

# Climate Change Response and Net Zero Action Plan



As part of the Strategy development, an initial Action Plan has been developed to identify the various types of actions that will need to be taken to deliver on our goals. As the document focuses primarily on Council emissions, most of the items relate to actions that we can take to address our own carbon footprint and environmental impact. Some actions, however, include varying levels of influence on external stakeholders; whether we action, enable, influence or lobby others for change. The Climate Emergency Strategy Action Plan outlines the actions for climate change adaptation and mitigation progress. The actions are grouped into 5 key aims (1) reducing local authority CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, (2) resource maximisation and waste reduction, (3) domestic energy and sustainable warmth, (4) the natural environment and (5) climate change resilience and adaptation. Some of the actions detailed here are projects that have already secured funding while others may require feasibility studies to develop projects and business cases over time. The proposed actions in this document are not final – it will be subject to change over time and is not a definitive and exhaustive list; neither should it be considered that all of the proposed actions detailed here will be delivered. The key below explains the scoring method. ‘Deliverability’ considers all factors on the ease of implementation of the action and how it addresses the aim it sits under. ‘Carbon reduction’ estimates the potential carbon savings/reductions in the long term. ‘Cost’ looks at the estimated expected financial cost the action is likely to incur. Work will be carried out to continue to assess the expected impact of actions and each project will, in time, be costed and prioritised. The actions will be reviewed annually to assess our progress.

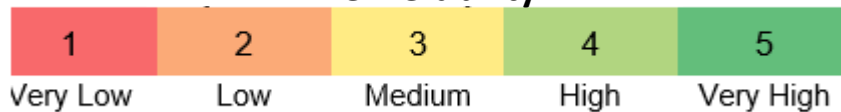
### Key

**£**  
**Low**  
 (£0- £24k)

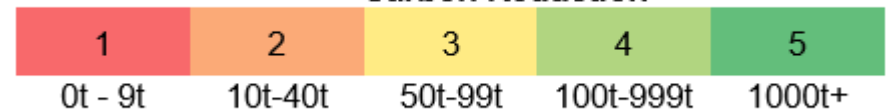
**££**  
**Medium**  
 (£25k-£499k)

**£££**  
**High**  
 (>£500k)

#### **Deliverability**



#### **Carbon Reduction**



# Aim: Reduction of Local Authority CO2 Emissions

## Objective 1 - Reduce energy demand and improve energy efficiency

Ref	Action	Target Date	Deliverability	Carbon Reduction	Cost	Action Owner
1.01	Climate Impact Assessment tool to be required on all future capital project developments	2024	3	4	£	Strategic Development
1.02	Decarbonisation and emissions reductions targets to be embedded in the Strategic Asset Management Strategy to rationalise assets and reduce carbon emissions	2025	5	4	££	Estates and Asset Management
1.03	For Council Assets anticipated to serve 10 years or longer - undertake feasibility studies on assets and develop investment plans for energy efficiency improvements including retrofit works and low-carbon technologies with a target of 20% carbon emissions savings of current emissions	2028	4	5	££	Estates and Asset Management
1.04	Review existing Heat Decarbonisation Plan and identify priority assets that require immediate retrofit works to achieve 10% savings on current carbon emissions	In progress	5	4	££	Estates and Asset Management
1.05	Evaluate potential financial investments for invest-to-save projects on a case-by-case basis	In progress	4	5	££	Finance
1.06	Expand the de-illumination of road signs and bollard lighting units	2030	1	1	£££	Highways and Engineering
1.07	Continue to investigate the feasibility of other solutions to further reduce street light energy consumption	In progress	1	2	£	Highways and Engineering

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# Aim: Reduction of Local Authority CO2 Emissions

## Objective 2 - Increase sustainable energy capacity

Ref	Action	Target Date	Deliverability	Carbon Reduction	Cost	Action Owner
1.08	All future new developments mandated in the Capital Programme to investigate, and where feasible, install appropriate renewable energy systems providing at least 50% of the building's anticipated energy demand	In progress	5	4	£££	Estates and Asset Management/ Strategic Development
1.09	For existing Council Assets, investigate feasibility of introducing renewable energy systems to provide at least 15% of building electricity demand	2025	4	5	££	Estates and Asset Management
1.10	Undertake technical feasibility for off-site renewable energy projects, such as solar or wind farms, and maintain a live database of development opportunities for investment	2025	4	2	£££	Estates and Asset Management
1.11	Construct a 147.9kWp solar PV and battery storage system at the Tofts Farm Fleet Vehicle Depot and MOT facility to reduce electricity demand from grid and prepare for future expansion of battery electric vehicle (BEV) fleet	2026	5	3	£££	Estates and Asset Management

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# Aim: Reduction of Local Authority CO2 Emissions

## Objective 3 - Reduce fleet emissions

Ref	Action	Target Date	Deliverability	Carbon Reduction	Cost	Action Owner
1.12	Identify and install EV charging infrastructure at suitable Council owned and operated sites and support the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) to roll out EV charging infrastructure improvements	In progress	2	2	£££	Highways and Engineering
1.13	Trial the use of hydrogenated/hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) as a low-carbon transition fuel for fleet vehicles, and monitor and report progress annually	2025	5	5	£	Environmental Services
1.14	Develop and deliver long-term fleet strategy to replace fleet vehicles with BEVs, or other low emission vehicles such as hydrogen-powered vehicles	2030	4	5	££	Environmental Services/Strategic Development

## Objective 4 – Work with people to inspire change

Ref	Action	Target Date	Deliverability	Carbon Reduction	Cost	Action Owner
1.15	Investigate available options to reduce staff business travel miles by car by 10% per annum, and to encourage sustainable forms of travel (active travel, public transport, carpool, hybrid vehicles, BEVs)	2024	2	2	££	Human Resources
1.16	Ensure that all senior management (CEs, DCEs, Directors, HoS) and Councillors receive Carbon Literacy Training to increase climate awareness and dissemination of information	2024	5	1	£	Strategic Development
1.17	Climate Communications Campaign to roll out in 2024 to encourage positive behaviour change	2024	5	2	£	Strategic Development
1.18	Establish a network of Climate Champions across all departments	2024	3	1	£	Strategic Development

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# Aim: Resource Maximisation and Waste Reduction

## Objective 5 - Improve waste management to maximise use of existing resources

Ref	Action	Target Date	Deliverability	Carbon Reduction	Cost	Action Owner
2.01	Support TVCA's wider Waste Management Strategy for the Tees Valley which aims to better utilise waste resources	2050	4	2	£££	Environmental Services
2.02	Record actual data for the Council's waste collection and report annually	2024	2	1	£	Environmental Services
2.03	Develop a recycling guide for all Council services and promote key messages through Communications Strategy	2024	3	1	£	Environmental Services
2.04	Investigate the feasibility of a pay-by-weight scheme for Council departments' waste removal	2025	2	1	££	Environmental Services

## Objective 6 – Sustainable purchasing and procurement of goods and services

Ref	Action	Target Date	Deliverability	Carbon Reduction	Cost	Action Owner
2.05	Put in place a new procurement strategy and framework which will seek to assist our supply chain in reducing and monitoring emissions	2024	5	5	££	Procurement

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# Aim: Domestic Energy and Sustainable Warmth

## Objective 7 - Improve domestic energy efficiency to reduce energy demand

Ref	Action	Target Date	Deliverability	Carbon Reduction	Cost	Action Owner
3.01	Deliver Affordable Warmth Strategy, promote and support residents to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption of their homes through communication campaigns, energy advice partnership projects, voluntary sector partners, guidance schemes and funding schemes such as HUG/LAD3	In progress	4	2	£££	Public Protection
3.02	<i>Continue to work with registered housing providers to progressively increase the energy efficiency of the Council's housing stock</i>	In progress	2	2	£	Housing Services
3.03	<i>Engage with registered Landlords in the private rental sector to improve EPC ratings and adhere to the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES)</i>	TBC	3	2	££	Public Protection

## Objective 8 – Support shift towards sustainable energy in the domestic sector

Ref	Action	Target Date	Deliverability	Carbon Reduction	Cost	Action Owner
3.04	Under current policy CC1, continue to encourage developments to incorporate renewable energy systems in their designs and where feasible, require 10% of their energy supply from decentralised and renewable or low carbon sources	In progress	3	2	£	Planning Services

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# Aim: The Natural Environment

## Objective 9 - Maintain good local air quality

Ref	Action	Target Date	Deliverability	Carbon Reduction	Cost	Action Owner
4.01	Publish the new Air Quality Strategy and continue to update annual Air Quality Status Reports on the Council website	In progress	3	1	£	Environmental Protection
4.02	Implement the actions outlined in the updated Air Quality Strategy, paying particular attention to working closely with local industry and businesses to reduce pollution and to improve air quality	In progress	4	1	£	Environmental Protection

## Objective 10 – Protect existing natural habitats

Ref	Action	Target Date	Deliverability	Carbon Reduction	Cost	Action Owner
4.03	Implement the Place-based Management Plans, monitor and track progress annually	In progress	3	1	£	Heritage, Parks and Open Spaces
4.04	Take a fit-for-purpose approach to maintenance regimes of open spaces and roadside verges to benefit local wildlife	In progress	3	1	£	Environmental Services

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# Aim: The Natural Environment

## Objective 11 - Expand and connect natural habitats and increase tree cover

Ref	Action	Target Date	Deliverability	Carbon Reduction	Cost	Action Owner
4.05	Enhance the quality and value of existing green spaces	In progress	4	1	££	Heritage, Parks and Open Spaces
4.06	Complete a tree survey to better understand the condition of the trees across the Borough	2024	3	1	£	Planning Services
4.07	Revise the Tree Strategy to enhance and protect our native tree species with the supplementary introduction of warmer-climate tree species for a more diverse canopy that is better adapted to a warming climate	2026	4	1	£	Planning Services
4.08	Introduce a tree replacement standard to increase tree canopy cover in the borough, countering development-induced tree loss and in accordance with The Environmental Targets (Woodland and Trees Outside Woodland) (England) Regulations 2023	2026	4	1	£	Planning Services
4.09	Ensure that soft landscaping covers 13.8% of the total site area of the new Highlight Leisure Centre, consisting of grassed areas and tree cover	2025	1	1	££	Architects & Landscape
4.10	Together with Tees Valley and other local authorities, deliver on Trees on Tees programme to create woodland and deliver on planting projects	2035	5	5	££	Heritage, Parks and Open Spaces

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# Aim: Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation

## Objective 12 - Review progress on net zero

Ref	Action	Target Date	Deliverability	Carbon Reduction	Cost	Action Owner
5.01	Annual reporting and review of GHG emissions and climate strategy	In progress	5	1	£	Strategic Development

## Objective 13 - Adapt the built and natural environment to current and future climate change impacts

Ref	Action	Target Date	Deliverability	Carbon Reduction	Cost	Action Owner
5.02	<i>Evaluate and establish a climate risk register for the Borough</i>	2024	5	1	£	Emergency Planning & Net Zero Officer
5.03	Review Borough's flood risk management strategy	In progress	5	1	£	Emergency Planning/Flood and Coastal Risk
5.04	Investigate the feasibility of improving drainage systems and look to incorporate sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) in future urban planning schemes, conforming to policy CC1 and CC2 of Local Plan 2018	2025	4	1	£	Architects & Landscape
5.05	Take a fabric-first approach with material considerations in future urban planning schemes	2024	4	5	£	Architects & Landscape

## Objective 14 – Work towards sustainable development

Ref	Action	Target Date	Deliverability	Carbon Reduction	Cost	Action Owner
5.06	Review the active travel infrastructure within the Borough and identify future requirements for a well-connected active travel network	2027	2	1	£££	Highways and Engineering
5.07	Monitor, prepare for and submit grant and other funding applications to deliver on the aims set out in this Net Zero Plan with a specific focus on GHG emissions, waste and resources, the natural habitat and climate adaptation	In progress	5	3	£	All responsible parties

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