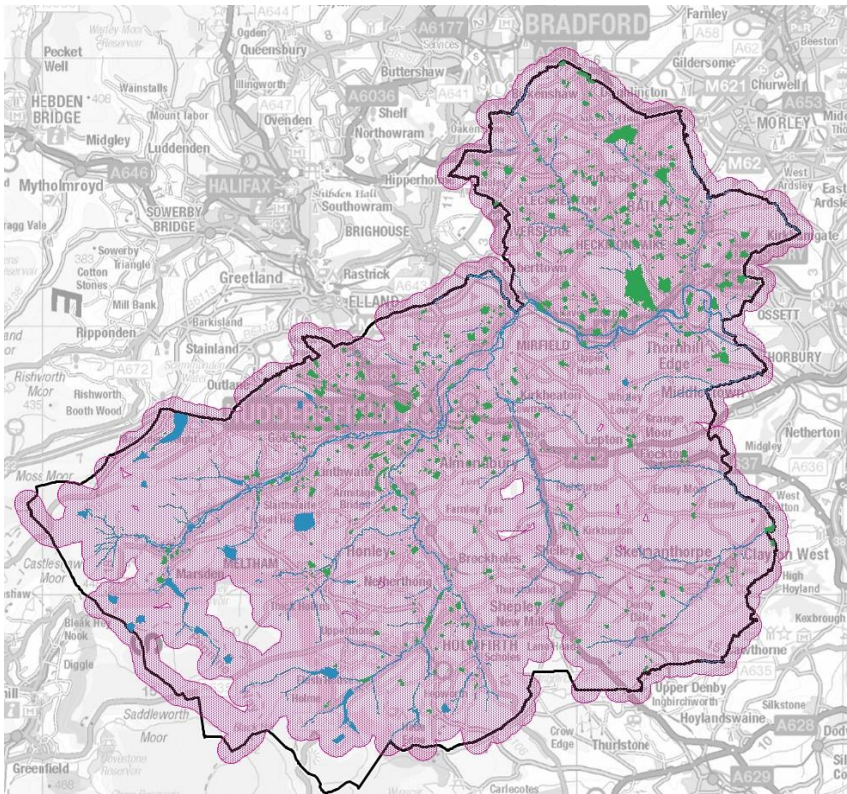


Figure 3: Map of Kirklees showing the 500m buffer zone (purple) around accessible green and blue space (Kirklees GIS Team - November 2023). This is based on the “OS Public Greenspaces” dataset and the “Water Features Attribute Management” dataset – which may differ from those used in Local Planning policy by Kirklees Council.

BRINGING IT HOME

As of 2021, the Government's [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

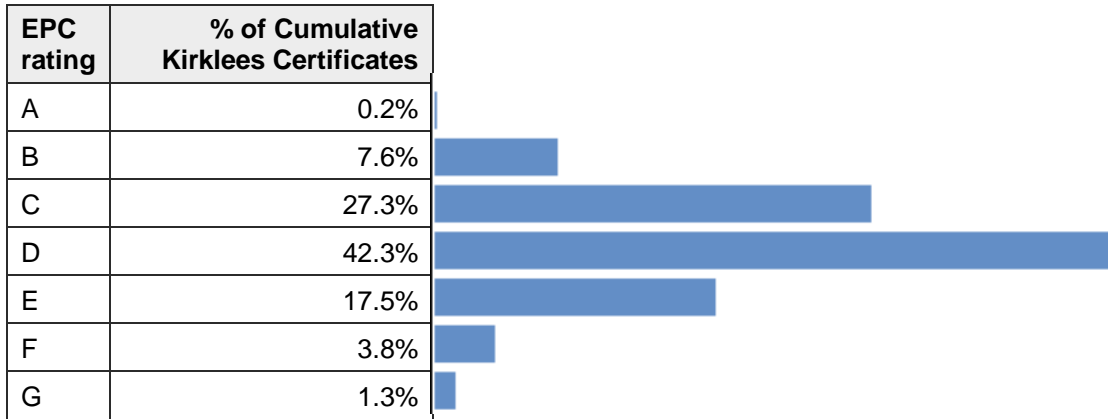
Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) tell you how energy efficient a building is and give it a rating from ‘A’ (very efficient) to ‘G’ (inefficient). They’ll tell you how costly it will be to heat and light your property, and what its carbon dioxide emissions are likely to be, alongside providing possible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

These ideas should be treated as quotes taken directly from the workshop, so contain elements of technical language used by participants.

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	<i>Look at micro-scale hydro generation potential for waterways in Kirklees.</i>	Bringing it Home	SED, RF	8
2	<i>Build genuinely affordable net zero new houses with low carbon heating and power generation technologies i.e. heat pumps, solar PV, and hot water.</i>	Bringing it Home	SED, RF, E4A	7, 8
3	<i>Refurbish the Council housing stock so that they are energy efficient and use low-carbon sources of heat such as air source heat pumps.</i>	Bringing it Home	RF, E4A	7
4	<i>Develop a Sustainable Food Plan that has a radical new level of ambition of local food production, waste and resilience.</i>	Closing the Loop	SED, RF, E4A	1, 2, 3
5	<i>Encourage industrial symbiosis.</i>	Closing the Loop	SED, RF	1
6	<i>Establish an innovative mattress recycling or re-purpose programme.</i>	Closing the Loop	SED	1
7	<i>Have a comprehensive Climate Adaptation Plan for the Region.</i>	Cross-Cutting	RF, E4A	
8	<i>Further develop educational programmes for behaviour change and culture shift to more sustainable society.</i>	Cross-Cutting	E4A, RF	All

9	<i>Calculate and communicate how much it would cost residents, and the district in the future, if we do not act on climate change.</i>	Cross-Cutting	RF, SED, E4A	
10	<i>Encourage car share schemes.</i>	Kirklees on the Move	E4A	10, 11
11	<i>Install more on-street charging infrastructure.</i>	Kirklees on the Move	E4A	10, 11
12	<i>Pilot car free streets for 1 day a year in urban centres.</i>	Kirklees on the Move	E4A	9
13	<i>Incentivise more e-delivery cycling schemes via Cargo Bikes, such as 'Holme Delivery'.</i>	Kirklees on the Move	SED	10
14	<i>Create an interchange hub at Waterloo to connect smaller rural services with the larger urban bus services.</i>	Kirklees on the Move	SED, RF, E4A	9
15	<i>Create safer and connected active travel routes, such as greenways, or cycle lanes.</i>	Kirklees on the Move	E4A, RF	10, 12
16	<i>Work with West Yorkshire Combined Authority to radically improve bus transport through a new headline transport vision for the region.</i>	Kirklees on the Move	E4A, SED, RF	10
17	<i>Implement a quiet streets programme for all key neighbourhoods across Kirklees.</i>	Kirklees on the Move	E4A, RF	9, 10
18	<i>Develop mobility hubs in Kirklees to achieve greater connectivity between transport modes within Kirklees and regionally.</i>	Kirklees on the Move	SED, RF, E4A	10
19	<i>Revise Local Planning Policy to better support our environmental and climate ambitions.</i>	Nurturing Nature	SED, RF, E4A	All

20	<i>Leverage parks and public greenspaces to greater effect - making them exemplary locations that have multifaceted benefits for nature and people.</i>	Nurturing Nature	RF, E4A	3, 5, 6
21	<i>Develop a maintenance plan for our parks and greenspace such as Allerton Waste Recovery Park in North Yorkshire.</i>	Nurturing Nature	RF, E4A	3, 5
22	<i>Adopt a biodiversity first approach in the Local Development Plan and any supplementary planning document.</i>	Nurturing Nature	SED, RF, E4A	3
23	<i>Fully map Kirklees' Natural Capital, with the view of informing nature recovery plans for the district.</i>	Nurturing Nature	SED, RF	3
24	<i>Develop a rewilding plan for Kirklees.</i>	Nurturing Nature	RF, E4A	3, 4, 5
25	<i>Focus on nature-based solutions in all new infrastructure.</i>	Nurturing Nature	RF	3
26	<i>Protect and restore our peatlands.</i>	Nurturing Nature	RF	4
27	<i>Encourage regenerative agriculture techniques.</i>	Nurturing Nature	SED, RF	3

APPENDIX F: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Table 9 contains several technical terms that are used throughout this document, accompanied by a definition.

Table 9: A glossary of technical terms used throughout the Environment Strategy.

Term	Definition
Accessible	Something that is easy to reach, understand or use, especially for people with disabilities or limitations. It implies that something is available or can be approached without difficulty, barriers, or obstacles.
Adaptation / Adaptability	The process of an adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities.
Affordable	Describes something that is reasonably priced or within financial reach for most people.
Air Pollution	The contamination of the indoor or outdoor environment by any chemical, physical or biological agent that changes the natural characteristics of the atmosphere. Pollutants include particulate matter, carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide.
Avoidable	Something that could have been prevented or circumvented if appropriate measures or certain actions had been taken.
Biodiversity Net Gain	Biodiversity Net Gain is an approach to development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before. Where a development has an impact on biodiversity it encourages developers to provide an increase in appropriate natural habitat and ecological features over and above that being affected in such a way it is hoped that the current loss of biodiversity through development will be halted and ecological networks can be restored
Biodiversity offsets	Measurable conservation outcomes deigned to compensate for adverse or unavoidable impacts on biodiversity by projects. These should be done in addition too, not replacement of prevention and mitigation measures.
Climate Change	Refers to a change in the state of the climate that can be identified by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties, and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer.
Energy Efficient	The practice of using less energy to provide the same amount of useful output from a service (such as heating water, lighting, or cooling a fridge).
Green and Blue Infrastructure	A strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services such as water purification, air quality, space for leisure and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

<p>Green and Blue Space</p>	<p>Green spaces include parks, recreation grounds, public or private gardens, playing fields, play areas, woodland, and other natural areas, grassed areas, cemeteries and allotments, green roofs, and green walls, as well public right of ways (PROWS), such as bridleways, footpaths, canal towpaths and disused railway lines.</p> <p>Blue space includes canals, rivers, streams, ponds, lakes, and reservoirs.</p>
<p>Industrial Symbiosis</p>	<p>The collaborative relationship between different businesses or companies within industry. This can be through the exchange of resource – i.e. the waste or by-product of one business, is the raw material used by another. This reduces waste and makes better use of resources.</p>
<p>Natural Capital</p>	<p>Refers to the Earth’s natural resources and ecosystems that provide valuable services to humans and other species. These resources include things like clean air, fresh water, fertile soil, biodiversity, forests, and oceans.</p> <p>Just like financial capital, which we use to invest and create wealth, natural capital is essential for our well-being and survival.</p>
<p>Nature Based Solutions (NbS)</p>	<p>Approaches to addressing environmental and societal challenges by working with nature or mimicking natural processes. Instead of relying solely on traditional engineering or technological solution, NbS harness the power of ecosystems and biodiversity to provide sustainable and cost-effective solutions.</p>
<p>Nature Recovery</p>	<p>The process of returning nature to a previous state or condition after experiencing a setback, regaining health.</p>
<p>Net Zero Emissions</p>	<p>Net-zero emissions are achieved when emissions of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere are balanced by anthropogenic removals.</p>
<p>Peatland</p>	<p>A type of wetland characterised by the accumulation of peat, which is partially decayed organic matter. It forms in waterlogged conditions where the rate of plant growth exceeds the rate of decompositions, leading to a gradual build-up of organic material over thousands of years.</p>
<p>Regenerative Agriculture</p>	<p>A farming technique that focuses on soil health and ecosystem wellbeing. When soils are healthy, it produces more food and nutrition, stores ore carbon and increases biodiversity. An example is crop rotation to prevent soil depletion or contour ploughing.</p>
<p>Resilience</p>	<p>The capacity of social, economic, and environmental systems to cope with a hazardous event, trend or disturbance, responding of reorganising in ways that maintain their essential function, identity and structure.</p>
<p>Rewilding</p>	<p>The large-scale restoration of nature – allowing ecosystems to take care of themselves and thrive without human intervention – restoring habitats, natural processes</p>

Sustainability	The use of resources so that they last a long time and don't harm the environment or future generations.
Sustainable Neighbourhoods	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.
Tree Canopy	The amount of ground area covered by branches, leaves and stems from trees as viewed from above.
Vulnerability	The propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected. Vulnerability encompasses a variety of concepts and elements including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and lack of capacity to cope and adapt.

APPENDIX G: 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.