



Report to Executive Committee

Meeting Date – 23 July 2024

Key Decision – Yes

Public/Private – Public

Portfolio – Cumberland Policy and Regulatory Services

Directorate – Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport

Lead Officer – Chloe Tringham, Assistant Director Climate & Waste
Steven O’Keeffe, Climate and Natural Environment Manager (interim)
Phil Duerdin, Corporate Decarbonisation Manager

Title – Climate and Nature Strategy

Brief Summary:

The Climate and Nature Strategy sets out the objectives, commitments and programmes that the Council (we) will deliver for climate and nature. It is a position statement and should be read as a working strategy for the next three years (2024-2027).

Recommendations:

The committee is invited:

- Adopt the Climate and Nature Strategy and the supporting Carbon and Energy Management Plan.
- Note the outline for a Biodiversity Management Plan (Appendix C) which will be the basis for discussions internally and externally with partners.
- Agree the delegations for future amendments set out in paragraph 2.2.
- Note the progress on the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Note the progress on a Cumbria Community Forest Plan.
- Note the proposal for a Citizens Jury/Assembly through the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership Programme.

Tracking

Executive:	23 July 2024
Scrutiny:	16 and 17 April 2024
Council:	Not applicable

1. Background

- 1.1. The purpose of the Climate and Nature Strategy is to set out the objectives, commitments and programmes that the Council (we) will deliver for climate and nature. It is a position statement and should be read as a working strategy for the next three years (2024-2027).
- 1.2. The strategy has been developed alongside the Council's Delivery Plan, informed by the current strategies, actions and partnership work underway. It has also been informed by the work undertaken by the previous councils.
- 1.3. The public opinion and social trends on climate change are changing, a recent Office for National Statistics¹ survey estimates that 72% have made a lot or some changes to their lifestyle to help tackle climate change. Among those who had made a lot or some changes to their lifestyle to help tackle climate change the concerns that motivated them to make the changes were:
 - Effect on future generations (69%)
 - Loss of natural habitats or wildlife due to climate change (66%)
 - Energy and food supplies (55%)
 - Other people being directly affected by climate change, for example: extreme weather events or rising sea levels. (52%)
- 1.4. The Local Government Association recently commissioned YouGov to run an opinion poll on public perceptions around local climate action and;
 - two thirds of responders said they were worried about climate change with flooding, storms and heatwaves being the impacts most likely to affect their local area
 - With only 12% thinking climate change will not impact their local area

Strategy development

- 1.5. Climate policy is within the Cumberland Policy and Regulatory Services portfolio. Climate and nature present cross-cutting challenges and opportunities for our Executive Members and their portfolios.
- 1.6. The Climate and Nature Advisory Group has been directly involved in drafting the strategy as part of its brief to provide advice to the Executive on policies and initiatives. This group includes elected Members, Executive Portfolio Holders and internal officers. Co-opted members of the group bring their knowledge of nature and climate issues to assist this work.
- 1.7. Tackling the climate emergency and building environmental resilience is a whole society challenge. Adapting to the changes will need cross-sector action that includes and extends beyond the Council. If we don't rise to this challenge, it will have significant

¹ [Public opinions and social trends, Great Britain: climate change - Office for National Statistics](#)

impacts on health and wellbeing and is likely to affect the least well off disproportionately, widening the gap and stretching the inequalities in Cumberland.

- 1.8. As well as the risks and consequences there are opportunities for common benefits, if we join up the goals for people, for nature and for climate. As a unitary council we are in a unique position to take this fresh approach, putting sustainability at the forefront of our decision making and policy development.

Control and influence

- 1.9. The introduction explains the purpose of the strategy and sets out a model to describe the Council's levels of control and influence (Table 1). The leadership role of Councillors is important when exercising indirect control and influence. Councillors represent their communities, bringing their views into the Council's decision-making process. Councillors are the advocates of and for their communities (Constitution Part 1 Paragraph 3.8).

Table 1: Control and influence.

Definition	Examples from the strategy
Direct Control: Our own actions	Council's Assets (Buildings and land) and fleet; Operations; Workforce
Indirect Control: Our role in the actions of others	Procurement and commissioning
	Development Control; Local Plan; Transport Planning; Waste strategy
Influence: Through our collaboration and leadership	Community Panels and Community Networks; Town and Parish Councils; Place and thematic partnerships
	Communities and education settings
	Communications and engagement; consultation responses on national policy

Risks, consequences and opportunities

- 1.10. The section on risks, consequences and opportunities brings together information from the national risk assessment and our partnerships for flood resilience and emergency planning.
- 1.11. The development of the strategy and related plans has highlighted the need for greater collaboration on risks and opportunities, especially around existing interdependencies such as shared assets and business continuity arrangements.
- 1.12. When reporting on risk and opportunities we will need to take an equal focus on mitigation (Net Zero, maximum of 1.5°C), adaptation (2°C), and protecting and enhancing nature.
- 1.13. As the strategy develops, through 2024/2025, we will also be exploring new information and external support through:
- ADEPT Rapid Adaption Pathway Assessment Pilot (Expression of interest)
 - Cumbria Climate Change Risk Assessment (Request to quote through Westmorland & Furness Council)
 - [Local Climate Adaptation Tool \(lcat.uk\)](https://www.localclimateadaptationtool.org.uk/)
 - Local Authority Adaptive Reporting Pilot
 - National Flood Risk Assessment (NaFRA2) when it is released later in the year

This research will inform our approach to integrating climate and nature risks into our Council Operating Model and partnership working.

Community Panels, Community Networks and Community Power

- 1.14. The Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report on Community Power at their meeting in February 2024. This report set out the critical role that Community Panels and Community Networks will have in tackling the climate and nature challenge as follows:
- ‘The depth and complexity of many modern problems from climate change to deindustrialisation or social isolation are beyond the ability of any single institution to resolve. We need an approach that recognises how Cumberland Council can ensure communities are not merely passive recipients of services or transactional customers and one which recognises their role at the heart of sustainable solutions.’
- 1.15. The Community Panels and their priorities provide an opportunity to link actions to the places that matter most to our communities, their neighbourhoods, villages and towns. So far, the panels have offered over £50,000 in funding to organisations for projects that will make a difference for climate and nature by:
- Improving access and biodiversity
 - Providing outdoor learning sessions and community activities

- Providing energy efficiency measures in community buildings and supporting community hubs
- Protecting and conserving red squirrels
- Enabling a future play area and community orchard
- Supporting a safe cycleway and cycle parking
- Providing healthy lunches in warm spots during winter months
- Providing gardening and cooking equipment for community groups
- Funding for an allotment society to buy an orchard for community ownership

1.16. This strategy is dependent upon:

‘8 Community Panels and Community Networks working towards active, resilient and empowered communities. Where communities of interest meet communities of place to tackle local priorities.’

1.17. It is through the Community Panels and Community Networks that we will bring together the communities of interest and place, linking in the local climate and nature groups. We will also look to scale-up climate and nature actions across Cumberland through external funding with our partners. (See Paragraph 5.8)

Partnerships

1.18. Working with partners and developing new and existing partnerships remains fundamental to our way of working. The 23 partnerships listed are actively working on the climate and nature challenge. We will be mapping our representation across these partnerships and their sub groups so that we can help drive the agenda and maximise our influence, whilst being influenced by our partners.

Objectives and commitments

1.19. There are 4 objectives:

- Adapting now to the changes we can expect over our lifetimes and beyond
- Thriving plants and wildlife
- Growing the knowledge, skills ,opportunities and inspiration for change
- Supporting more sustainable places, practices, livelihoods and lifestyles

1.20. Each objective is presented with a set of aspirational commitments and aims which summarises the related work in the partnerships and programmes. As we report on the strategy, we will link these objectives and statements to the programmes listed and the related strategies and plans. This will create a link to tangible actions.

1.21. There are always close ties with other plans and these objectives and commitments have been set to maximise the opportunities for innovation and collaboration with partners and communities.

Communications and engagement

1.22. Communications and engagement are paramount for influencing behaviours. Under the objective 'Growing the knowledge, skills ,opportunities and inspiration for change' we have committed to:

'build trust and inspire change by promoting positive examples of adaptation and mitigation, sharing the opportunities and choices through our proactive communications and engagement.'

1.23. Since Vesting Day we have been publishing an Environment and Climate Newsletter with the goal of growing the subscribers issue by issue. In May 2024 we published our fifth issue of the newsletter which reached 14,900 recipients. This is a growth of 5% in the number of subscribers from our first issue in July 2023. We will continue to promote the newsletter as our main source of information on the development and delivery of the strategy and programmes.

1.24. Over the same period there have been over 20 media releases relating to climate, waste and nature. To give an idea of the breadth and variety of activity a selection of recent announcements is listed:

- £250,000 of government funding has been secured for public swimming pools in Carlisle, Wigton and Workington for energy efficiency improvements.
- Substantial funding boost of £870,588 for Active Travel initiatives.
- In collaboration with the Hadrian's Wall Trail Partnership, has developed a new ramped access to a popular riverside footpath in Carlisle.
- Advising residents to be careful when driving through Caldbeck as amphibians are currently crossing roads in the area.
- Community planting for pollinators day in Whitehaven
- Successful Completion of Ravenglass Flood Alleviation Project
- Recycling Rambler hits the road
- Ash Dieback awareness raising
- Coastal Protection Act awareness raising
- Big Green Week 2024

1.25. There have also been opportunities for people to have their say on consultations with links to climate and nature through:

- Access to food survey
- Budget consultation
- Connecting Millom and Haverigg seeks to improve the transport network and related public realm, in and around Millom.
- Harrington marina and shoreline bathing water public consultation
- Place Programmes and Town Deals consultations
- Waste Collection Public Engagement Survey

- Woodland creation
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy Engagement Survey (hosted by Westmorland & Furness Council)
- Public Space Protection Orders
- Market Square and Greenmarket (Carlisle City Centre)

Themes, programmes, and plans

- 1.26. The 23 programmes are presented under their themes and again with more information in the table at the end of the strategy. Additional action planning will be incorporated into the Council's planning processes and partnership working.
- 1.27. The Carbon and Energy Management Plan is attached as an appendix (Appendix B) and is summarised in the strategy.
- 1.28. The Natural Environment Management Plan will be developed over summer/autumn and adopted alongside the Local Nature Recovery Strategy in autumn/winter, completing the initial set. An outline of the Natural Environment Management Plan is presented in Appendix C.
- 1.29. A list of related strategies and plans, including pending documents, is included to illustrate the breadth and depth of work underway.

Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and Biodiversity Duty

- 1.30. The Cumbria LNRS will outline our county's priorities for nature recovery and identify key locations that could contribute to achieving these priorities. Westmorland and Furness Council are the responsible authority for the Cumbria LNRS, with Cumberland Council, Lake District National Park Authority, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and Natural England acting as supporting authorities. There are also many other organisations involved in the development of the LNRS such as Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre, Forestry Commission, Environment Agency, Cumbria Wildlife Trust and many more NGOs, organisations, and individuals.
- 1.31. It is through the adoption of the LNRS, as a supporting authority, and the Climate & Nature Strategy's Natural Environment Management Plan that we will fulfil our strengthened biodiversity duty.
- 1.32. The LNRS reached a milestone in May 2024 with the publication of the initial list of 26 draft priorities for habitats in Cumbria ([LNRS Draft Priorities v1.1](#)). The next stage is to develop the measures relating to these draft priorities.

Cumbria Community Forest Plan

- 1.33. Progress is being made on Cumbria's Community Forest Plan. This forest plan has been commissioned by Cumbria Community Forest for Defra, who require this as a condition of funding Cumbria Community Forest, to enable planting at landscape scale.

- 1.34. Cumbria's Community Forest Plan will be an evidence-based statement of long-term intentions and practical delivery routes for creation of community forests in Cumbria: "Community forestry is all about involving people and enabling them to take ownership of not only planting new trees but looking after our existing woodlands and green spaces for future generations." - Community Forest Trust (2024)
- 1.35. The purpose of the Community Forest Plan is to:
- To provide a management framework for delivery of forest benefits to place-based communities in Cumbria, and wider environmental benefits and public goods.
 - To identify groups experiencing specific barriers to accessing woodland and woodland activities and opportunities for transformative benefits through Cumbria Community Forest for these groups, with a specific focus on neurodivergent communities.
- 1.36. A successful plan would be adopted by local planning authorities: Cumberland Council, Lake District National Park Authority, and Westmorland & Furness Council; and integrated into new local plans as they are prepared. Local authority adoption has been key to the delivery of earlier Community Forest Plans in locations around England.

Monitoring, reporting, and reviewing

- 1.37. We will measure the overall progress against this strategy through the Cumberland Council Plan Delivery Plan. Each programme will have milestones and targets for deliverables, reported to the relevant boards and partnerships, all captured in monitoring reports. A performance report summarising progress will be presented quarterly to the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 1.38. The quarterly newsletter will highlight delivery with a focus on local projects and initiatives. We will develop place-based monitoring through the Climate and Nature Advisory Group, and this will underpin our performance reporting.
- 1.39. Work is still underway with partners on the ZCCP Cumbria Decarbonisation Plan, and many topics require further investigation. We are committed to reviewing and updating this strategy to ensure that it remains relevant and significant. At the very least, we will review the strategy annually, reporting any significant changes through the Portfolio Holder reports to Council.

2. Proposals

- 2.1. The proposal is to adopt the strategy and management plan as part of the hierarchy of strategies and plans under the Council Plan.
- 2.2. Climate and nature topics are informed by research and innovation; implemented predominantly through external funding. It is important that the strategy and related

management plans remain current as new opportunities develop. With this in mind the following delegations for future amendments are proposed:

Table 2: Delegations for amendments

Change	Example	Delegated to
Major	Material changes to the objectives, programmes and targets.	Director in consultation with Portfolio Holder.
Minor	Material changes to partnerships, risks, consequences and opportunities.	Assistant Director in consultation with Portfolio Holder.
Minor updates	Adjustments to baselines, facts and figures.	Senior Manager in consultation with Portfolio Holder.

2.3. The content on the website for climate and nature will be updated once the strategy is adopted. A designed version of the final strategy will be produced.

3. Alternative options considered

3.1. An alternative option would be to develop separate strategies and plans as follows:

- Climate Change Mitigation Strategy and Plan
- Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Plan
- Biodiversity Strategy and Plan
- Carbon and Energy Management Strategy and Plan

Combining climate (mitigation and adaptation) and nature topics into a single strategy (with supporting plans as appendices) is the preferred option. This approach reaffirms the importance of place, everything happens somewhere, particularly when delivering interventions for mitigation, adaptation and nature recovery as they are often significant decisions attracting a good deal of public interest.

4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

4.1. The report provides the committee with an overview of the development of the strategy and the outcome of the consultation work undertaken. The recommendations are:

- Adopt the Climate and Nature Strategy and the supporting Carbon and Energy Management Plan.
- Note the outline for a Biodiversity Management Plan (Appendix D) which will be the basis for discussions internally and externally with partners.
- Agree the delegations for future amendments set out in paragraph 2.2.
- Note the progress on the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Note the progress on a Cumbria Community Forest Plan.

- Note the potential topics for a Citizens Jury/Assembly through the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership Programme set out in paragraph 5.14.

5. Implications:

Contribution to the Cumberland Plan Priorities -

- 5.1. The Cumberland Council Plan has 'environmental resilience and climate emergency as an area of focus, this draft strategy sets out how we are going to deliver against this challenge.
- 5.2. The Cumberland Approach identifies sustainability as a fundamental principle for shaping our approach to service delivery, working with partners and engaging residents. The Council Plan defines sustainability as:
'The climate and environmental emergency will be at the forefront of our decision making and policy development. We will encourage others to do the same and set an example in using resources sustainably, looking for low carbon or carbon neutral alternatives in what we buy and how we work. We will make a fair and just transition to a more sustainable Council and Cumberland.'

Relevant Risks and explain how risks can be mitigated –

- 5.3. The relevant risks are managed through the Risk Management Framework as follows:
- Overarching Corporate Risk for Climate Change
 - Directorate and Service Risk Registers
 - Programme and project risks through the Programme Management Office
- The treatment of these risks is in line with the risk tolerances.

Consultation / Engagement –

- 5.4. The Community Engagement Framework is being used to guide our approach to engagement and consultation. It is through improved community participation that we can build trust and understanding, which can help better shape the delivery of the strategy and decision-making.
- 5.5. The Carbon and Energy Management Plan was discussed at the Business and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee (16 April 2024).
- 5.6. The draft strategy was discussed at the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee (17 April 2024).
- 5.7. An online survey on the draft strategy generated 54 responses. We have also received responses from local groups and partners (5.10). A summary of the responses and the changes made to the strategy is presented in Appendix D.

Climate and nature local groups

- 5.8. Cumberland has over 14 active local groups working on climate and nature. Many of these groups are part of the Cumbria Sustainability Network, supported through the Zero Carbon Cumbria Programme.

5.9. A workshop took place on 5 June 2024 with 7 groups, the key points were:

- Attendance at the workshop did not imply endorsement of the draft strategy.
- Some attendees accepted that the document was a working strategy, but others would not be endorsing the document as there were too many gaps and deficiencies.
- A regular meeting with the sustainability groups for Cumberland would continue to develop the strategy and help build collaborative working to address the gaps and deficiencies, namely:
 - A clear target year and pathway to net zero
 - Need for more ambition and more positive and aspirational language
 - Stronger framework for driving large-scale change
- Community Power and the climate and nature challenge needs further investigation for development. The group felt a more direct channel of communication with the council is needed for Cumbria Sustainability Network groups via establishing regular meetings.
- The following topics need more development in the strategy:
 - Public Transport
 - Waste reduction
 - Building standards
 - Decarbonising existing buildings
 - Nature recovery
 - Pensions and investments
- Carbon literacy should be made mandatory for councillors and officers.
- More needs to be done to raise awareness of the climate crisis and the necessity of taking mitigation/adaptation action.
- Use the work developed by organisations like ADEPT (Blueprint Coalition), UK100 and Friends of the Earth to accelerate climate action and learn from other councils.

Engagement with partners

5.10. We have received responses from the following partners:

- Lake District National Park
- Cumbria Action for Sustainability
- Cumbria Local Nature Partnership
- Cumbria GeoConservation Group
- Environment Agency
- Solway Coast National Landscape

5.11. The Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership was briefed on the draft strategy on 11 June 2024. Partners were thanked for their contributions to the consultation and the emphasis was placed on the document being a working strategy to be improved through further collaboration.

Economic Summit

5.12. The Economic Summit (29 February 2024) created a great opportunity to discuss the draft objectives and programmes through the two climate and nature workshops. The workshops were attended by representatives of 31 different organisations and the engagement on the two questions generated feedback that will inform both this strategy and the emerging Economic Strategy. The two questions were:

- How can our work on climate change and nature help us to unlock and generate opportunities for residents, businesses, social enterprises in addition to community and voluntary sectors?
- What additional actions for climate change and nature will help us to unlock and generate opportunities for residents, businesses, social enterprises in addition to community and voluntary sectors?

Potential Citizens Jury/Assembly

5.13. There are resources available through the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership Programme (ZCCP) to deliver a Citizens Jury/Assembly. Citizens Assemblies and Juries are a way of bringing together citizens to try and work through complex issues and make recommendations in an attempt to influence policy.

5.14. The proposal is to organise two Citizens Juries or an Assembly in Cumbria on a particularly important issue that is key to successfully addressing climate change. The topic or topics will be agreed through the ZCCP over summer.

Engaging with young people

5.15. The development of the strategy has benefited from the Youth Summit, the Copeland Youth Panel (2021) and recent engagement with young people on possible solutions to encourage climate awareness and action.

5.16. We will be taking the opportunity to engage with the Whitehaven Youth Summit in July, the outcome of this summit will be considered by the Climate and Nature Advisory Group.

Legal – The Committee's terms of reference include the consideration of all powers and duties the council has relating to environment.

The Climate and Nature Strategy relates to the exercise of Executive functions and is therefore a decision of the Executive as to its adoption.

The Council has a duty under s.3 of the Local Government Act 1999 to ensure the Council makes arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The proposed strategy should therefore represent best value for Cumberland.

It is anticipated that the delivery of the strategy and accompanying management plans will require legal advice on a case-by case basis.

Finance –There are no direct financial implications within the recommendations for the draft strategy and related plans. A criteria for action planning, based on the Financial Procedure Rules, has been part of the development of the strategy. As projects are developed to deliver the strategy detailed business cases will be needed setting out the costs and savings as well as the potential for external funding.

The 2024/25 Budget sets out the following programmes and plans that are linked to the strategy:

- Transformation Programme
- Capital Programme
- Asset Management Plan and fleet investment

Information Governance – Climate and nature topics give rise to Environmental Information Regulations 2004 requests. We will review these requests annually to see if we can routinely publish more information through the updates to the strategy.

Impact Assessments –

Have you screened the decision for impacts using the Impact Assessment?

The strategy has been screened using the Impact Assessment tool. The screening has been updated with the information from the survey.

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Background papers:

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

Carbon and Energy Management Plan (Business and Resources OSC agenda item on 16/4/24)
Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership: Summary of Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Cumbria
Available online at: <https://zerocarboncumbria.co.uk/about/reports/cumbria-greenhouse-gas-emissions-report/>

Appendices attached to report:

- A. Climate and Nature Strategy
- B. Carbon and Energy Management Plan
- C. Outline for a Natural Environment Management Plan
- D. Summary of consultation feedback and changes made.

Cumberland Council Climate and Nature Strategy 2024-2027

For people, for nature, for climate

Date created: 1/07/24

Version 1.0

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Welcome from the Executive Portfolio Holder, Councillor Bob Kelly

As Executive Portfolio Holder for Cumberland Policy and Regulatory Services I would like to set out the role, as I see it, Cumberland Council will take on climate and nature policies.

The Council has agreed that health and wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do; the climate change and nature recovery agenda are clearly linked to this. This our first Climate and Nature Strategy, it takes the learning from the legacy councils on what has worked so far.

We see climate change as a cross-cutting issue that impacts on all our services. I have established a Climate and Nature Advisory Group, bringing together elected Members, Executive Portfolio Holders and internal officers to provide advice to the Executive on policies and initiatives. Co-opted members of the group also bring their knowledge of nature and climate issues to assist this work.

We aim to make Cumberland Council an exemplar in presenting a clear and comprehensive set of policies and actions that will make a major impact on the fight against climate change, the preservation and extension of biodiversity and the natural environment which we all cherish.

We want our actions to be bigger, better and more joined-up so they can make a real impact.

I hope you will join me and play your part in making a fair and just transition to a more sustainable council and Cumberland.



***Image description:
photograph of Executive
Portfolio Holder, Councillor
Bob Kelly***

Introduction

The purpose of this strategy is to set out the objectives, commitments and programmes that the Council (we) will deliver for climate and nature. **It is a position statement and should be read as a working strategy for the next three years (2024-2027).**

The strategy has been developed alongside the Cumberland Council Plan and Council's Delivery Plan¹, informed by the strategies, actions and partnership work underway and work undertaken by the previous councils. The Cumberland Council Vision is:

'Cumberland Council takes a fresh approach to the delivery of inclusive services that are shaped by our residents and communities.

By enabling positive outcomes for health and wellbeing, prosperity and the environment we will fulfil the potential of our people and our area'

As the new unitary council for the greater part of Cumbria's population and homes; we are in a unique position to take a fresh approach to climate and nature, an approach that puts health and wellbeing at the heart of everything we do.

Achieving the actions and targets is highly dependent on new and existing national policies and investment. This all needs to be joined up with local action to enable both the transition to a low carbon economy and nature recovery.

The climate and nature challenge

Average global temperatures are rising causing dramatic changes to climate, environment and health and wellbeing.

These 'warming stripe' graphics are visual representations of the change in temperature as measured in England over the past 100+ years, each stripe or bar represents the temperature over a year relative to the average. The coolest years are blue, and the warmest years are darker red. ²

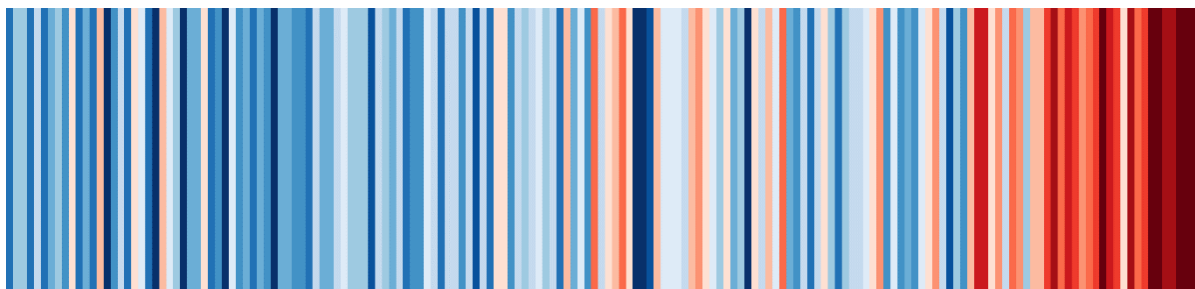


Figure 1: Warming Stripes

¹ The [delivery plan](#) for the Cumberland Council Plan

² Temperature change in England relative to average 1971-2000 (Degrees Centigrade, °C),
Credit: <https://showyourstripes.info/c/europe/unitedkingdom/england>

The 'biodiversity stripes' provide a visual representation of the change in biodiversity over time, since 1970. The highest level of biodiversity is coloured bright green. Lower levels move through yellow to grey, depending upon the level of decline. Darker greys appear with greater declines.³



Figure 2: Biodiversity Stripes

Climate and nature present cross-cutting challenges and opportunities for our Executive Members. We have a unique role as we work with national departments, regional agencies, voluntary organisations, and local communities to achieve common goals.

Cumberland is on the frontline of the climate emergency, and we are going to be amongst the hardest hit in the UK. Forewarned is forearmed and we must:

- **Accelerate our mitigation, so we help limit global warming to a maximum of 1.5°C**
- **Start adapting to a 2°C rise and assess the risks of a 4°C rise**

Mitigation reduces the need to adapt; and alongside we must protect and enhance nature⁴, our greatest ally as we face this challenge.

The themes in this strategy include matters that are within the Council's control, directly or indirectly, and matters where the Council can use its influence. Only 3% of greenhouse gas emissions in the Cumberland area are attributed to the Public Sector.⁵

However, it is widely understood that a local authority's place-shaping powers and actions potentially influence around a third⁶ of UK emissions. These are principally in the buildings, transport, waste and land-use sectors. We will deliver this strategy through these definitions of control and influence (Figure 3).

³ Biodiversity loss of UK Priority Species. 65% decline 1970-2019, Credit: <https://biodiversitystripes.info/ukpriorityspecies>

⁴ [State of Nature Report 2023](#), since 1970 UK species have declined by about 19% on average, and 1 in 6 species (16.1%) are now threatened with extinction.

⁵ [Local Authority and Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions National Statistics](#)

⁶ [Councillor workbook – The local path to net zero](#)

Definition	Areas of Focus
Direct Control: Our own actions	Council's Assets (Buildings and land) and fleet; Operations; Workforce
Indirect Control: Our role in the actions of others	Procurement and commissioning
	Development Control; Local Plan; Transport Planning; Waste strategy
Influence: Through our collaboration and leadership	Community Panels and Community Networks; Town and Parish Councils; Place and thematic partnerships
	Communities and education settings
	Communications and engagement; consultation responses on national policy

Figure 3: Control and influence

There are many topics that we will continue to monitor and explore, these will need further investigation and development to determine the Council's role in delivery. They include:

- The agricultural transition - food security and nature recovery
- New nuclear and the decarbonisation of energy

Risks, consequences and opportunities

The effects⁷ of climate change and biodiversity loss are multipliers of many global threats, and these threats are predicted to continue to worsen over the next decade.

We are already seeing the impact of climate change and biodiversity loss locally, responding to and recovering from the devastating effects on our communities from severe weather⁸ and unprecedented flooding in recent years. The consequences of inaction will be significant for our local economy, the health and wellbeing of our communities and for all our Council services.

The key risks for Cumberland are:

- A combination of risks⁹ being realised at the same time, impacting on our infrastructure services, energy, transport, water (and public water scarcity) and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).
- Risks that worsen existing inequalities through their disproportionate effects on disadvantaged groups.
- The increased severity, frequency and variability of flooding (fluvial, coastal and surface water) and related coastal erosion risk, impacting on the viability of coastal communities and coastal businesses due to sea level rise. Increasing the pollution of our rivers, lakes, wetlands and coasts with sewage, wastewater and agriculture and industrial run-off.

There are risks:

- To the supply of food, goods and vital services due to climate-related collapse of supply chains and distribution networks.
- Human health, wellbeing and productivity from increased exposure to heat in homes and other buildings through seasonal changes.
- The viability and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species from multiple hazards (including invasive non-native species).
- Soil health from increased flooding and drought.
- Existing sequestered carbon in natural carbon stores¹⁰ from multiple hazards, leading to increased emissions.
- Crops, livestock health, and commercial trees from multiple climate hazards.

The common consequences are:

- Increased frequency of damages and losses, both economic and non-economic.

⁷ [UK Climate Risk](#)

⁸ Severe storms, floods and thunderstorms; heatwaves, droughts and wildfires.

⁹ [Cumbria Community Risk Register](#)

¹⁰ [Carbon Storage and Sequestration by Habitat 2021](#)

- Increased demand for welfare and local interventions to sustain health and wellbeing.
- Increased numbers and frequency of temporary and permanently displaced people.
- Disruption to emergency services, health services and transport networks. Disruption to education and ICT services. Prolonged disruption leading to public outrage and/or behavioural change.
- Disruption to Natural Capital (assets and services) from multiple hazards, driven by the impacts of climate change on the natural environment, including terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine species, forests and agriculture (livestock health).
- An increase in the range, quantities and consequences of pests, pathogens and invasive species, negatively affecting terrestrial, freshwater and marine priority habitats species, forestry and agriculture.
- Loss of habitats and biodiversity, decrease in the general abundance of priority species with impacts on the survival of endangered and vulnerable species.
- Damage to our cultural and natural heritage assets as a result of temperature, precipitation, groundwater and landscape changes.

Opportunities and intended outcomes for Cumberland from rapid mitigation and adaptation are:

- Improved health and wellbeing through the co-benefits of warmer more efficient homes, better food and diets, opportunities for active travel, better air quality, better mental and physical health, and more access to enhanced green spaces.
- Narrowing the gaps in health inequalities for our most vulnerable communities.
- Green growth and inward investment in a low carbon economy, creating new skills and jobs.
- Reductions in waste and energy consumption in the business sector.
- Greater community resilience through community empowerment and wealth building¹¹.
- Stable funding for the rural economy through the transition to 'public money for public goods' and marketing of new green investable propositions.
- Investment of green finance¹² through the development of green investable propositions for natural capital assets and services, creating new skills and jobs in farming and other land use change.
- Greater understanding and appreciation of nature's role within the landscape. The potential of nature and 'eco-system services' are fully realised across Cumberland for the value it brings to health and wellbeing, carbon sequestration, improved air quality and access to green spaces (footpath network renewal).

¹¹ [Community Wealth Building Report](#)

¹² [Green finance guidance](#)

- Healthy, safe and clean rivers, lakes, wetlands and coasts that have an abundance of wildlife and plants, with water that is safe for people to swim in.

Objectives and commitments

There are always close ties with partner plans in tackling the climate and nature challenge.¹³ These objectives and commitments are set to maximise the opportunities for innovation and collaboration with partners and communities.

Help create more sustainable places, practices, livelihoods and lifestyles

We will:

- Proactively engage in making Cumbria carbon neutral¹⁴ by 2037.
- We will collaborate with partners to influence national decision making to accelerate green growth and implement this in Cumberland.
- Improve our own energy resilience, efficiency and accelerate decarbonisation of services.
- Encourage small scale renewables and storage as local sources for heat and power.
- With partners, tackle the challenges of fuel poverty and affordable warmth.
- Support a Food Cumberland Partnership to help ensure locally available good quality food. Promoting sustainable food and farming working towards an end to food waste.
- Change the attitude towards resources and their consumption, reducing emissions and waste by increasing choice and opportunities to repair, reuse and recycle.
- Work with partners¹⁵ to combat the physical and chemical pollution of our rivers and lakes, improving their health and ecological health.
- Develop and deliver initiatives to promote low and no carbon modes of transport, making it easier for people to walk and wheel.
- Continue to support improving public transport provision and access across Cumberland and Cumbria.
- Improve air quality through action on transport, industrial, agricultural, and domestic emissions.

¹³ Please see sections on Partnerships and Links to other strategies and plans

¹⁴ Includes reducing all Greenhouse Gas emissions as defined in 'Net Zero'

¹⁵ Includes River Trusts operating in Cumberland and equivalent bodies for the river Esk (Border)

Adapting now to the changes we can expect in our own lifetimes and beyond

We will:

- Prepare, with partners, for the 'reasonable worst case climate change scenarios' based on different predicted global warming levels (1.5°C, 2°C and 4°C), predicted over the coming decades.
- Plan for and adapt to the changing shoreline and dynamic flood risks.
- Strengthen our partnerships so they can continue to help us prepare, respond and recover from major incidents that are driven by extreme weather and related hazards.
- Support residents, businesses and partners to adapt to the impacts of climate change and transition to an inclusive and growing, low carbon economy (green growth). Building resilience so that communities can face challenges and recover from them quickly¹⁶.
- Manage the corporate risk that failing to prepare for and adapt to climate change will adversely impact on health and wellbeing, especially of the most vulnerable residents.

Thriving plants and wildlife

We will:

- Protect, restore and gain biodiversity, ensuring that sustainable growth supports nature recovery. Delivering biodiversity net gain and nature recovery on our own green spaces and estate.
- Encourage habitat development and regeneration that maximises carbon sequestration such as peat bog and saltmarsh regeneration and the potential of seagrass.
- Work in partnership so that our wildlife and ecological networks are improved, helping these networks to be 'bigger, better and more joined up.' Creating an environment in which native plants and wildlife can thrive.
- Protect and enhance the coastal and marine environment making it a more resilient landscape, richer in wildlife and biodiversity.
- Protect and enhance the freshwater environment making it a more resilient landscape, richer in wildlife and biodiversity.
- Work in partnership to address invasive non-native species.
- Work in partnership to create high quality ecology data and information; ensuring that data and information is used effectively to achieve our shared goals.
- Raise awareness of Cumbria's geodiversity alongside nature conservation and recovery.

¹⁶ [Preparing your community for an emergency](#)

Growing the knowledge, skills, opportunities and inspiration for change

We will:

- Ensure Cumberland Council's workforce have appropriate levels of climate and nature awareness, skills and knowledge in delivering work and services.
- Build capability and opportunities, motivating people to make climate wise and nature positive choices.
- Improve access and connect people to nature to benefit their health and wellbeing.
- Build trust and inspire change by promoting positive examples of adaptation and mitigation, sharing the opportunities and choices through our proactive communications and engagement.
- Work with education providers to increase the awareness of nature and climate-related issues in this and future generations.

Themes, programmes and plans

The strategy is built around the 23 programmes underway for 2024 onwards, these are the programmes in which we have the highest certainty of achieving delivery. They are presented as a table at the end of this strategy with more detail on governance and timescales.

They are summarised below under their themes:

Energy and green growth

Energy and energy security are at the core of the National Adaptation Programme¹⁷ and the pathway to UK Net Zero. Cumberland is already a source of renewable energy, and this can grow to meet the needs of the UK. Through our own Carbon and Energy Management Plan we will lead by example, reducing our emissions and investing in renewable energy generation.

We want to work with local businesses and organisations to build on our priority to deliver an inclusive economy that works for local people. We want to unlock and generate opportunities for residents, businesses, social enterprises in addition to community and voluntary sectors.

The programmes are:

- Prepare for the new energy security and decarbonisation opportunities.
- Working in partnership to keep our local industries globally competitive by supporting decarbonisation of energy intensive processes.
- Prepare for the new heat energy decarbonisation opportunities of Zoning and Heat Networks.
- Deliver the climate and nature co-benefits set out in the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal (BIGD) Energy Masterplan, BIGD Carlisle Station Gateway, Citadels & Place Programme; Town Deals Projects; Future High Street Funds Projects; Levelling Up Projects; and UK Single Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Projects.
- Work in partnership to grow the skills and training needed for green growth and nature recovery.
- Deliver the Carbon and Energy Management Plan focused on our own Council assets and services.

Food and waste

Everyone in Cumberland has a right to good food¹⁸. Food is at the heart of some the biggest public health challenges in the UK, from obesity and diet-related ill-health to food poverty and waste, climate change and biodiversity loss to declining prosperity and social dislocation.

The Resources and Waste Strategy for England aims to rethink how we use resources and designing out waste and pollution. New guidance on simpler recycling, harmonising services and planning for a new waste strategy are important developments for climate and nature.

¹⁷ [National Adaptation Programme \(NAP3\)](#)

¹⁸ [Right to food motion to Cumberland Shadow Authority, July 2022](#)

The programmes are:

- Delivering the Food Cumberland Strategic Framework
- Review our waste service and prepare for a new waste strategy and disposal contract, meeting the new guidance and duties.

Infrastructure, housing and transport

Investment in infrastructure and housing is fundamental to mitigation and adaptation. Over the last 5 years we have seen flood defences remodelled and raised, homes retrofitted and an expansion of solar renewable energy, driven by the need to adapt and mitigate. The ambitious plans to grow Carlisle and meet future housing needs across Cumberland, with associated infrastructure, will continue this transformation. Reducing the carbon emissions in new buildings now will reduce the need to adapt and retrofit interventions later.

The Transport Decarbonisation Plan¹⁹ sets out the national plan and a regional approach is set out in the Transport Decarbonisation Strategy for the North²⁰. Locally we have our plans and programmes for transport and connectivity, supporting sustainable and inclusive growth.

The programmes are:

- Deliver Saint Cuthbert's Garden Village (StCGV) as a showcase of new climate wise and nature positive design codes and the innovative 'starting with the park' project.
- Deliver the Transport Infrastructure Plan. Promoting active travel and digital infrastructure as enablers of inclusive economic growth and supporting the health and wellbeing of our communities and the decarbonisation of transport networks.
- Deliver the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and Local Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (LEVI) programme to decarbonise transport.

Finance, Investment and policy

The transition to a net zero future requires an enormous shift in the global financial system. Climate change will need to be embedded in all finance decisions.

Set nationally or locally, the policies and strategies for climate and nature drive our decisions and actions. Influencing national policy and setting our own plans will shape our adaptation, mitigation and nature recovery work.

To make all the programmes possible we will need to invest in people and places. This requires finance, which is already under pressure from the 'perfect storm' of increased costs and increased demand for services for the most vulnerable. We will have to think differently about how we fund our projects, seeking out collaborative external funding opportunities and attracting more external investment.

The Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) will be part of a system of locally led, evidence based, collaboratively produced strategies that cover the whole of England, with each one mapping existing areas of value for nature, establishing priorities for nature's recovery and mapping locations where action for nature, or use of nature-based solutions

¹⁹ [Transport Decarbonisation Plan](#)

²⁰ [Transport for the North: Transport Decarbonisation Strategy](#)

would be particularly beneficial. The LNRS will form the basis for a Nature Recovery Network, a joined up network of places important for plants and wildlife.

The programmes are:

- Develop the evidence base and policies for the first Local Plan for Cumberland and its Sustainability Appraisal.
- Support the delivery and implementation of the first Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and Nature Recovery Network for Cumbria, exploring the potential for nature recovery and natural capital investment.

Nature and natural capital

Nature, biodiversity and natural capital are all different ways of describing the environment. In the Plan on a Page we have adopted the national Environmental Improvement Plan²¹ overarching goal of halting the decline in our biodiversity so we can achieve thriving plants and wildlife.

The programmes are:

- Deliver the Local Investment in Natural Capital (LINCS) Project and the BIGD Natural Capital opportunity.
- Work in partnership to tackle the challenge of nutrient neutrality on the River Eden and upper parts of River Derwent and Bassenthwaite Lake (Special Area of Conservation) and realise the opportunities and benefits of a countywide approach to Biodiversity Net Gain.
- Work in partnership to protect and grow more community trees, woodland, wildflowers, saltmarsh and seagrass for the benefit of local people and nature.
- Mitigate the impact of major developments through additional investment in nature enhancement and recovery (Biodiversity Net Gain) and emission reduction plans.
- Work in partnership to connect people to nature, through new access and volunteering opportunities, benefiting our health and wellbeing.
- Deliver the Natural Environment Management Plan, focused on our own Council assets and services.

People, risk, and resilience

We will put people first as we fulfil the potential of our people and our area. To achieve this we must first focus on our most vulnerable communities as these are the people most likely to be exposed to the risks. Environmental and community resilience is needed as we cope with the 'locked-in' impacts of climate change and increased resilience is a positive benefit from empowering community action.

The current focus for retrofitting homes is on those with the poorest performing energy efficiencies and income and saving criteria. Retrofitting these properties will create more comfortable and healthier homes whilst reducing emissions.

²¹ [Environmental Improvement Plan \(EIP23\)](#)

The northwest of England, as a region, will be amongst the most significantly impacted by climate change. We will need to look at the long-term increase in flood risk based on a reasonable worst-case scenario.

Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) identify the most sustainable approach for managing the risk from coastal flooding and erosion over a short (0 to 20 years), medium (20 to 50 years) and long (50 to 100) term.

The programmes are:

- Prepare for and adapt to the rising sea level, changing shoreline and future flood risk.
- Prepare for and adapt to more frequent and more severe 'extreme weather' events.
- Work in partnership through the Cumbria Resilience Forum to create stronger more resilient communities and a more resilient local environment.
- Work in partnership to focus on the most vulnerable communities, adapting and retrofitting homes to reduce fuel poverty and create warmer homes.

Additional action planning

In addition to these programmes, action planning will be incorporated into the following planning processes and partnership working:

- The Community Panels and Community Networks²²
- Internal: Asset Management Strategy and Plans; Fleet Strategy; Human Resources Strategy; approach to procurement and commissioning; Transformation Programme and Capital Programme; and service planning
- Local Area Energy Plan²³, in partnership with Electricity North West (summer 2024)
- Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership: Cumbria Decarbonisation Plan (autumn 2024)

Timescales

This first strategy is for 2024-2027, the same timescale as our first Cumberland Council Plan. The programmes are presented in the table (Pages 26-27) using the following definition of timescales:

Short term: Progress will be made within the next two financial years (2024/25 & 2025/26).

Medium term: Progress will be made within the Council Plan, ending in 2027.

Long term: Progress will continue beyond 2027.

²² [Community Power Report](#)

²³ [Local Area Energy Plan](#)

Carbon and Energy Management Plan

The Carbon and Energy Management Plan forms part of the overarching Climate and Nature Strategy and focuses on reducing energy and carbon emissions from our Council assets, services and supply chain. It is through this Plan that we will set our Council's targets for emission reduction and the route to Net Zero.

We have set interim targets for the decarbonisation of our services in line with the UK Carbon Budget 5-yearly accounting cycles, our first interim targets will be for 2023-2027.

- By March 2027 we will reduce our GHG emissions of scope 1 and scope 2 by 18% from the baseline year.
- By March 2027 we will reduce our GHG emissions across all scopes²⁴ (1,2 and 3) by 2% from the baseline year.

The baseline year for the Council is the financial year 2023/24, the Council's inaugural year. The total emissions forecasted for the baseline year are 140,316 tonnes²⁵ of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). These are split across all three emissions scopes:

- Scope 1 at 6%
- Scope 2 at 3% .
- 91% are attributable to the Scope 3 GHG emissions reflecting the magnitude of the services provided by the Council's supply chain.

The source of emissions across each scope are wide ranging with the most significant sources being:

- Buildings – including offices, care homes and crematoria
- Transport – including staff travel and fuel use in fleet vehicles
- Supply chain – including emissions from Capital Programme (including highways, suppliers and external care suppliers)

The Councils approach to energy savings and carbon reduction follows these significant sources, targeting elements within them to establish emission reduction pathways.

Buildings are the largest generator of Scope 1 and 2 emissions for the Council. This includes both the energy used by the building systems, such as lighting and heating, as well as the plant and equipment, and office systems used by the occupants. The measures identified to reduce these emissions follow a hierarchy of activities and include:

- Behaviour change
- Building fabric improvements
- Energy reduction measures including the upgrading of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, changing from fossil fuel to electric heat pumps, and a programme to replace the existing lighting with LEDs and domestic hot water (DHW) generation systems.
- Where appropriate local solar PV installations and small-scale wind generation may be installed on or around buildings.

The management of emissions from buildings will be a driver for the Asset Management Strategy and Plans.

²⁴ [Greenhouse Gas Protocol](#)

²⁵ The baseline is modelled on spend for all Council services

Transport will follow two principal strategies for the management of GHG emissions:

- improve management and staff training to ensure that the existing plant and equipment is being used efficiently.
- where possible, implement alternative fuelled vehicles such as EV cars and vans. Low carbon fuel replacements for the diesel fuelled vehicles include HVO, a biofuel alternative, and when fully developed 'green' hydrogen should be implemented.

The management of emissions from transport and plant will be a driver for the Fleet Strategy.

The supply chain accounts for approximately 127,000 tCO₂e and is the greatest proportion of Council emissions. The strategy recognises that the emissions associated with the delivery of these services are outside of the direct control of the Council but through influence, active engagement and encouragement with the service providers emissions reductions can be achieved.

The supply chain includes the purchases and contracts required for the operation and delivery of services, in particular delivery of the Capital Programme (including highways contracts) and the operation of care services.

The strategy for improvements in this area will be developed in 2024/25 and will be a driver for our approach to procurement, commissioning and social value.

Residual emissions are those left after the reduction measures have been implemented. The Council will set out a plan for the management of residual emissions in 2024/25. This plan will include options such as:

- 'offsetting' through Council land or in partnership through an approved code (Sequestration)
- utilising 'insetting' through development of renewable energy on Council land, buildings or through partnerships
- identifying potential opportunities for Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage.

Natural Environment Management Plan

The Natural Environment Management Plan (NEMP) forms part of the overarching Climate and Nature Strategy. It focuses on protecting and enhancing nature with the assets we own and manage such as coastal land and public green spaces. We will develop the NEMP in 2024 to link directly to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)²⁶, which is to be adopted by winter 2024/25.

The NEMP will have improvement actions developed around the:

- 10 improvement goals and targets in the Environmental Improvement Plan²⁷
- The LNRS priorities and measures

Through the NEMP the Council will continue to deliver the following:

We will implement the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) 10% mandatory target and monitor progress through the Development Management Monitoring Report.

We will support the Cumbria Community Forest to achieve the goal of creating a minimum of 5,000 hectares of new woodland along a 56 mile stretch of the west coast over the next 25 years by:

- Supporting the creation and adoption of the first Cumbria Community Forest Plan (Adoption 2024/25)
- Working in partnership to deliver up to 150 hectares of trees, woodlands and forests being planted along the West Cumbria coast.
- Increase the average tree canopy to meet the Government's national target of 16.5% by 2050 (currently 12.8% across England, 12.9% in Carlisle, lower percentage on West Cumbria coast).
- At least one Council owned site in progress each year from 2024/25 through DEFRA Funding of Climate and Nature Fund.

The Council is a partner in the Planting for Pollinators and 'Cumbria's Plan Bee: A Pollinator Action Plan for Cumbria':

- We will ensure that the needs of pollinators are delivered through local plans and planning policy.
- We will increase the contribution of roadside verges to pollinator conservation.

Through Fibrus Broadband social-value funding we have secured resources for Planting for Pollinators. This means:

- We will work in partnership to deliver 6 new sites for pollinators in 2024 and 2025 (12 in total) across Cumbria.
- At least one Council owned site in progress each year from 2024/25.

As a partner and funder of the Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre we will:

- Help grow the Cumbria Biodiversity Evidence Base (CBEB) and improve analysis and predictive modelling.
- Work in partnership on Phase 1 & 2 of the County Wildlife Sites Project (jointly with Cumbria Wildlife Trust).

²⁶ In partnership with the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership (CLNP) and related workstreams

²⁷ [Environmental Improvement Plan \(EIP23\)](#)

Monitoring, reporting and reviewing

We will measure the overall progress against this strategy through the Cumberland Council Plan Delivery Plan. Each programme will have milestones and targets for deliverables, reported to the relevant boards and partnerships, all captured in monitoring reports.

A performance report summarising progress will be presented quarterly to the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

The key measures for this first strategy are:

Target	Monitoring
Continual emission decreases in the UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions (territorial) for Cumberland Council area figures over the lifetime of the strategy.	Annually (two years in arrears)
By March 2027 we will reduce our own GHG emissions of scope 1 and scope 2 by 18% from the baseline year.	Annually (in arrears)
By March 2027 we will reduce our own GHG emissions across all scopes (1,2 and 3) by 2% from the baseline year.	Annually (in arrears)
At least one Council owned site in progress for the Community Forest each year from 2024/25 through the DEFRA Nature for Climate Fund.	Annually
At least one Council owned site in progress for Planting for Pollinators each year from 2024/25 through the Fibrus funding.	Annually
Percentage of tracked actions on target for delivery, reported through the quarterly performance report.	Quarterly

We will look at all planning and licensing applications for evidence of increasing awareness of nature and climate-related issues and report on the improvements suggested and made.

Work is still underway with partners on the ZCCP Cumbria Decarbonisation Plan, and many topics require further investigation. We are committed to reviewing and updating this strategy to ensure that it remains relevant and significant.

At the very least, we will review the strategy annually, reporting any significant changes through the Portfolio Holder reports to Council.

Plan on a page

The climate and nature challenge

Cumberland is on the frontline of the climate emergency, and we are going to be amongst the hardest hit in the UK. Forewarned is forearmed and we must:

- Accelerate our mitigation, aiming to limit global warming to a maximum of 1.5°C
- Start adapting to a 2°C rise and assess the risks of a 4°C rise

Mitigation reduces the need to adapt; and alongside we must protect and enhance nature, our greatest ally as we face this challenge.

Climate and Nature Strategy 2024-2027

Through our Climate and Nature Strategy we will:

Proactively engage in making Cumbria carbon neutral by 2037 whilst embedding adaptation and creating a nature recovery network with an abundance of thriving plants and wildlife.

Objectives

- Adapting now to the changes we can expect over our lifetimes and beyond
 - Thriving plants and wildlife
- Growing the knowledge, skills, opportunities and inspiration for change
- Help create more sustainable places, practices, livelihoods and lifestyles

Our approach

23 Programmes for the detail on Council delivery

2 detailed underpinning management plans:

24 Partnerships working across the climate and nature challenge

Carbon and Energy Management Plan

Decarbonisation of buildings, fleet and supply chain

Carbon Footprint: 140,316 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e)

Reduction of Scope 1 & 2 GHG emissions of 18% by March 2027.

Reduction of all our GHG emissions of 2% by March 2027.

Natural Environment Management Plan

To be adopted in 2024/25

EIP 2023 goals and targets
Local Nature Recovery Strategy
(Priorities and measures)

Nature Networks
Biodiversity and Council assets
Natural Capital and Council assets

Baselining and opportunities for improvement (Nature Recovery Planning)

Over 50 linked plans and strategies

Partnership working

We support the following partnerships actively working on the climate and nature challenge:

Partnership	Mitigation	Adaptation	Protect and enhance nature
Cumberland Council area only			
Cumberland Joint Public Health Board		✓	
Food Cumberland Partnership	✓	✓	✓
Workington Nature Partnership	✓	✓	✓
Cumbria			
Cumbria Catchment Partnership ²⁸	✓	✓	✓
Cumbria Community Forest Partnership Board and the Community Forest Trust (Cumbria Community Forest)	✓	✓	✓
Cumbria Innovative Flood Resilience Programme partners		✓	✓
Cumbria Local Nature Partnership	✓	✓	✓
Cumbria Lead Local Flood Authority Partnership		✓	✓
Cumbria Resilience Forum		✓	
Education Partnerships	✓	✓	✓
Lake District National Park Partnership	✓	✓	✓
Nutrient Neutrality Board			✓
One Public Estate Programme Delivery Board	✓		
Planting for Pollinators Partners			✓
Transition Planning for Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership through Joint Executive	✓		
Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership	✓		
Regional			
Borderlands Partnership (Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal)	✓		✓
Integrated Care Boards and Integrated Care Systems		✓	
Nature North			✓
Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership	✓	✓	✓
North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee		✓	
North West Net Zero Hub	✓		
Solway Coast National Landscape Partnership	✓	✓	✓
Solway Firth Partnership	✓	✓	✓
Transport for the North	✓		

We will continue to be a good partner within these partnerships, bringing health and wellbeing into the heart of our joint work and bringing our shared values to life.

²⁸ We will include Tyne River Trust and equivalent organisation for the Border Esk.

Links to other strategies and plans

This strategy is linked to the following strategies and plans.

Linked internally to:

- [Council Plan Delivery Plan](#)
- [Community Engagement Framework](#)
- Asset Management Strategy and Plans, Fleet Strategy and Human Resources Strategy (Pending)
- Approach to [Procurement, commissioning and social value](#)
- [Community Panels Priorities](#)
- [Community Panel and Community Networks Neighbourhood Investment Plans \(8\)](#)
- [Transformation Programme](#) and [Capital Programme](#)
- Service Planning (22)
- Waste Reduction Plan

Linked externally to:

- [Borderland Inclusive Growth Deal](#)
- [Cumberland Council Plan](#)
- [Cumbria Geodiversity Statement and Action Plan](#)
- [Cumberland Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#)
- [Cumbria Local Nature Partnership Strategy](#)
- [Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#) (pending)
- [Cumbria Community Forest Plan](#) (pending)
- [Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership Plans and Strategies](#)
- [Environmental Improvement Plan \(EIP23\)](#)
- Economic Strategy (pending)
- [Solway Coast National Landscape \(AONB\) Management Plan](#)
- [Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children's services systems](#)
- [Transport for the North Decarbonisation Plan](#)
- [Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership Cumbria Decarbonisation Plan](#) (Pending)

Summary from Executive Portfolio Holder, Councillor Denise Rollo



Image description: photograph of Executive Portfolio Holder, Councillor Denise Rollo

This is our Council's first Climate and Nature Strategy, so now the work begins. It has of course been going on for many years through our predecessor local authorities and since our inception in April 2023 and we expect it to continue over the years to come.

My Portfolio includes many of the delivery services which make the contents of this strategy become a reality, and I am proud of the work we have put into developing this strategy and our initial delivery to date.

As I say there is much work to do, and we have to recognise that local factors and national or international policies regularly change, while other aspects of change in the natural world may necessitate a development of our approach and so this strategy can only be current on the day we agreed it and then every time we agree a change, until the next time.

On that basis we want this strategy to be a living statement with a realistic approach from which we respond to local concerns and help to lead the way or sees us collaborating with our partners in business, in communities and in organisations all with climate and nature interests at their core.

We will be producing updates on progress through our reporting mechanisms to Council Members as well as through the environmental newsletter we produce, so sign up for that if you are keen to follow our progress. We are a listening council with health and wellbeing at the centre of everything we do, and the climate and nature of this beautiful area around us is vital to ensuring we and those who follow us recognise and respect what we have done.

Glossary

Abbreviation/term	Meaning
Adaptation	Adaptation refers to the adjustments in ecological, social or economic systems in response to actual or expected climatic changes and their effects.
Biodiversity	Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth. This includes the diversity of genes, organisms, populations and species through to ecosystems; with ecosystems seen here as broadly identical to habitats.
Carbon neutral	Carbon Neutral means that any CO ₂ released into the atmosphere is balanced by an equivalent amount being removed.
CO ₂ e	A quantity that measures the global warming potential of any mixture of greenhouse gases using the equivalent amount or concentration of carbon dioxide.
Decarbonisation	The reduction of the carbon emissions from an emitting system or process.
EIP (EIP 23)	Environment Improvement Plan 2023. The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023 for England is the first revision of the 25 Year Environment Plan (25 YEP).
Greenhouse Gases (GHG)	There are seven major Greenhouse Gases: Carbon dioxide (CO ₂), Methane (CH ₄), Nitrous Oxide (N ₂ O), Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), Perfluorocarbons (PFCs), Sulphur hexafluoride (SF ₆), Nitrogen trifluoride (NF ₃)
GHG Scope 1	Direct GHG emissions from buildings, plant and vehicles owned or controlled by an organisation, e.g. natural gas used in boilers or fuel used in company owned vehicles.
GHG Scope 2	Indirect emissions associated with purchased energy consumed, e.g. grid supplied electricity.
GHG Scope 3	All other indirect emissions that occur in the supply chain, e.g. business travel, purchased goods and maintenance contracts.
Insetting	The reduction of emissions by the implementation of measures such as re-forestation, renewable energy and regenerative agriculture within an organisation's own management scope.
Mitigation	Decreasing the amount of GHG emissions released into the atmosphere and reducing the current concentration of carbon dioxide (CO ₂) by enhancing sinks, such as increasing the area of forests.
Natural Capital	The elements of nature that directly or indirectly produce value to people, including ecosystems, species, freshwater, land, minerals, the air and oceans, as well as natural processes and functions.
Net Zero	Net Zero means that any greenhouse gases released into the environment are balanced by an equivalent amount being removed.
Nature Recovery Network	A national network of wildlife-rich places to increase and restore nature.
Residual Emissions	The estimated emissions left after the reduction measures have been implemented.
Sequestration	The process of capturing, securing and storing of CO ₂ from the atmosphere in either a solid or dissolved form. This can be either by a biological or geological process, creating a natural carbon store.
Zoning (Heat Networks)	Designated zones where heat networks are expected to offer the lowest-cost solution for decarbonising heat.

No.	Programmes	Lead Director/Assistant Director	Portfolio Holder	Partnership/Delivery Partner(s)	Timescales
Theme: Energy and green growth					
1	Prepare for the new energy security and decarbonisation opportunities.	Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport/Assistant Director of Thriving Place and Investment	Leader's	Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) ²⁹	Long term
2	Working in partnership to keep our local industries globally competitive by supporting decarbonisation of energy intensive processes.	Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport/Assistant Director of Climate and Waste	Leader's	LEP	Long term
3	Prepare for the new heat energy decarbonisation opportunities of Zoning and Heat Networks.	Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport/Assistant Director of Thriving Place and Investment	Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places	North West Net Zero Hub/LEP	Medium term
4	Deliver the climate and nature co-benefits set out in the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal (BIGD) Energy Masterplan and Energy Investment Programme, BIGD Carlisle Station Gateway, Citadels & Place Programme; Town Deals Projects; Future High Street Funds Projects; Levelling Up Projects; and UK Single Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Projects	Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport/Assistant Director of Thriving Place and Investment	Cross-cutting	Place Boards (internal)	Short term
5	Work in partnership to grow the skills and training needed for green growth and nature recovery.	Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport/Assistant Director of Thriving Place and Investment	Leader's	LEP/ Land and Nature Skills Service for Cumbria	Short term
6	Deliver the Carbon and Energy Management Plan focused on our own Council assets and services.	Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport/Assistant Director of Climate and Waste Director of Resources/Assistant Director of Corporate Assets and Fleet	Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places / Vibrant and Healthy Places	Internal	Long term
Theme: Food and waste					
7	Deliver the Food Cumberland Strategic Framework	Director of Public Health and Communities/Assistant Director of Communities and Localities	Governance and Thriving Communities	Food Cumberland Partnership	Long term
8	Review our waste service and prepare for a new waste strategy and disposal contract, meeting the new guidance and duties.	Assistant Director of Public Health and Protection Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport/Assistant Director of Climate and Waste	Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places	Shared Service Board	Short term
Theme: Infrastructure, housing and transport					
9	Deliver Saint Cuthbert's Garden Village (StCGV) as a showcase of new climate wise and nature positive design codes and the innovative 'starting with the park' project.	Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport/Assistant Director of Thriving Place and Investment	Cumberland Policy and Regulatory Services	StCGV Board	Long term
10	Deliver the Transport Infrastructure Plan. Promoting active travel and digital infrastructure as enablers of inclusive economic growth and supporting the health and wellbeing of our communities and the decarbonisation of transport networks.	Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport/ Assistant Director of Highways and Transport	Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places	Internal	Long term
11	Deliver the Local Cycling and walking Infrastructure Plan (CWIP) and Local Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (LEVI) to decarbonise transport.	Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport/ Assistant Director of Highways and Transport	Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places	Internal	Long term
Theme: Finance, investment and policy					
12	Develop the evidence base and policies for the first Local Plan for Cumberland and its Sustainability Appraisal.	Assistant Chief Executive/ Assistant Director of Strategy and Policy	Cumberland Policy and Regulatory Services	Internal	Medium term
13	Support the delivery and adoption of the first Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and Nature Recovery Network for Cumbria, exploring the potential for nature recovery and natural capital investment.	Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport/Assistant Director of Climate and Waste	Cumberland Policy and Regulatory Services / Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places	LNRS Board / Local Nature Partnership / Solway Firth Partnership	Short term

²⁹ Transitional arrangements through Joint Executive

No.	Programmes	Lead Director/Assistant Director	Portfolio Holder	Partnership/Delivery Partner(s)	Timescales
Theme: Nature and natural capital					
14	Deliver the Local Investment in Natural Capital (LINCS) Project and the BIGD Natural Capital opportunity.	Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport/Assistant Director of Climate and Waste	Leader's	BIGD Partnership / Local Nature Partnership	Short term
15	Work in partnership to tackle the challenge of nutrient neutrality on the river Eden and upper parts of river Derwent and Bassenthwaite Lake (SAC) and realise the opportunities and benefits of a countywide approach to Biodiversity Net Gain.	Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport/Assistant Director of Thriving Place and Investment	Cumberland Policy and Regulatory Services / Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places	Nutrient Neutrality Board / Natural England	Medium term
16	Work in partnership to protect and grow more community trees, woodland, wildflowers, saltmarsh and seagrass for the benefit of local people and nature.	Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport/Assistant Director of Climate and Waste	Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places / Cumberland Policy and Regulatory Services	Nature Partnership/RAISE (Cumbria Community Forest) & Forestry England / Cumbria Wildlife Trust /	Long term
17	Mitigate the impact of major developments through additional investment in nature enhancement and recovery (Biodiversity Net Gain) and emission reduction plans.	Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport/Assistant Director of Thriving Place and Investment	Cumberland Policy and Regulatory Services	Place Boards (internal)	Long term
18	Work in partnership to connect people to nature, through new access and volunteering opportunities, benefiting our health and wellbeing.	Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport/Assistant Director of Climate and Waste	Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places	Local Nature Partnership / Natural England/ Rivers Trust	Short term
19	Deliver the Natural Environment Management Plan, focused on our own Council assets and services.	Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport/Assistant Director of Climate and Waste Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods	Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places / Vibrant and Healthy Places	Internal	Long term
Theme: People, risk and resilience					
20	Prepare for and adapt to the rising sea level, changing shoreline and future flood risk.	Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport/Assistant Director of Climate and Waste	Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places	North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee/ Cumbria Lead Local Flood Authority Partnership /Cumbria Catchment Partnership	Long term
21	Prepare for and adapt to more frequent and more severe 'extreme weather' events.	Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport/Assistant Director of Climate and Waste	Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places	Cumbria Catchment Partnership / Cumbria Lead Local Flood Authority Partnership Cumbria Resilience Forum (CRF)	Long term
22	Work in partnership through the Cumbria Resilience Forum to create stronger more resilient communities and a more resilient local environment.	Director of Public Health and Communities/ Assistant Director of Public Health and Protection	Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places	CRF	Short term
23	Work in partnership to focus on the most vulnerable communities, adapting and retrofitting homes to reduce fuel poverty and create warmer homes.	Director of Adult Social Care and Housing/ Assistant Director of Operation	Children, Family Wellbeing and Housing	Strategic Housing Board	Long term

Short term: Progress will be made within the next two financial years (2024/25 & 2025/26).

Medium term: Progress will be made within the Council Plan, ending in 2027.

Long term: Progress will continue beyond 2027.



Cumberland Council

Carbon and Energy Management Plan

2024-2027

Date created: 05/07/24

Version: 1.0

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Foreword

As Executive Portfolio Holder for Cumberland Policy and Regulatory Services I am delighted to present our first Carbon and Energy Management Plan. At Cumberland Council we are committed to taking a leading role in tackling the climate emergency and building environmental resilience. As a new unitary authority, we have an opportunity to reset and rebuild putting climate and the natural environment at the forefront of our decision making and in turn benefitting the health and wellbeing of our people, our nation, our planet.

Our world continues to warm despite the current efforts of Nations, Governments, businesses, and individuals to mitigate the causes of global temperature rise. Record temperatures are regularly being reported and the frequency and severity of storms and droughts continues to cause long lasting devastation.

This existential global threat must be tackled through the mitigating effects of decarbonisation. Despite current efforts there is increasing doubt that global temperature rise can be held below the recognised target of 1.5°C. This is the battle of our generation and of generations to come, we must double down on our efforts and fight climate change on all fronts.

In Cumberland, the consequences of climate change have been clearly visible through more extreme weather events bringing storms, high winds, flooding, and blurring the lines between seasons. The devastation caused is widespread, impacting our homes, livelihoods, agriculture, and the natural environment.

We cannot sit back and rely on 'others' to decarbonise, the challenge is incumbent upon us all. This plan sets out the approach for our services, showing where we can directly influence positive change for the long term.

The climate and environmental emergency will be at the forefront of our decision making and policy development. We will encourage others and lead by example in using resources sustainably. We will look to empower and support local communities in their own low carbon transition. Preference will be given to low carbon or carbon neutral alternatives in what we buy and how we work. Collectively we aim to make a fair and just transition to a more sustainable Council and Cumberland.



Image description:
photograph of Executive
Portfolio Holder,
Councillor Bob Kelly

Introduction

There can be no doubt that global warming and climate change are drastically and detrimentally affecting the world in which we live. At any given time, there is visible evidence of the impact that the warming effect of greenhouse gas emissions (carbon emissions) is having on our planet. Global air and sea temperatures are reaching record highs; sea levels are rising; storms and extreme weather events are more frequent and severe; we see widespread flooding in some areas and catastrophic drought in others; our polar ice caps are in decline; and the challenges to our natural world continue to grow.

There's an increasing consensus that we are now at a tipping point, the point at which some of the damage caused may be irreversible. We need to push harder and faster towards mitigating the impact we are having on the planet. By slowing our rate of consumption and reducing energy use and wastage, we can lower carbon emissions. Lowering emissions and ultimately reaching Net Zero emissions will have a major impact on halting global warming and climate change.

Cumberland Council's first Carbon and Energy Management Plan (CEMP) sets out the targets, objectives and measures necessary to mitigate our own contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and to climate change. It is a position statement and should be read as a working plan for next three years (2024-2027).

The CEMP is driven by the overarching principles of the Council's Climate and Nature Strategy¹, and brings enhanced focus on the need to mitigate by minimising our energy consumption, and reducing our carbon emissions.

Since the establishment of the Climate Change Act 2008, and its amendment in 2019, there has been a significant increase in the strength and depth of legislation and policy supporting and driving carbon emissions reduction in the UK. This includes the Carbon Budget Delivery Plan and its series of ambitious Carbon Budgets leading the UK to its legally binding requirement of Net Zero by 2050.

The Council is committed to playing its part in helping the UK reach its targets of Net Zero by 2050 and emissions reductions of 68% by 2030 relative to 1990 levels. To achieve this Cumberland Council will be a partner to government, enabling national infrastructure and delivering interventions that get the UK back on track².

Alongside our partnering and enabling role we will directly address our own environmental impact through focussed energy and carbon reduction interventions. This Carbon and Energy Management Plan focuses on reducing the energy consumption and carbon emissions of our Council assets, services and supply chain. It is through this Plan that we will identify our own emission reduction strategies, our own targets for carbon reduction, and ultimately our own route to Net Zero.

¹ Add link to Climate and Nature Strategy

² <https://www.theccc.org.uk/2023/10/12/ccc-assessment-of-recent-announcements-and-developments-on-net-zero/>

Cumberland Council Plan

The Cumberland Council Plan³ has the central aim of Improving Health and Wellbeing of the people of Cumberland with 4 key areas of focus:

- Local economies that work for local people
- **Environmental resilience and climate emergency**
- Delivering excellent public services
- Addressing inequalities

The Council's priorities shape our approach and give a sense of what residents can expect from us:

- Accessible and trusted services
- Listening, involving, and engaging
- Learning and improving
- Prevention and early intervention
- Collaborative work (one council approach)
- Leadership
- Local first
- Driving Change
- **Sustainability**



Sustainability

Sustainability and resilience will be key challenges for Cumberland and the Council. We will always approach these challenges with the long term in mind. We will not make short term decisions or undertake activity that impacts on our ability or the ability of the area to meet its future needs.

We will manage our finances sustainably and deliver value for money for our residents as we continue to operate in a challenging budget context. Our decisions will be the result of robust processes and have long term benefits whilst improving our financial health.

The climate and environmental emergency will be at the forefront of our decision making and policy development. We will encourage others to do the same and set an example in using resources sustainably, looking for low carbon or carbon neutral alternatives in what we buy and how we work. Making a fair and just transition to a more sustainable Council and Cumberland.

³ [https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/Cumberland Council Plan](https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/Cumberland%20Council%20Plan)

Climate and Nature Strategy

Cumberland Council's Climate and Nature Strategy⁴ sets out how we will tackle the climate emergency and build environmental resilience across the whole of the Council. It sets out the objectives (mitigation, adaptation, enhancing the natural environment), commitments and programmes that the Council will deliver for climate and for nature. The themes in this strategy include matters that are within the Council's control, directly or indirectly, and matters where the Council can use its influence for positive change.

This Carbon and Energy Management Plan is a key component of the overarching Climate and Nature Strategy and focuses on mitigation by reducing energy and carbon emissions of our Council assets, services, and supply chain. It is through this Plan that we will set and deliver on our targets for emissions reduction and our route to Net Zero.

⁴ Add link to Climate and Nature Strategy

Carbon Accounting

The carbon accounting baseline year for the Council is the financial year 2023/24, the Council's inaugural year.

To support this management plan, an annual greenhouse gas emissions inventory, resulting from the Council's activities and operations, was required. A significant proportion of this inventory has been developed using financial budgets for the baseline year, alongside direct consumption figures for elements such as vehicle fuels, domestic gas and electricity use in our buildings.

The resulting total emissions baseline covers the Council's operations between April 2023 and March 2024 and breaks down this total into Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. For global reporting standardisation, the total GHG emissions are collectively referred to in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e), or carbon emissions.

The three different scopes of emissions used in carbon reporting are explained below:

Table 1: Definitions of Scope 1, 2, 3 emissions

Category	Description
Scope 1	Direct GHG emissions from buildings, plant and vehicles owned or controlled by the Council e.g. natural gas used in boilers or fuel used by council owned vehicles
Scope 2	Indirect emissions associated with purchased energy consumed by the Council e.g. grid supplied electricity
Scope 3	All other indirect emissions that occur in the Council's supply chain e.g. business travel, purchased goods and maintenance contracts

The total emissions forecasted⁵ for the baseline year are 140,316 tCO₂e. This figure is currently based upon financial budget figures and will be subject to an update in Summer 2024 when the final outturn costs are available. These emissions are spread across the three scopes as noted below.

Table 2: Forecast tCO₂e for baseline year

Scopes	tCO ₂ e	Proportion
Scope 1 (estimate)	8,634	6.2%
Scope 2 (estimate)	4,353	3.1%
Scope 3 (estimate)	127,328	90.7%
Carbon Baseline (estimate)	140,316	100%

⁵ Forecast emissions are modelled on financial budgets and applicable Carbon factors. The forecasted⁵ emissions will be replaced with actual emissions based on final outturn costs for the baseline year. Metered energy units and factors for scope 1 and scope 2 will be used in future years. Scope 3 will continue to be based on outturn figures and 'best fit' factors until the review in 2026.

Of the total emissions calculated, 91% of the baseline is attributable to Scope 3. This is significantly greater than the combined Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions and reflects the magnitude of the services provided by the Council's supply chain, many of whom are based in Cumbria.

6% of emissions lie within Scope 1, mostly via the combustion of gas in our buildings and fuel in our vehicles.

3% are Scope 2 emissions associated with our consumption of electricity.

The proportional split of Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions are consistent with analysis undertaken by recognised bodies such as the Carbon Trust.

The most significant sources of carbon emissions are:

- **Buildings** - including offices, commercial, health & care.
- **Transport** - including fuel used in fleet and highways, Port of Workington, staff travel, commuting.
- **Supply chain** – procurement, including emissions from Capital Programme (including highways, suppliers and external care suppliers), waste, service providers.

Buildings GHG Emissions

Buildings are the largest generator of Scope 1 and 2 emissions for the Council. This includes both the energy used by the building systems (lighting, heating, plant,..), and the office systems (ICT, equipment,..) used by the occupants.

The Council has close to 1400 property assets and additional assets shared with Westmorland & Furness Council.

Table 3: Count of asset type

Asset Type	Number of Assets
Building Only	42
Building Only (shared)	3
Land & Buildings	477
Land Only	870
Land Only (shared)	1
Total	1393

Cumberland Council owns and occupies a large and diverse property portfolio, with a mix of tenures ranging from small easements through to leasehold and freehold ownership. The land and buildings in the portfolio include:

- Adult Social Care Homes
- Children's Services – schools, homes and centres
- Depots
- Dixons Chimney, Carlisle
- Economic Development
- Industrial sites
- Land

- Libraries
- Museums
- Office buildings
- Registrar's offices
- Waste Management Sites
- Port of Workington

The energy related emissions associated with our buildings total almost 8,500 tCO₂e, this is the combined figure for gas, fuel oil and electricity consumption. This figure excludes operational fuel use.

Transport GHG Emissions

There are currently 438 vehicles in the fleet, not counting vehicles operated by Allerdale Waste Services Limited (a Local Authority Trading Co. for waste collection). The fleet includes a mix of vehicles that are fully owned by the Council and some which are on lease / contract hire. A summary of the fleet is provided in table 4, reflecting the diverse range of services provided by the Council.

Most of the vehicles on the Council's fleet are powered by diesel engine, refer to Table 5. The electric vehicles on the council fleet tend to be cars or light vans, therefore, the 5% in quantity does not equate to a 5% reduction in fleet related carbon emissions. Through the scheduled vehicle replacement programme, petrol and diesel vehicle numbers will fall with electric alternatives taking their place.

Table 4: Summary of fleet and plant

Fleet and Plant	Count
Cars including pool cars	52
Minibus / accessible minibus	52
4X4 pick-up / Landrover	20
Gritting vehicle	14
Gully wagon	3
Hook-loader skip vehicle	2
MEWP (Mobile Elevated Work Platform)	9
Pick-up / tipper	97
RCV (Refuse / Recycling Collection Vehicle)	40
Ride-on mowers	8
ATV (All-terrain vehicle)	1
Sweeper (road / pavement)	10
Tele-handler / front-loader / fork-lift	7
Tractor	5
Van (various sizes)	111
Mobile staff welfare unit	6
Mobile library vehicle	1
TOTAL	438

Table 5: Fleet fuel type

Fuel type	Number	Percentage (%)
Diesel	410	94
Hybrid	2	0.5
Electric	22	5
HVO (fuel trial)	4	1

The Council operates over 100 heavy vehicles (>7.5ton) including a large fleet of refuse and recycling collection vehicles operating in our streets and towns each day. A typical 26ton diesel powered refuse collection vehicle will return about 4-6mpg. At present, electric power RCVs are not viable for the loads and roads of Cumbria, however biofuels such as HVO are being explored.

The vehicle fuel related emissions associated with our transport fleet and pool cars total over 5,000 tCO₂e, this is the combined figure for petrol, red and white diesel consumption. Figure excludes contracted waste service fuel, grey fleet and hire cars.

Supply Chain GHG Emissions

The Council procures and commissions circa £300M annually on supplies and services for Cumberland.

The main areas of expenditure include:

- waste services
- health and social care
- educational needs
- ICT / computing
- community services

The emissions relating to procurement of supplies and services total 54,000 tCO₂e.

The supplies and services form a large proportion of our total revenue-based Scope 3 emissions of almost 90,000 tCO₂e.

In addition to the revenue-based emissions, our supply chain emissions also include those generated from the Capital Programme⁶ which in the baseline year total over 37,000 tCO₂e.

The combined supply chain accounts for approximately 127,000 tCO₂e

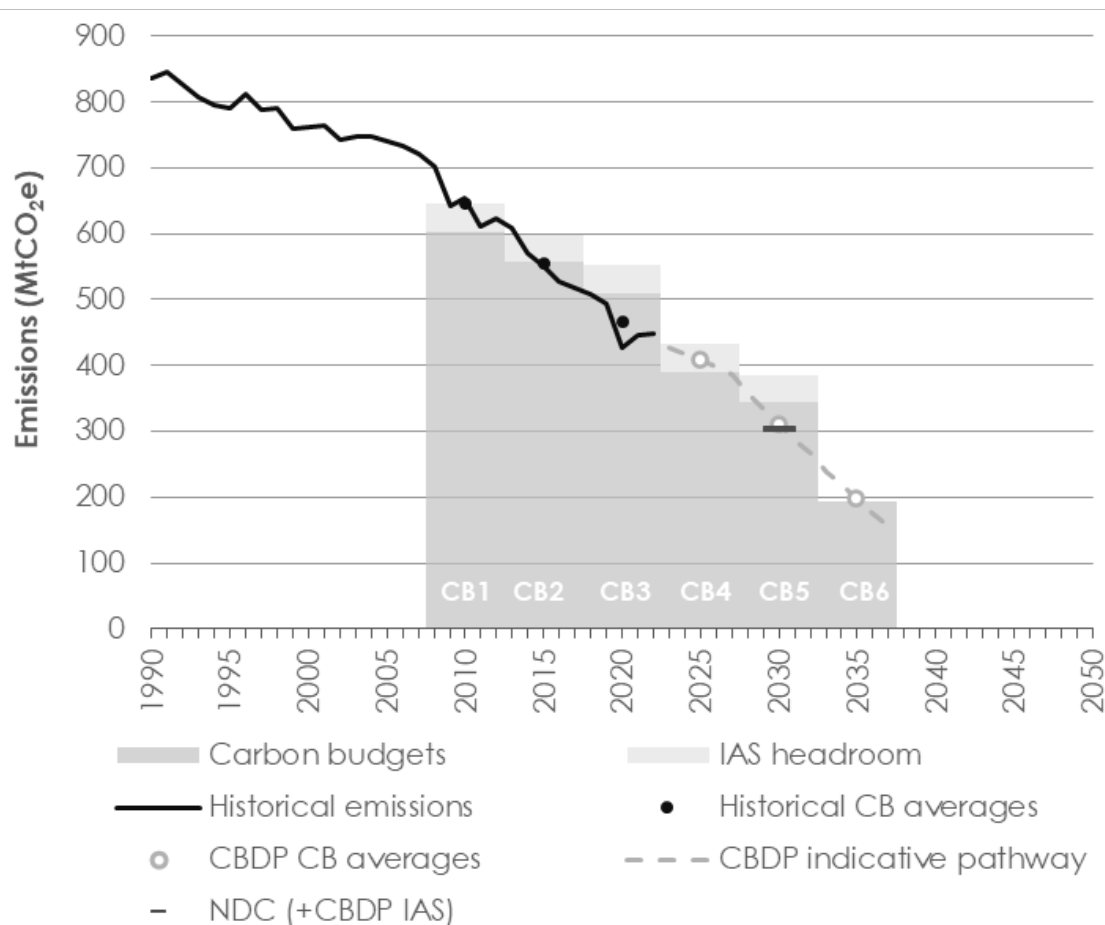
⁶ Capital Programme emissions were calculated on 2023/24 expenditure, the council's inaugural year. It is likely that capital spends in coming years will increase resulting in higher emissions.

Carbon Reduction Targets

The Climate Change Act 2008⁷ is the basis for the UK's approach to tackling climate change and provides an overall framework for climate mitigation and adaptation action across the UK. It requires that emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are reduced and that climate change risks are adapted to.

These requirements are underpinned by legally binding emissions targets set out as five-yearly carbon budgets. These carbon budgets set a cap on the total GHG emissions permissible for the UK to decarbonise and meet its overall Net Zero 2050 commitments.

Figure 1: UK historical emissions, the Government's pathway and the UK's targets. [Source: Climate Change Committee 2023 Progress Report to Parliament - June 2023]



Cumberland Council is a new unitary authority established on 1st April 2023. Like our predecessors, we are committed to becoming Carbon Net Zero and playing our part in helping the UK reach its targets of Net Zero by 2050. To achieve this Cumberland Council will be a partner to government, enabling national infrastructure and delivering interventions that get the UK back on track.⁸ We will work with partners to influence national decision making to

⁷ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>

⁸ [Progress towards reaching Net Zero in the UK - Climate Change Committee \(theccc.org.uk\)](https://theccc.org.uk/progress-towards-reaching-net-zero-in-the-uk)

accelerate green growth in Cumbria, recognising the partnership target of a carbon neutral county by 2037.

As a new council we also recognise the unique opportunity to take stock and review the approach taken towards our own carbon and energy reduction targets. This is particularly pertinent given the current financial pressures experienced here and in many other local authorities across the country.

The Climate Change Act is credited with helping the UK to deliver sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions alongside a growing economy. As a proven model we have therefore adopted a similar approach to target setting.

We have set our interim targets for the decarbonisation of our services in line with the UK Carbon Budget 5-yearly accounting cycles. Our initial interim targets will be for 2023-2027 cycle and are set out below.

Reductions targets for future accounting cycles will be set in advance following the final mid-year review of that period.

Table 6: Cumberland Council target setting cycles

UK Carbon Budget cycle	Target setting (mid-year)
2023 - 2027	April 2024
2027 - 2032	September 2026
2032 - 2037	September 2031
2037 - 2042	September 2036
2042 - 2047	September 2041
2047 - 2050	September 2046

Interim Targets

As we are a new council continuing through Local Government Reorganisation and currently developing our medium-term financial plan, we have chosen to set interim emissions reduction targets.

The use of interim targets does not preclude the development and deployment of carbon and energy saving initiatives that will reduce our baseline and bring us closer to net zero. Nor does it prevent revenue saving/generating initiatives that might support our financial position and support potential opportunities for climate related investment and action.

By March 2027 we will aim to reduce our GHG emissions from Scope 1 and Scope 2 by 18% from the baseline year.

By March 2027 we will aim reduce our GHG emissions across all scopes (1,2 and 3) by a total of 2% from the baseline year.

Targets for the period beyond March 2027 will be set in September 2026 at a point where realistic and suitably ambitious reductions can be determined. These will then follow a 5-year review cycle in step with Governments Carbon Budget cycle.

Delivering decarbonisation and energy savings

The pace of Local Authority decarbonisation is heavily influenced by Public Sector/Government funding opportunities, national incentives and preferences, developing/emerging technologies, private sector partnerships and prudent investments. We will strive to make best use of these (and others) to deliver against our targets and wherever feasible look to accelerate our progress.

We will deliver this strategy through a combination of **direct control** and **influence** (Table 7). The approach and methods of delivering the necessary carbon and energy reductions are expected to evolve over time and will be influenced by our overarching Climate and Nature Strategy. The Strategy, through its themes, programmes and plans, will support the introduction of energy and carbon saving opportunities such as the heat energy decarbonisation opportunities of Heat Zoning and Networks, and the sequestration potential incumbent to nature recovery and habitat improvements.

Table 7: Controlling and influencing.

Spheres	Example
Direct Control	Council's Assets and Fleet; Operations; Workforce
Indirect Control	Procurement and commissioning Development Control; Local Plan; Transport Planning; Waste strategy
Influence	Town and Parish Councils; Place and thematic partnerships; Community Groups Communications and engagement; consultation responses on national policy

The energy hierarchy is also used as the basis for developing business strategies delivering decarbonisation and energy savings. The hierarchy is:

- **Prevent** – the need for energy consumption by ensuring that the wastage is avoided or reduced.
- **Reduce** – the amount of energy consumed by the upgrade of the current building systems and equipment to equivalent and more efficient systems.
- **Recover** – ‘used’ energy and resources and re-use where there is an opportunity.
- **Replace** – the energy consumed with renewable energy supply options.

Delivering decarbonisation and energy savings can be **transformational actions** that are ‘invest to save’. These actions will deliver against the first versions of the: **Asset Management Strategy, Fleet Strategy, Procurement and Commissioning** approach and **Workforce Strategy** (as well as fitting with the Council’s Target Operating Model).

We will deliver energy and carbon emissions savings through four target areas, which collectively form the Carbon and Energy Management Plan:

- **Buildings**
- **Transport**
- **Supply chain**
- **Residual Emissions**

Buildings Emissions Management

Buildings are the largest generator of Scope 1 and 2 emissions for the Council. This includes both the energy used by the building systems, such as lighting and heating, as well as the plant and equipment, such as catering, and office systems used by the occupants.

The Corporate Asset Management Group has prepared an Asset Management Strategy⁹ (AMS). The three primary objectives of the AMS that are fundamental in enabling the Council to innovate and to thrive are:

- To provide suitable accommodation for Council services so that they can excel in their corporate plan objectives.
- To generate income and savings through effective property management and investment.
- To support a place-based approach and improve outcomes for residents, the economy, climate and the environment.

A Portfolio Review will begin in 2024/25 to decide which assets the Council will keep, release, and develop. This review will include benchmarking of an asset's potential, operational costs, condition, service suitability, and environmental impact and performance, etc.

As the portfolio review develops, and relevant buildings are identified, appropriate emissions management measures can be implemented. The measures identified to reduce the buildings emissions follow a hierarchy of activities and include behaviour change, building fabric improvements and energy reduction measures which will involve capital investment.

Emissions reduction opportunities for the target properties will include:

Behaviour change

- Ongoing delivery of an energy and emissions awareness programme
- Implementation of an energy use monitoring and targeting programme
- Building energy surveys to identify low and no cost opportunities and help shape improvement programmes

Building fabric improvements

- Fabric review including thermographic survey of the target properties to shape improvement programmes
- Upgrade of windows, external doors, improved loft/roof and wall/cavity insulation

Energy reduction measures

- Upgrade/replacement of existing lighting to LED
- Replacement of fossil fuel (gas/oil) and electric resistive heating with Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) or where necessary with A/C split system for heating/cooling
- Replacement of the fossil fuel and resistive heating of domestic hot water
- Replacement of the fossil fuel (gas/LPG) catering systems with electric systems
- Air Handling Unit (AHU) fan motor and controls upgrade
- Install occupancy controllers to the existing split systems

⁹ Insert link to Asset Management Strategy

- Integrate a continuous learning module with the existing Building Management System (Smart Buildings) in selected target buildings

Renewable energy

- Installing roof mounted solar PV wherever possible
- Consider small and medium size wind turbines in suitable locations

The management of emissions from buildings will be a driver for the Asset Management Strategy (AMS).

Transport Emissions Management

The Corporate Fleet Strategy¹⁰ brings together service areas, to address service and corporate fleet requirements to meet operational needs. This strategy which includes plant, machinery and equipment, sets out the Council's approach to fleet management to ensure that staff have access to vehicles that are fit for purpose, provide the lowest whole-life cost, and which help to minimise negative impacts on the local environment.

Fleet vehicles represent a significant financial investment, with significant associated health and safety risks, and therefore it is essential that vehicles are operated responsibly and managed as a single, key corporate asset - One Council, One Fleet.

There are two principal strategies for the management of the transport emissions:

Firstly, improve **management and staff training** to ensure that the existing vehicles, plant and equipment are being used efficiently.

Secondly, where practical, implement **low carbon fuels** or **electric powered** alternatives in vehicles, plant and equipment. This approach might include electric cars and vans (**EVs**), support the development of EV charging infrastructure, and adapt to low carbon fuel replacements such as **HVO** (a biofuel alternative) for the larger diesel fuelled vehicles, battery powered tools, etc. Emerging and developing opportunities such as 'green' hydrogen will also be explored and considered.

The conversion of the transport fleet has potential to start quickly but will be planned over a long-term programme to align with scheduled vehicle/plant replacement schedules, and to take advantage of any market changes that may occur over the coming years.

Management Process

- Investing in SAFED training (safe and fuel-efficient driving) or equivalent for drivers.
- Procuring and maintaining high performing, fuel efficient vehicles.
- Install telematics in all council fleet vehicles.
- Using bio-fuels and fuel additives to reduce harmful exhaust emissions.
- Introduce route optimisation software to regularly analyse journeys to identify opportunities to reduce business mileage levels.
- Minimise the use of grey fleet and business mileage.

¹⁰ Insert link to Corporate Fleet Strategy

- Require all staff driving for work and/or claiming business operational budget mileage to complete the e-learning eco-driving module.
- Making effective use of corporate fleet assets, from procurement to timely replacement, re-allocation, responsible disposal or asset transfer.

Infrastructure Upgrade

- Installation of EV charging points through the council estate. It is assumed that dependent upon the available power supply infrastructure, a number of charging points will be available at each of the council properties.

Emissions Reduction Technology

- Transition to biodiesel (e.g, HVO) for vehicles over 7.5 tonnes and diesel fuelled plant equipment. This will lead to a 90% reduction in CO₂.
- Installing rev-limiters and speed limiters to improve fuel efficiency and reduce harmful emissions.
- Installing cab-heaters, where cost effective, to improve staff welfare and cut fuel use.
- By 2035 all business car travel by battery electric car or similar ultra-low emission vehicles.
- Introduce a new Cycling and Walking Programme to enable active travel.
- Introduction of a pool of electric bikes and e-cargo bikes to encourage active travel where it is safe and appropriate to service delivery.

The management of emissions from transport and plant will be a driver for the Fleet Strategy.

Supply Chain Emissions Management

The principal focus of supply chain emissions management is the identification and reduction of emissions associated with the procurement of products, goods, services and contracts required for the operation and delivery of council services. This includes, amongst others, the delivery of the Capital Programme, Highways contracts, and the delivery of Care services.

The Procurement Act 2023, set to go live in October 2024, sets out the Government's main priorities for public procurement which include:

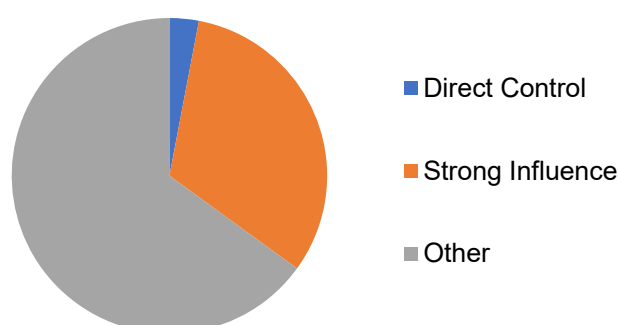
- Value for money
- Social Value
- Creating resilient businesses and opportunities for quality employment and skills development.
- Improving innovation, supply chain resilience and security of supply.
- Tackling climate change and reducing waste

Whilst we will not place onerous requirements on suppliers, or use disproportionate clauses in tenders and contracts, this legislation supports many of our objectives including addressing climate change through emissions reduction.

We recognise that the emissions associated with the delivery of these services are mostly outside of the direct control of the Council but through **active engagement and encouragement** with the service providers, improvements in emissions can be delivered.

Only 3% of greenhouse gas emissions in the Cumberland area are attributed to the Public Sector¹¹ (Figure 2) However, it is widely understood that a local authority's place-shaping powers and actions potentially influence around a third¹² of UK emissions. These are principally in the buildings, transport, waste and land-use sectors.

Figure 2: Local authority influence over greenhouse gas emissions in their area (source Local Government Association)



The greatest proportion of Council emissions falls within Scope 3 and are the most challenging to directly mitigate. Our Scope 3 decarbonisation opportunities can be split into three sub-categories (easy/medium/hard) with respect to the Council's ability to influence/encourage.

Easy

Those emissions that are directly associated with the day-to-day staff activities, this includes business travel, the use of personal and non-Council vehicles, and water and sewage (utilities) related emissions.

Medium

Outsourced services where the organisation is providing labour, and consumable goods, to manage and deliver a service on behalf of the Council. This includes the following:

- Schools and Adult service transport
- Operation of care homes, schools and day centres
- Roads and grounds maintenance
- Project delivery through the Capital Programme

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics>

¹² <https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/councillor-workbook-local-path-net-zero>

Difficult

The emissions associated with supply contracts associated with the servicing of schools, care homes and corporate food stuffs, and office consumable goods.

The Council will work with the supply chain to identify the carbon emissions associated with the products and services that they provide and help them to implement improvements to reduce their emissions. The strategy for improvements in this area will be developed in 2025/26 as the procurement and commissioning approach develops.

The management of supply chain emissions will be a driver for our approach to procurement and commissioning.

Residual Emissions Management

The Council will develop a plan for the management of residual emissions in 2024/25. This plan will include options such as:

- Utilising **insetting** through development of renewable energy schemes on Council land or in partnership (clean & green energy).
- Opportunities for **Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS)**.
- **Offsetting** through recognised sequestration methods on Council owned land or in partnership through an approved code (Sequestration).

Energy Budget

The Council budgeted to spend circa £4.5 million on energy in 2023/24 although the actual spend is expected to be higher due to ongoing volatility in energy markets. Future increases in this budget are set at the rate of 10% and form part of the Medium-Term Financial Plan. The magnitude of these costs is significant however they do offer an opportunity to target savings.

Table 8: Energy budgets for 2024/25

Energy	Budget 2024/25
Fuel for fleet and plant	TBC
Gas	TBC
Electricity	TBC

The Medium-Term Financial Plan identifies the need to review and assess the inflationary pressures caused by increasing energy costs and the impact across services and contracts.

These energy costs and the associated inflationary pressures can be reduced with the introduction of renewable energy generation such as solar PV. The Council has installed solar PV in seven property assets with more planned for this and coming years.

Table 9: Renewable generation (solar PV)

Building	Renewable micro-generation	Installed Peak Power	Target Annual Generation
Civic Centre, Carlisle	125 solar panels	31kW	23,000 kWh
Sands Centre, Carlisle	122 solar panels	30kW	22,000 kWh
Cumbria House, Carlisle	161 solar panels	42 kW	30,000 kWh
Blackwell Road, Carlisle	18 solar panels	6 kW	4,000 kWh
Parkhouse, Carlisle	238 solar panels	76 kW	54,000 kWh
Inglewood EPH, Wigton	102 solar panels	27 kW	20,000 kWh
Lillyhall Depot, Workington	128 solar panels	34 kW	24,000 kWh

The seven assets with solar PV installations contribute a total potential for generation of approximately 177,000 kWh per annum, resulting in energy cost savings of in the region of £55,000 (based on unit price of 31p/kWh). The carbon savings achievable on this level of generation are 36.5 tonnes CO₂e per annum. By scaling up our investment in on-site renewables, particularly solar PV, we can target further financial and carbon savings.

Cumberland is already a recognised source of renewal energy, and this can grow to support the needs of the Council and the UK. With careful consideration we will lead by example, reducing our emissions and investing in renewable energy generation.

Solar PV will form a significant part of the residual emissions management.

Monitoring Strategy

Measuring and reporting on progress against the Carbon and Energy Management Plan will be encompassed within the overarching Climate and Nature Strategy reporting. The strategy will measure progress through the Cumberland Council Plan Delivery Plan. Each programme will have milestones and targets for deliverables, all captured in regular monitoring reports.

To support the delivery of the measures identified in this plan, a monitoring programme will be established. The proposed monitoring strategy will provide:

- Mid-year review of the plan to assess and report on progress of delivery.
- Annual review and update of the emissions inventory report.
- Workshops to review progress and identify further measures that could be considered and the impact of any national policy and regulatory changes.
- Review and update of emissions reduction targets in line with 5-year carbon budgets.

Key Risks and opportunities

‘Do nothing’ will not deliver a managed reduction in the Council’s emissions, however, the emission reductions that would be delivered by the decarbonisation of the UK electricity grid and engagement of the UK supply chain with the national Net Zero obligation, will deliver reductions in the baseline emissions.

The management of Buildings Emission is supported by the projected decarbonisation of the UK national electricity grid supply. A reduction in the long-term grid emission targets will impact the amount of CO₂e savings delivered by the conversion from fossil fuelled to electric heating and electrically powered domestic hot water systems.

Cost savings, revenue generation, economics and social value are impacted by changes in electricity and natural gas prices. An increase in natural gas price will increase potential savings and improve the economic case for fossil fuel reduction. An increase in the electricity supply price will negatively affect the economics of converting from fossil fuel to electric systems but will support the investment in renewable energy generation systems.

Capital investment will flex with the needs of council services; the appetite to invest; project complexity and scale; and through legislative changes (such as 10% biodiversity net gain, and nutrient neutrality). Recognition and reconciliation must be given to the associated emissions increase caused by a higher spend on capital schemes.

Key Corporate Strategies and Plans

Table 10: Links to corporate strategies and plans

Relative importance (High: ✓✓✓, Medium: ✓✓, Low: ✓)			
Corporate Strategies and Plans	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3
Asset Management Strategy and Plans	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓
Fleet Strategy	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓
Procurement and Commissioning approach	✓	✓	✓✓✓
Workforce Strategy	✓	✓	✓
Capital Programme			✓✓✓

Plan on a Page

The climate and nature challenge

Cumberland is on the frontline of the climate emergency, and we are going to be amongst the hardest hit in the UK. Forewarned is forearmed and we must:

- Accelerate our mitigation, aiming to limit global warming to a maximum of 1.5°C
- Start adapting to a 2°C rise and assess the risks of a 4°C rise

Mitigation reduces the need to adapt; and alongside we must protect and enhance nature, our greatest ally as we face this challenge.

Climate and Nature Strategy 2024-2027

Through our Climate and Nature Strategy we will:

Proactively engage in making Cumbria carbon neutral by 2037 whilst embedding adaptation and creating a nature recovery network with an abundance of thriving plants and wildlife.

Objectives

- Adapting now to the changes we can expect over our lifetimes and beyond
 - Thriving plants and wildlife
- Growing the knowledge, skills, opportunities and inspiration for change
- Help create more sustainable places, practices, livelihoods and lifestyles

Our approach

23 Programmes for the detail on Council delivery

2 detailed underpinning management plans:

24 Partnerships working across the climate and nature challenge

Carbon and Energy Management Plan

Decarbonisation of buildings, fleet and supply chain

Carbon Footprint: 140,316 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e)

Reduction of Scope 1 & 2 GHG emissions of 18% by March 2027.

Reduction of all our GHG emissions of 2% by March 2027.

Natural Environment Management Plan

To be adopted in 2024/25

EIP 2023 goals and targets
Local Nature Recovery Strategy
(Priorities and measures)

Nature Networks
Biodiversity and Council assets
Natural Capital and Council assets

Baselining and opportunities for improvement
(Nature Recovery Planning)

Over 50 linked plans and strategies

Glossary

Abbreviation/term	Meaning														
Adaptation	Adaptation refers to the adjustments in ecological, social or economic systems in response to actual or expected climatic changes and their effects.														
Biodiversity	Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth. This includes the diversity of genes, organisms, populations and species through to ecosystems; with ecosystems seen here as broadly identical to habitats.														
Carbon neutral	Carbon Neutral means that any CO ₂ released into the atmosphere is balanced by an equivalent amount being removed.														
CO ₂ e	A quantity that measures the global warming potential of any mixture of greenhouse gases using the equivalent amount or concentration of carbon dioxide.														
Decarbonisation	The reduction of the carbon emissions from an emitting system or process.														
Greenhouse Gases (GHG)	There are seven major gases encompassed under Greenhouse Gases. These are, together with their respective Global Warming Potential (GWP):: <table> <tr> <td>Carbon dioxide (CO₂)</td><td>GWP 1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Methane (CH₄)</td><td>GWP 23</td></tr> <tr> <td>Nitrous Oxide (N₂O)</td><td>GWP 296</td></tr> <tr> <td>Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)</td><td>GWP 77 – 14,800</td></tr> <tr> <td>Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)</td><td>GWP 6,500 – 12,200</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆)</td><td>GWP 22,200</td></tr> <tr> <td>Nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃)</td><td>GWP 8,000</td></tr> </table>	Carbon dioxide (CO ₂)	GWP 1	Methane (CH ₄)	GWP 23	Nitrous Oxide (N ₂ O)	GWP 296	Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)	GWP 77 – 14,800	Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)	GWP 6,500 – 12,200	Sulphur hexafluoride (SF ₆)	GWP 22,200	Nitrogen trifluoride (NF ₃)	GWP 8,000
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Nitrogen trifluoride (NF ₃)	GWP 8,000														
GHG Scope 1	Direct GHG emissions from buildings, plant and vehicles owned or controlled by an organisation, e.g. natural gas used in boilers or fuel used in company owned vehicles.														
GHG Scope 2	Indirect emissions associated with purchased energy consumed, e.g. grid supplied electricity.														
GHG Scope 3	All other indirect emissions that occur in the supply chain, e.g. business travel, purchased goods and maintenance contracts.														
Insetting	The reduction of emissions by the implementation of measures such as re-forestation, renewable energy and regenerative agriculture within an organisation's own management scope.														
Offsetting	The purchase of a tradeable unit, representing emissions rights or emissions reductions, to balance the climate impact of an organisation, activity or individual.														
Mitigation	Decreasing the amount of GHG emissions released into the atmosphere and reducing the current concentration of carbon dioxide (CO ₂) by enhancing sinks, such as increasing the area of forests.														
Net Zero	Net Zero means that any greenhouse gases released into the environment are balanced by an equivalent amount being removed.														
Residual Emissions	The estimated emissions left after the reduction measures have been implemented.														
Sequestration	The process of capturing, securing and storing of CO ₂ from the atmosphere in either a solid or dissolved form. This can be either by a biological or geological process, creating a natural carbon store.														
Zoning (Heat Networks)	Designated zones where heat networks are expected to offer the lowest-cost solution for decarbonising heat.														

Natural Environment Management Plan ~ Outline

To be drafted in summer/autumn 2024

Adoption alongside Cumbria LNRS and Cumbria Community Forest Plan in autumn/winter 2024/25

Headers

Glossary

Introduction

- Cumbria and Cumberland
- Access to nature
- Council assets
- Resources
- Community Panels / Place-based projects

Strategies, policies and plans

- Council Plan
- Climate and Nature Strategy
- EIP
- 30 by 30
- BNG/Nutrient Neutrality
- Green Finance
- Local Plan (s)
- Building with Nature
- Geodiversity Statement
- CBDC Strategy and Business Plan
- Solway Coast National Landscape Management Plan
- Cumbria Community Forest Plan
- Cumbria Nature Recovery Strategy and Nature Networks
 - Map
 - Priorities and measures

Baselining Biodiversity

- Green and Blue Infrastructure
- Geodiversity
- National Character Areas
- Habitats
- Species
- Designated and non-designated sites
 - [Data Map | LNRS Data Viewer \(arcgis.com\)](#)
 - Council owned sites
 - Council owned and operated sites
- Invasive Non-native Species and diseases

Opportunities

- Cumberland
- Council services and programmes
- Opportunity mapping and Council owned sites/operated sites

Partnership work

- Cumbria LNP
- Northern Upland Chain LNP
- SFP
- LDNPP
- River Trusts
- Role of units/credits and the Habitat Bank
- Local partnerships

Targets

Monitoring, reporting and reviewing

Improvement action plan

- Building with Nature accreditation
- Site Management Plans
- External funding for Nature Recovery

Guidance

<https://www.local.gov.uk/pas/environment/nature-recovery-local-authorities/local-authority-nature-recovery-toolkit>

Appendix D: Summary of consultation feedback and changes made

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Question 2: In your opinion, are these the right set of risks and consequences for the Council to engage upon? Can you tell us more about why you think this?	3
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Question 3: In your opinion, are these the right opportunities for the Council to engage upon? Can you tell us more about why you think this?	3
Changes made to the strategy from question 3:	4
Question 4: Do the objectives and commitments cover today's main challenges, recognising that they are our first set for 2024-27 period and will change as our delivery develops? Can you tell us more about why you think this?	4
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Response details

A public survey ran from 24/04/2024 to 24/05/2024 and generated 54 responses.

8 written response were also received.

In total this amounted to over 80 pages and over 30,000 words of feedback.

The changes based on this feed back is presented after each summary.

An anonymised full set of responses is available on request to:

haveyoursay@cumberland.gov.uk

Question 1: Is the climate and nature challenge clear?

There were 54 responses to this part of the question in the survey.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes, it is clear	18	33%
No, it is not clear	10	19%
It is only partially clear	19	35%
I am unsure	7	13%

Question 1a: How could we make it clearer?

- Too many concepts are contained within the two pages, and this makes the challenge confusing. The strategy is high level and lack specific details on Council action. The challenge does not fully reflect the crises that the strategy seeks to address.
- Lack of published evidence that Cumberland / Cumbria is 'on the frontline and is going to be hardest hit'.
- More work is needed on describing the impacts, trade-offs, and potential conflict of interests. Real world examples that are locally based would help to make it more relevant.
- Objective for nature is too weak and needs to be strengthened. More detail is needed on nature recovery accompanied with quantifiable goals.
- Overall, greater clarity is needed on the targets and trajectories for all the goals, to address.
- We are unclear as to whether this is a strategy for Cumberland Council's own programme or whether for Cumberland as a place.
- Set out the economic and social cost of the climate and biodiversity crises
- The term 'carbon neutral' is generally accepted to refer only to carbon dioxide emissions, rather than encompass other greenhouse gases (such as methane, nitrous oxide, etc). Net zero would be the preferable term because it encompasses all greenhouse gas emissions and aligns with the net zero by 2037 ambition of the ZCCP.

Changes made to the strategy from question 1 and 1a:

- Explain the challenge more clearly in terms of Cumberland Council, Cumberland and Cumbria.
- Add 'maximum of' to 1.5° C threshold.
- Replace 'give nature a helping hand' with 'halt and reverse nature loss' or 'prioritising wildlife and nature'.
- Include an outline of the Biodiversity Management Plan in the covering report with more detail on the plans for nature recovery and with quantifiable goals.
- Share more specifics, through the Climate and Nature Advisory Group and the quarterly newsletter on the programmes and what the Council will do, to build confidence around delivery. Create more content on the website on the programmes for delivery.
- Add a footnote on Carbon Footprint for explaining that it is for all Council services.
- Clarify carbon neutral and/or net zero

Question 2: In your opinion, are these the right set of risks and consequences for the Council to engage upon? Can you tell us more about why you think this?

There were 50 responses to this part of the question.

- Majority agreed with the set of risks and consequences
- Consequences are seen as weaker than the set of risks
- Make clearer and provide more local examples for climate and nature risk such as extent and condition of Cumberland habitats
- No or only light reference to:
 - Agriculture/farming practices and food production
 - Nuclear sites
 - Parking and speeding
 - Tourism
 - Water supply
- Human and livestock health consequences need to be included
- Increase in invasive nonnative species
- The international need for people to seek refuge in more temperate climates
- Air quality linked to wildfires

Changes made to the strategy from question 2:

- Review the risks, consequences and opportunities again alongside the LCAT tool and the Cumbria Climate Risk Assessment (and Community Risk Register) to identify specific local risks
- Add human and livestock health consequences
- Add Air Quality Monitoring/Management Plan to list of linked plans and strategies

Question 3: In your opinion, are these the right opportunities for the Council to engage upon? Can you tell us more about why you think this?

There were 48 responses to this part of the question.

- Many responders agreed with the list.
- Clarify that the opportunities listed are opportunities of taking the necessary mitigation and adaptation actions, to avoid the misinterpretation that they could be opportunities that relate to the effects of the climate and nature emergencies.
- Rapid action is needed to realise the opportunities
- The flow of risk and consequences to opportunities is a 'leap'
- Benefits preferred to the term opportunities
- Benefits to agriculture and tourist levy to help deliver opportunities
- Climate funding might create an opportunity for a comprehensive revamp of the footpath network making use of the community groups and consultative bodies engaged in the current process.
- More focus on local opportunities and engagement on them.
- More focus on nature and protecting and enhancing green spaces
- Renewals preferred to nuclear.
- Need to define community wealth building
- Emphasis needed on education
- Partnership working needs a more granular level to reflect work with communities
- The strategy omits opportunities for public transport options.

- Flood risk alleviation from natural systems eg peatbogs, tree planting could also be referenced.
- Greenspaces/trees in urban areas provide temperature regulation.
- Other important opportunities include renewable energy generation and community wealth building through wind and solar systems, reducing dependence on new materials by salvaging of used materials (alongside repair/reuse/recycling).
- There are opportunities for businesses and other organisations to save on materials and energy costs.
- Opportunities for Cumberland could also include – attracting/retaining people and their skills in the county, and ensuring national policy properly reflects the particular issues facing rural areas through evidence gathering/piloting/showcasing exemplary projects and actions.

Changes made to the strategy from question 3:

- Clarify that opportunities come from rapid mitigation and adaptation
- Add opportunity for footpath network renewal
- Define Community Wealth Building in a footnote and add opportunity for community renewable energy generation
- Add Education Partnerships included for example Cumberland Early Years Strategy group, and school sector partnerships (with their permission and support)
- Add opportunity for business sector to reduce waste and energy consumption.

Question 4: Do the objectives and commitments cover today's main challenges, recognising that they are our first set for 2024-27 period and will change as our delivery develops? Can you tell us more about why you think this?

There were 48 responses to this part of the question

- Need to include soil, land use and agriculture
- All Cumberland's coastal and marine environment should be included
- BMP needs to include Red Squirrel protection
- They do not address the increase in inequalities
- More emphasis on local engagement, education, knowledge and understanding
- Foot path network
- They need detailed action plans with targets
- Population changes and LDNP housing stock
- Public transport
- Reversing the large-scale destruction of natural habitats and wildlife
- Rural issues
- Too many, unachievable
- Vague, unambitious and unquantifiable
- Include a reference under "Giving Nature a helping hand" to the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy (CLNRS).
- Prioritise mitigation and give it more prominence
- Friends of the Earths "33 actions that local authorities can take"
- Giving nature a helping hand too weak, protect, restore and actively increase biodiversity

- Ensure that making the green options for people in our communities the cheapest, easiest, most accessible is a key priority in our policy setting and actions.
- Moratorium on waste incineration.
- More meaningful public engagement.
- Link to Community Engagement Strategy
- Circular economy.
- Corporate Risk?

Changes made to the strategy from responses to question 4:

- Reorder so mitigation is first.
- Share more specifics, through the Climate and Nature Advisory Group and the quarterly newsletter on the programmes and what the Council will do, to build confidence around delivery. Create more content on the website on the programmes for delivery.
- Include the mitigation/adaptation/nature labelling with the additional content for quarterly newsletter and website.
- Add Public Transport to Supporting more sustainable places, practices, livelihoods and lifestyles
- Include the link to the Community Engagement Strategy. The draft document can be found at <https://cumberland.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s18344/Draft%20Community%20Engagement%20Framework.pdf>.
- Add Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy (CLNRS) to nature objective.
- Add working with education providers be included in the list under 'Growing the know-how, skills, opportunities and inspiration for change'.
- Reword 'Supporting more sustainable places, practices, livelihoods and lifestyles' to 'Help to create more sustainable places, practices, livelihoods and lifestyles'

Question 5: Noting all the work underway, can you identify any gaps in our programmes that need further investigation? Can you tell us more about why you think this?

There were 45 responses to this part of the question.

- Details on costing and funding the programmes
- Circular economy
- Housing retrofit
- Challenging road-building
- Improving access through PROW
- Waste disposal contract is long term goal
- Closer working with River and Wildlife Trusts
- Tourism issues
- Land use and agriculture
- Public transport
- Inequalities and minority groups
- Communication strategy, Community Engagement Framework, People panels, engaging young people
- Incentives for renewables
- Landscape scale nature recovery

- Potholes, parks and bins.
- EIA on all Council decisions
- Infrastructure
- SMART Action Plans
- Role of BNG needs more clarity
- Procurement policy
- The complexity of all the interconnected activities is beyond comprehension
- To make all the programmes possible we will need to invest in people and places
- No obvious investigation of solar power generation on ex industrial or brownfield /low grade sites.
- Is money well spent on coastal erosion? This has been proven not to work in other countries.
- Traffic management.
- As well as harmonising waste and recycling, there is a need to investigate what happens downstream.
- Investigating projects that are being pursued in different parts of the north.
- Need to be really rigorous about enforcing planning requirements for new developments
- Zero Carbon Cumbria plan should also be mentioned in the this section.
- Cumberland should be looking to divest from fossil fuel related investments for its pensions and other holdings.
- Focus on real changes: public transport and tackling waste
- Cycling routes (South West Cumbria)
- Need a debate/referendum on this.
- Low Carbon Skills Training and retrofitting
- Protect valuable spaces for wildlife
- End neutral stance on incineration
- Support the development of necessary infrastructure to decarbonise energy intensive industries and processes
- Right to grow
- Cumbria People & Nature Network
- Tackle invasive species
- Use national or international headings for the programmes
- Education needs to be a key theme
- There is a lack of reference in the strategy around the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals
- Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy (CLNRS)
- Climate adaptation
- Will there be a further plan focussing on wider emissions reduction at community level with targets and plans to deliver this?
- The strategy is an opportunity to reference the Zero Carbon Cumbria Emission Reduction Action Plans and what Cumberland can do to lead the way.
- Nuclear energy cannot be defined as “decarbonised”
- No mention of onshore wind or solar
- No mention of developing renewable energy sources such as small-scale hydro and tidal lagoons
- A Green jobs and business survey
- Can be more ambitious
- Community gardens and growing space should be increased and measures to encourage, support and open up availability to local communities.
- Training and awareness raising

- Zero Carbon Partnership, so meaningful outcomes can be continued in Cumberland once their funding ceases.
- LEP is no longer a delivery partner locally and clearly identify who has responsibility for their areas within the programme.
- Define “Green” hydrogen.
- Food: how engaged are local farmers in the Food Cumberland Strategic Framework?
- Look at what we can do to link to other waste collection schemes
- What waste provision facilities can be provided in all our public buildings?
- Modal shift from cars to active and public transport.
- Is there any scope to take buses back into public ownership locally? If so this should be considered. What options will the HS2 monies provide us?
- Peatbogs are a key for carbon sequestration
- The commitment to support the development of heat networks, to support local energy intensive businesses to decarbonise are both welcome.
- Onshore wind, small-scale hydro, and tidal lagoons.
- Education needs to be a key theme.

Changes made to the strategy from responses to question 5:

- Add ‘The Department for Education: Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children’s services systems - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)’ as an additional commitment.
- Add voluntary sector to: ‘We have a unique role; as we work with national departments, regional agencies and local communities to achieve common goals’.
- Add communities and education settings to: ‘influence through collaboration and leadership’ list.
- Amend ‘additional investment in BNG’ to read:

‘Mitigate the impact of major developments through additional investment in nature enhancement and recovery (Biodiversity Net Gain) and emission reduction plans.’

- Review the impact minority groups and disproportionate impact alongside the work on risks and consequences
- Amend Programme 1 to read:

Prepare for the new energy security and decarbonisation opportunities.

- Footnote LEP new arrangements
- Discuss the full list of topics with Climate and Nature Advisory Group for prioritising further investigation

Question 6: Overall, how clearly does the strategy explain our approach of the next three years (2024-2027)?

Comments

There were 47 responses to this part of the question.

- Too much detail, needs to be more punchy
- Needs a clearer structure
- A good start
- More joining up with partners
- Prioritisation and funding needs addressing
- Yes, carry it out
- Actions don't match risks
- Communication strategy needed
- vague and not very focused, avoids difficult issues
- More specifics, smart targets, quicker timescales
- Not ambitious or specific enough. Commitment to 30 by 30.
- Yes, needs to have SMART actions and targets
- Needs a definite pathway and long term planning
- Why carbon neutral' rather than 'net zero'?
- Yes, strategy needs a more digestible form
- More action with all carbon emissions and with reference to scope 3 emissions.
- Adaptation programme is a gap
- Wider strategy and action programme needed for the place of Cumberland as a whole.
- Join the Blueprint Coalition
- Clarity that we are working to the Zero Carbon Cumbria ambition of 2037 for net zero.
- Ensure all the FOE “33 actions local authorities can take and Ashden organisation’s suggestions have been fully considered.
- The Cumberland draft strategy has a three year time frame in comparison to the 13 years of the ZCCP Emission Reduction Action Plans, so we hope there will be future opportunity to coalesce the Cumberland strategy with the comprehensive work that has been undertaken by ZCCP.
- The plan puts more emphasis on adaptation and emergency planning/resilience that it does on mitigation and emissions reduction. The priority must clearly be on the radical and urgent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- The links and relationship between climate change and nature need to be clarified and strengthened.
- Recognition of all the community activity and knowledge
- Plans to develop networks / partnerships with external groups, including Town and Parish Councils, in order to effectively collaborate.
- Geodiversity

Changes made to the strategy from responses to question 6:

- Add the following to the introduction to explain place-based approach:

‘We aim to make Cumberland Council an exemplar in presenting a clear and comprehensive set of policies and actions that will make a major impact on the fight against climate change,

the preservation and extension of biodiversity and the natural environment which we all cherish.'

- Include geodiversity in commitments
 - 'Raise awareness of Cumbria's geodiversity alongside with nature conservation and recovery'
- Add Cumbria Geodiversity Statement to list of plans
- Create simpler content for the website version of the strategy
- Brief ZCCP Partnership on draft strategy (11/6/24)
- Clarify carbon neutral and/or net zero
- Set out the next steps for adaptation in the covering report
- Raise the Blueprint Coalition with the Climate & Nature Advisory Group
- Review the FOE "33 actions local authorities can take and Ashden organisation's suggestions with the Climate & Nature Advisory Group
- Plan for a delivery workshop with partners in autumn.



Business and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Tuesday, 16 April 2024

Minute Excerpt

BROS67/24 Carbon and Energy Management Plan

The Corporate Decarbonisation Manager provided the Committee with an overview of the Carbon and Energy Management Plan, highlighting key drivers such as the Climate Change Act mandating the UK Government to Net Zero by 2050, the Council's own need to have a Plan for its own Net Zero journey, the aim to lead by example and the reputational advantage by having such a Plan in place. The Corporate Decarbonisation Manager confirmed that, as the Plan was in draft format, there was time to make additions, influence and update the facts and figures with further detail on mitigation measures.

Members asked numerous questions regarding the budget available for decarbonisation and the cost of moving towards Net Zero. The Corporate Decarbonisation Manager highlighted that there were a mixture of funding streams available, including a small decarbonisation budget for pilot schemes, consultations and project inceptions, plus more substantial public funding opportunities such as the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. Conversations were ongoing regarding strategies and plans to address budget challenges. The Corporate Decarbonisation Manager and Interim Service Manager for Climate and Natural Environment noted that there is a balance to be struck when considering the cost of moving towards Net Zero, assessing the cost of mitigation now, against the impact and cost of adaptation later. Ideally, mitigation measures proposed would offer carbon emissions reductions and be supported by a good business case for savings.

Members discussed the proposed pilot scheme for boiler optimisation, which aimed to make quick energy and carbon savings with a modest investment of £3,000 per boiler. If successful, boiler optimisation may be used more widely to reduce our emissions ahead of the use of Air Source Heat Pumps which the Corporate Decarbonisation Manager noted would be one of the last steps in decarbonisation after improving the fabric of building first. The Portfolio Holder for Financial Planning and Assets noted that such investments to save, improve and reduce the cost of gas would be beneficial. The Chief Legal Officer (Monitoring Officer (MO)) clarified that the cost of projects being undertaken would be reviewed closely.

A Member queried the achievability of the targets and the long-term thinking regarding battery costs for electric vehicles. The Corporate Decarbonisation Manager noted that the Council had every opportunity to succeed and achieve the target set, with the target being reviewed and updated on a five-year cycle to recognise the current technology, funding and partnerships available. The Corporate Decarbonisation Manager also noted that all options were being considered within the fleet strategy, including electric and alternative fuel options.

A Member asked about solar and wind power within the aim for Net Zero, with the Corporate Decarbonisation Manager noted that solar power was a key part of decarbonisation, and although the focus on wind power had slowed down its inclusion would be reviewed periodically.

A Member queried Scope 3 emissions discussed within the draft Plan and the plans in place for waste and the re-use of materials. The Corporate Decarbonisation Manager noted that the Assistant Director of Climate and Waste was reviewing the waste service generally, highlighting the Council's current lengthy waste contracts. It was also noted that the Portfolio Holder for Cumberland Policy and Regulatory Services had set up a Climate and Nature Advisory Group

which considered agenda items such as the re-use of surplus materials and other opportunities regarding Scope 3 waste emissions.

RESOLVED that the working draft of Cumberland Council's first Carbon and Energy Management Plan included with Appendix B of the report, and all comments regarding the Plan, be noted.

PLOS.51/24 Climate and Nature Strategy

The Climate and Natural Environment Manager submitted the draft Climate and Nature Strategy setting out the objectives, commitments and programmes that the Council would deliver for climate and nature. The document was a position statement which would be read as a working strategy for the next three years (2024-2027). The draft Strategy had been submitted for engagement and consultation.

The draft strategy had been developed alongside the Council's Delivery Plan, informed by the current strategies, actions and partnership work underway. It had also been informed by the work undertaken by the previous councils.

The Climate and Nature Advisory Group has been directly involved in drafting the strategy as part of its brief to provide advice to the Executive on policies and initiatives. The Group included Elected Members, Executive Portfolio Holders and internal officers. Co-opted members of the group also brought their knowledge of nature and climate issues to assist the work.

The draft Strategy had been streamlined into:

- A Plan on a Page (contained in draft strategy)
- Draft strategy (Appendix A of the report)
- Background information used for the strategy development

Critical work was ongoing with partners, Community Panels and communications and engagement were paramount for influencing behaviours, the report set out the work that was being carried out along with the themes, programmes and plans that were in place to progress the strategy.

The Climate and Natural Environment Manager reported that there were resources available through the Zero Carbon Cumbria Programme to look again at a Citizens Jury/Assembly. Citizens Assemblies and Juries were a way of bringing together citizens to try and work through complex issues and make recommendations in an attempt to influence policy. They had been used throughout the world and at a local level in Copeland, Furness and Kendal over the last few years organised by a local not for profit organisation.

The proposal was to organise two Citizens Juries or an Assembly in Cumbria on a particularly important issue that was key to successfully addressing climate change. A workshop would be organised in April to consider the offer in more detail.

In scrutinising the Draft Climate and Nature Strategy the following observations / questions arose:

A Member raised concerns regarding the heating and energy costs for community centres. The community centres were vital focal points for communities, he suggested that the Committee establish a task and finish group which looked at the options available for community centres and how support could be provided to help them reduce their costs.

The Climate and Natural Environment Manager agreed that the community centres provided many services to their local communities as well as being valued assets in times of crisis.

The Corporate Decarbonisation Manager informed the Committee that he was involved in the development of the Council's Asset Management Plan which looked at how the Council's assets could be used more efficiently. He agreed that a piece of work could be undertaken in Council owned centres to explore energy efficiency methods and develop a pilot which could be rolled out across all centres.

A Member questioned whether the Council could insist that solar powers were built into new properties as part of the planning application as was happening in other areas.

The Assistant Director Thriving Place and Investment responded that developers were now building solar panels into new properties and the Council was using powers in Building Control to ensure this was happening. In addition, there had been some exploration work into the use of local heat networks. All of this work also helped businesses to meet their own climate change strategy requirements.

The Climate and Natural Environment Manager added that a vast range of heating elements or options could be used in developments.

A Member appreciated the amount of work that had been undertaken to prepare the Strategy but felt that much more detail was required addressing the very serious matter of coastal erosion. She highlighted that half a metre of land was lost to coastal erosion, although there had been money spent to protect some areas much more work was needed.

The Chair agreed that there were some major concerns regarding coastal erosion in the Cumberland area and asked officers to bring a further report to the Committee setting out the impact of coastal erosion on tourism, transport routes and the railway and what was being carried out to address the issues and how it would be incorporated into the Climate and Nature Strategy. The Committee would consider the report and determine if they felt a Task and Finish Group would be beneficial.

The Committee felt strongly that more training should be made available to Members, especially scrutiny and planning committee members. The Climate and Natural Environment Manager agreed to schedule Climate and Nature Strategy training for Members in 2024.

The report stated that the Council would support the Cumbria Community Forest to deliver up to 150 hectares of trees, woodlands and forests. A Member asked that some serious consideration was given to the type and mixture of trees being planted to avoid huge areas of quick growing trees such as pine trees.

The Climate and Natural Environment Manager explained that the mixture of trees would be well considered, it was important to have fast growing trees would affect carbon emissions quickly, and it was important that wood was available to provide a sustainable alternative to plastic.

A Member asked for more engagement with farmers and landowners to be built into the strategy.

RESOLVED – 1) That the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee commented on the draft strategy with particular reference to:

- The climate and nature challenge and Plan on a Page
- The links to Community Panels and Community Networks
- The potential for a Citizens Jury/Assembly

2) That a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee setting out the impact of coastal erosion on tourism, transport routes and the railway and what was being carried out to address the issues and how it would be incorporated into the Climate and Nature Strategy.