

REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	AGENDA ITEM: 8
DATE OF MEETING:	20 APRIL 2022	CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	ALLISON THOMAS, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – SERVICE DELIVERY	OPEN
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SUBJECT:	DERBYSHIRE CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS01

1. Recommendations

- 1.1. That the Committee endorses the Climate Change Strategy 2022-2025 created by Derbyshire County Council (DCC) attached at Appendix A.

2. Purpose of the Report

- 2.1. To provide the Committee with details on the Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy and illustrate how it aligns and supports the South Derbyshire District Council's (SDDC's) Climate and Environment Strategy and Action Plan 2021-30.
- 2.2. To show how the Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy could add value to the SDDC Climate and Environment Strategy and how endorsing it will support the delivery of the Council's Climate Emergency Targets and Commitments set out in 2019.
- 2.3. To show how endorsing the Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy will benefit SDDC in the delivery of its own Climate and Environment Strategy and Action Plan (2021-30).

3. Detail

Background

- 3.1. DCC has created a Climate Change Strategy that sets out what needs to be done to reduce emissions across the County to net zero by 2050 or sooner.
- 3.2. As well as reducing emissions across Derbyshire, delivery of the strategy will help to address the wider key issues facing society, including improving and future-proofing homes, business, infrastructure, and transport, reversing the decline in biodiversity, promoting community health and well-being, and the facilitation of a sustainable and robust low carbon economy, all of which are part of SDDC's Climate and Environment Strategy and Action Planning.
- 3.3. The strategic vision of the Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy for net zero, includes five common priority areas to reduce carbon emissions by:
 - 3.3.1. Decarbonising Local Authority Estate, Operations and Services

- 3.3.2. Strengthening the low carbon economy
- 3.3.3. Decarbonising Derbyshire's Housing
- 3.3.4. Sustainable Transport, Travel, and Infrastructure
- 3.3.5. Waste and Resources
- 3.4. All these five common priority areas align to SDDC's existing Climate and Environment Strategy and Action Plans (2021-30).
- 3.5. The strategy covers the period 2022 to 2025 and details that it is not intended to replace existing climate change strategies and plans in place with individual councils across Derbyshire, but instead will complement these and set out key common areas of collaboration.
- 3.6. It will enable the individual councils across Derbyshire to maximise their collective success in securing funding, support, and resource for the delivery of decarbonisation action and will utilise DCC's links with central government to lobby for additional support for local government on this agenda and to secure investment for decarbonisation across Derbyshire.
- 3.7. With the increasing need to accelerate action on tackling climate change, through reducing County-wide emissions and the need to accelerate action on tackling climate change, the development and adoption of a joint or aligned climate change strategy has been identified as an opportunity to establish common ambitions and priorities, foster collaboration, and resource sharing, and provide consistency in delivery.

4. Pros and Cons for SDDC endorsing the Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy

Reasons for SDDC to endorse:

- 4.1. Endorsing the Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy does not oblige the Council to commit to the actions contained in it, or the wider objectives of "Vision Derbyshire", the umbrella under which the Strategy has been prepared. Neither does it change the Council's own Climate and Environment Strategy in any way. It does, however, allow SDDC to benefit from DCC's Climate Change understanding, experiences, and solutions and that of a wider consortium of councils. It will also enable SDDC to make its own decision on whether to collaborate or not with the delivery of the individual elements within the Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy where it is in the interests of local residents, businesses and the District as a whole to do so.
- 4.2. The Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy commitments are aligned to the SDDC's own Climate Emergency declaration commitments of:
 - Strive to make South Derbyshire District Council carbon neutral by 2030 and achieve Carbon Neutrality across the geographical area of South Derbyshire before the Government target of 2050.
 - Call on the UK Government to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target realistic.
 - Work with partners across the District and region to deliver this goal through all relevant strategies.
- 4.3. By endorsing the Strategy, SDDC will be able to deliver one of the specific actions in the SDDC Climate and Environment Action Plan (ref DSP12) that states 'SDDC works in partnership with DCC to create a collaborative pathway to carbon zero across Derbyshire'.

- 4.4. The sharing of experience and expertise across DCC for the five common priority areas within the DCC Climate Change Strategy will support the effective delivery of actions that reduce SDDC carbon emissions.
- 4.5. The potential opportunity of additional shared resource and funding resulting from endorsing the Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy will support the delivery of the Council's own Climate and Environment Action Plan.
- 4.6. The potential benefits of being part of a Derbyshire-wide forum of Climate Change experts that will support the identification of efficient climate change solutions as well as climate change funding opportunities that the Council will be able to access.

Reasons for SDDC not to endorse

- 4.7. If any of the content of the Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy conflicts with SDDC's climate change aspirations or other corporate plan priorities.
- 4.8. If endorsing the content of the Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy results in any fundamental ideological differences between the County Council and the Council.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Beneficial impact of potential opportunities or funding for decarbonisation or climate adaptation funding or additional resource by being part of the Derbyshire-wide Climate Working Group.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1. Employment Implications

None

6.2. Legal Implications

None.

6.3. Corporate Plan Implications

The proposals align with the 'Our Environment' key priority and with the key aims of "Strive to make South Derbyshire District Council carbon neutral by 2030, across the geography of South Derbyshire by 2050" and "Work with our partners across the District to deliver this goal through all the relevant strategies.

6.4. Risk Impact

The proposal will have a beneficial mitigating action against the corporate risk of "Managing the environmental impact of incidents across the District".

7. Community Impact

7.1. Consultation

None

7.2. Equality and Diversity Impact

None.

7.3. Social Value Impact

Beneficial.

7.4. Environmental Sustainability

Beneficial.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 As the Council's current Climate Change Strategy is aligned to working in partnership with partners across the District and the Council's climate and environment aspirations are similar to those of the Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy, it is recommended that the Council endorses the Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy.

9. Background Papers

[Climate and Environment Strategy 2021-30](#)

[Climate and Environment Action Plan 2021-30](#)

Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy 2022-2025