

## **HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **The Executive**

**9 December 2021**

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Climate Change Action Plan</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR:</b>	<b>Councillor Todd - Executive Councillor for Climate Change, Environment and Community Safety</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>David Smith - Head of Communities and Climate Change</b>
<b>WARDS INVOLVED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>

**Appendices Attached** – Appendix A: SCATTER Emissions Baseline; Appendix B: Climate Attitude Survey Results; Appendix C: Climate Change Strategy 2021 – 2030;

#### **1. Reason for the Report**

- 1.1 This report continues to develop the Council's approach to tackling the climate change emergency.
- 1.2 This report and the attached strategy form part two of the approach looking at those wider aspects of the climate change, that are on the whole beyond the direct control of the Council.

#### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Executive approve the Climate Change Strategy 2021 – 2030, subject to the amendments recommended by the Climate Change Working Group on 17 November 2021.

#### **3. Executive Summary**

- 3.1 High Peak Borough Council recognises the global climate emergency and is committed to keeping global heating below the 1.5°Celsius goal of the Paris Agreement.
- 3.2 The Borough Council cannot solve the problem on its own, but can take a lead role in the district and use its powers and influence to support wider local action to reduce emissions and prepare for a changing climate.

- 3.3 The national Climate Change Committee estimate that local authorities<sup>1</sup> have powers or influence over roughly a third of emissions in their local areas and are believed to be responsible for between 2 and 5% of local emissions. The Committee recognised that more than half of the cut in emissions required to meet national reduction targets rely on people and businesses taking up low-carbon solutions.
- 3.4 When developing its plan for reducing district-wide emissions, the Council drew upon three main sources of information: Information gathered by the Working Group, Data Analysis and a Climate Change Attitude Survey.
- 3.4 The plan, which can be found at Appendix C, is intended to provide a clear vision and strategy for achieving net zero emissions from the district by 2030.
- 3.5 The plan was considered and supported by the Climate Change Working Group on 18 November 2021 subject to the following:
- changing the mission statement from “to do what they can” to “to do all they can”.
  - adding an action seeking to influence the improvement of public transport.
  - including reference to air source heat pumps.
  - recognising that Fairfield Road has been identified as an area of poor air quality.
  - expanding the section with regards to waste to focus more on reduction of waste produce.
  - changing the definition of Community Orchards and including a new definition of Community Gardens within the Glossary.

#### **4. How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 This is a key action towards delivering Aim 4 of the Corporate Plan. It also supports the Council’s actions in delivering on Climate Change.

#### **5. Alternative Options**

- 5.1 None identified.

#### **6. Implications**

##### **6.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)**

No direct implications

##### **6.2 Workforce**

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<sup>1</sup> This refers to Derbyshire County Council and the Peak District National Park Authority as well as the Borough Council.

The Council is recruiting a Climate Change and Biodiversity Officer to play a lead role in delivering the Climate Change Strategy. However, all Services will be involved in delivering Pt 1 and 2 of our climate change plans.

### 6.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

The plan includes a commitment to give priority in responding to climate change to the needs of vulnerable groups who are most at risk to the adverse effects of climate change, including food and fuel poverty, and lack of access to green space.

### 6.4 Financial Considerations

The Council carries an earmarked reserve set aside for initiatives responding to the Climate Emergency. This reserve is available to provide the funding for unbudgeted in-year spend developing projects designed to further the Council's ambitions around climate change. Once specific projects have been developed (and their business case signed off); the necessary budget requirements can be incorporated into the Medium Term Financial Plan.

### 6.5 Legal

None – the Council does not have a specific statutory duty to tackle climate change

### 6.6 Climate Change

The strategy is central to the Council's response to tackling climate change in the district.

### 6.7 Consultation

The Council's Climate Change Working Group has examined the issue of climate change, with the support of the High Peak Green Network. In addition, the Council has commissioned a Climate Change Attitude survey that was carried out in September 2021.

The Council has commissioned Anthesis to carry out a series of workshops over the coming month's to continue the consultation and is developing a Communications and Engagement Strategy.

### 6.8 Risk Assessment

The Council has set a various challenging target of achieving Net Zero by 2030. Local authorities (which includes the Borough Council, County Council and Peak District National park authority) have powers or influence over roughly a third of emissions in their local areas and are believed to be responsible for between 2 and

5% of local emissions. The Council recognises that it will require all stakeholders to work together to achieve the 2030 target.

Neil Rodgers  
**Executive Director (Place)**

**Web Links and  
Background Papers**

Part 1 Action Plan available at  
[www.highpeak.gov.uk/ClimateChange](http://www.highpeak.gov.uk/ClimateChange)”

<https://www.uk100.org/>

<https://racetozero.unfccc.int/join-the-race/>

<https://racetozero.unfccc.int/system/cities/>

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## 7. Detail

### *Introduction*

- 7.1 High Peak Borough Council recognises the global climate emergency and is committed to keeping global heating below the 1.5°Celsius goal of the Paris Agreement.
- 7.2 The Borough Council cannot solve the problem on its own, but can take a lead role in the district and use its powers and influence to support wider local action to reduce emissions and prepare for a changing climate.
- 7.3 The Council subsequently approved a new corporate plan (2019-23) on 10 October 2019 that included an aim to: “*Protect and improve the environment including responding to the climate emergency*”. The Council’s corporate plan has previously included aims around improving the environment, but this is the first time that climate change has been specifically named as a key aim demonstrating the Council’s commitment to putting climate change at the heart of its activities.
- 7.4 High Peak Borough Council subsequently declared a climate emergency on 15th October 2019. The declaration commits the Council to become carbon neutral in its internal operations and the services it delivers, by 2030, and to work with partners to help achieve this target for the High Peak as a whole. The Council recognises that it will be difficult to achieve such an ambitious target but believes that the target needs to be challenging to encourage the action that is needed to tackle the climate change emergency.
- 7.5 The Council divided its action planning process into two phases. The first phase focussed on reducing the emissions generated by the Council whilst delivering its functions. The Council approved an action plan describing for reducing these emissions on 1 July 2021.
- 7.6 This report presents the second part of its Climate Change Plan, which looks beyond those emissions directly related to Borough Council activities and provides a plan for reducing emissions across the district.

### *Reducing District Emissions*

- 7.7 The national Climate Change Committee estimate that local authorities<sup>2</sup> have powers or influence over roughly a third of emissions in their local areas and are believed to be responsible for between 2 and 5% of local emissions. The Committee recognised that more than half of the cut in emissions required to meet national reduction targets rely on people and businesses taking up low-carbon solutions. The Committee also helpfully set out the different methods that local authorities can use to control and influence emissions and tackle climate change:

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<sup>2</sup> This refers to Derbyshire County Council and the Peak District National Park Authority as well as the Borough Council.

- **Direct Control:** the Council's own buildings, operations, travel
- **Procurement and commissioning & commercialisation**
- **Place shaping:** using powers to control development and transport (transport is a County Council function along with things like highways and education)
- **Showcasing:** innovating, piloting, demonstrating and sharing good practice, scaling and replicating
- **Partnerships:** leading, bringing people and organisations together, co-ordinating and supporting others, joining others' partnerships
- **Involving, Engaging and Communicating:** translating global & national climate change targets for local relevance; with stakeholders to raise awareness, involving people and ideas for local solutions.

7.8 When developing its plan for reducing district-wide emissions, the Council drew upon three main sources of information: Information gathered by Working Group, Data Analysis and a Climate Change Attitude Survey.

7.12 **Data analysis.** Anthesis UK Ltd were asked to prepare a Scatter emissions baseline for the district. A copy of this report is available at Appendix A.

7.13 The report reveals that in 2018, Derbyshire in-boundary emissions totalled 1,181 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e. The majority resulted from buildings (76%) and transport (19%).

7.14 The report also identifies that an annual reduction rate of 15.8% is needed to keep Derbyshire aligned with Paris Agreement targets. However, according to BEIS statistics, the average annual emissions reduction rate in Derbyshire between 2005 and 2019 was just over 1%. This means that if the district continues along a business-as-usual scenario, the carbon budget (2020 – 2100) will be exceeded by 2026.

7.15 **Climate Change Attitude Survey.** The Council commissioned Future Focus Research to carry out 500 telephone interviews with the general public between 6 and 26 September 2021. A copy of the results can be found at Appendix B. In summary the survey revealed that:

- 80% of residents are either very or a little concerned about the impact of climate change of the borough, while 19% are not concerned at all.
- Of most concern are:
  - environment destruction (96% very or a little concerned)
  - loss of animals, plants, habitats and biodiversity (96%)
  - disease (95%)
  - species extinction (94%).
- 63% of residents understand either very well or quite well what is meant by Net Zero.
- 34% feel that it is achievable to become Net Zero by 2030. However, 14% said it isn't achievable and 52% do not know if it's achievable.
- 84% said that climate change is either somewhat, very or extremely important to them.

- 72% said it is likely (either very likely or likely) that they will take action on climate change. 16% said that they are unlikely to take action.
- When asked what would help them to make changes to tackle climate change the most popular response is *financial help and incentives* (39%), followed by *more information* (25%) and *advice* (24%).
- The most important areas to prioritise are considered to be *reduce waste and improving the use of resources* (85% very or quite important), followed by *the way we use energy* (83%)
- The most important actions to tackling climate change are considered to be *encouraging the reuse, repurposing and recycling of waste materials* (86% very or quite important), followed *minimising single use plastic in packaging or products* (85%), *making sure that new houses are energy efficient* (85%) and *increasing the use of renewable energy* (85%). Of least important is encouraging home composting (59% important)

### *The Plan*

- 7.16 The plan, which can be found at Appendix C, is intended to provide a clear vision and strategy for achieving net zero emissions from the district by 2030.

*Our Vision:* High Peak Borough Council will be carbon neutral in its internal operations and the services it delivers by 2030. Working with partners, High Peak Borough will be carbon neutral by 2030.

*Our Mission:* Encouraging people, businesses and other organisations to do what they can to reduce their carbon footprint and making it easier, where we can, for those changes to happen.

*Our Strategy:* We will use our tools, levers and powers and apply the Carbon Management Hierarchy as we focus on our 7 Ways to Net Zero; applying our values and seeking opportunities to deliver co-benefits.

- 7.17 The Carbon hierarchy recognises that some actions are better than others in terms of producing more lasting reductions in emissions. Our plan considers ways of avoiding emissions before thinking about ways of removing emissions or offsetting them.

- 7.18 The 7 Ways to Net Zero is the local framework that we have developed to provide a structured response to reducing carbon emissions. It encourages us to consider actions under 7 main headings:

- The Way We Live
- The Way We Travel
- The Way We Work
- The Way We Make Energy
- The Way We Look After Our Environment
- The Way We Manage Waste, and
- The Way We Can Help Change to Occur.

7.19 The plan also sets out the values that we will adopt when delivering our plan. This includes following the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

#### *Other Updates*

7.20 The Council has joined the UK100, which is a network for UK local authorities that focuses solely on climate and clean energy policy. As members, we have committed to the following pledges:

- We will continue to lead the UK's response to climate change, acting sooner than the government's goal by making substantial progress within the next decade to deliver Net Zero. We will use our experience and achievements to advocate to the UK government in order to accelerate the delivery of ambitious local climate action. With greater powers and funding, we would go further.
- We commit to do everything within our power and influence to rapidly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and work with our residents and businesses to bring our wider communities' emissions in line with Net Zero as soon as possible.
- We pledge to understand our impact on climate change, prioritise where action needs to be taken and monitor progress towards our goals. We will reduce our emissions at source and limit the use of carbon offsets as part of the global effort to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.
- We are closer to the people who live and work in our communities, so we have a better understanding of their needs. This means we can collaborate with them to build consensus for the solutions we need to transition to a Net Zero society that delivers multiple benefits and is fair, just and works for everyone.

7.21 High Peak Borough Council has also signed up to the UN's Cities Race to Zero Programme. In doing so, it publicly endorse the following Principles:

- We recognise the global climate emergency.
- We are committed to keeping global heating below the 1.5°Celsius goal of the Paris Agreement.
- We are committed to putting inclusive climate action at the center of all urban decision-making, to create thriving and equitable communities for everyone.
- We invite our partners – political leaders, CEOs, trade unions, investors, and civil society – to join us in recognising the global climate emergency and help us deliver on science-based action to overcome it.

7.22 The Borough Council also pledges as a signatory to the Race to Zero:

- To reach (net)-zero in the 2040s or sooner, or by mid-century at the latest, in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5°Celsius.

- explain what steps will be taken toward achieving net zero, especially in the short- to medium-term. Set an interim target to achieve in the next decade, which reflects a fair share of the 50% global reduction in CO2 by 2030 identified in the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°Celsius.
- Plan at least one inclusive and equitable climate action that will help to place High Peak on a resilient pathway consistent with the 1.5°Celsius objective of the Paris Agreement and begin implementation no later than 2022.
- Report progress annually, beginning no later than 2022.

## Next Steps

- 7.23 It is inevitable that our actions and approach will change over the time as we grow to understand more about addressing climate change and in response to legislative changes and funding opportunities. The plan is designed to provide a framework for responding to such opportunities and emerging threats:
- 7.24 We have identified several actions that need to take place over the next 12 months:
- Further develop our approach to target setting including milestones for action.
  - Recruit a Climate Change Officer
  - Enhance our monitoring procedures to make sure that the actions that we are taking are having an impact
  - Embed Climate Change activity within the Council's annual budget process and Medium-Term Financial Plan.
  - Include mandatory Carbon Literacy/Awareness training for all new Council employees and become a Carbon Literate organisation.
  - Analyse the Council's procurement emissions (due December 2021)<sup>1</sup>
  - Prepare a land and rural emissions profile (due December 2021)
  - Conduct a district-wide pathway analysis (due December 2021)<sup>1</sup>
  - Prepare and deliver a Communications and Engagement Plan.
- 7.25 We began delivering our communications plan in the run-up to COP26 and we will continue with this delivery during COP26 and afterwards. This will include publishing a plain English summary of the approved Part 2 plan in January 2022 along with a request for people who live, work or learn in the district to commit to one or more pledges to reduce their carbon footprint.
- 7.26 Our engagement activity will also begin during COP 26 with a series of events. Activities include an affordable warmth webinar, planting activities, educational sessions and litter picks.
- 7.27 This activity will be followed swiftly by a series of on-line workshops, delivered by Anthesis, to present the findings of their research and develop ideas for further action that can be incorporated into the next refresh of our action plan. Arrangements for these workshops are currently being finalised with Anthesis

but the draft programme is provided below. Members are requested to advise on their availability for the date suggested below:

<b>Session</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Provisional Dates</b>	<b>Session length</b>
1	Council officers	All sectors	30 <sup>th</sup> November 2021 (via Teams)	3 hours
2	Councillors	All sectors	6pm 7 December 2021 (via Teams)	2 hours
3	Residents, Community and Youth Groups	Buildings Transport Waste Energy Supply	6pm 19 January 2021 (Via Zoom)	2 hours
4	Businesses & private services	All sectors	1pm 25 January 2021 (Via Zoom)	2 hours