

Building Action for Climate and Biodiversity across High Peak

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High Peak Borough Council announced a climate emergency in October 2019 and set up climate change and biodiversity working groups. The Council has produced action plans for its own operations and for action across High Peak. However, progress has been piecemeal and reporting patchy. This has partly been due to circumstances beyond the Council's control, such as Covid and lack of resources.

With a new Council membership, it is time for the Council to renew its commitment to action on climate change and biodiversity, along with more transparency and more explicit reporting on climate and biodiversity action in all reports to committees.

Given scarce resources, as well as reducing its own environmental impact, Council action means working more strategically with partners across High Peak, taking a strong lead in working with others to deliver its plans.

To achieve this the Council will:

- Work strategically with local businesses and civil society organisations to deliver climate change and biodiversity plans.
- Organise quarterly meetings of the climate change and biodiversity working group, to include partners; these meetings to lead to agreement on how partners can help deliver specific aspects of Council plans.
- Hold six monthly workshops on specific themes, organised in partnership with other organisations involved in delivery.
- Ensure the revised Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents demand low carbon practices.
- Rigorously assess developers' plans for Biodiversity Net Gain and for nutrient neutrality, and where necessary ensure developers commit to including buffer zones to protect the River Wye from further damage by appropriate planting schemes. To do this regardless of uncertainty about central government requirements,
- Work with current and future local government partners to ensure that policies and actions are in line with High Peak's climate change and biodiversity plans.
- Produce an annual report on action against climate change and nature recovery plans to the most appropriate scrutiny committee and the May Full Council.