

Action Plan to Address Climate Change

Final summary report

Achievements and recommendations

March 2020 to March 2023

Introduction

This report is intended to record achievements towards Allerdale Borough Council's Action Plan to Address Climate Change, and to make recommendations to Cumberland Council members, supporting their future work in this area. Much great work has been done by officers of this Council which can be available to new teams, in some cases as best practice and in other cases as benchmark and background information.

From 1974 to March 2023 Allerdale Borough Council was a district council whose services and functions included: planning and building control; waste collection services; environmental health, licensing; housing; economic development and regeneration. The Council also had powers over its own operations including Council property, buildings and staff and spending, procurement and investment. The Council was able to use its leadership role to influence the behaviour of stakeholders including businesses, residents and visitors to Allerdale.

A council's role in partnerships and with the public places it at the heart of the climate conversation and in developing and replicating local solutions. However, a council cannot deliver its carbon neutral ambitions alone. Systems-scale and holistic approaches are required at both a national and local level.

The Council's role

In March 2020, Allerdale Borough Council established a Climate Change Working Group with a series of tasks to address, including the development of this Climate Change Action Plan. The cross party Group was chaired by Cllr Sally Lansbury (Labour) and consisted of six members including the Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr Marion Fitzgerald (Conservative), the Portfolio Holder. The Group was supported by officers from Policy, Performance and Economic Development Strategy.

The motion adopted by the Council to address climate change set targets to work towards emissions from its estate and activities reducing to net zero carbon by 2030. At the same time the Council committed to the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership and its 2037 target for the whole county.

The Council's Action Plan to Address Climate Change was grouped in sections as proposed in the recommendations of *'A blueprint for accelerating climate action and a green recovery at the local level'*¹ (developed by a number of national organisations led by ADEPT). The section headings are:

- Growing the Zero and Low Carbon Economy
- Retrofitting homes and buildings to reduce consumption and emissions
- Decarbonising transport
- Planning to deliver Zero Carbon development that protects and enhances nature
- Reducing waste and encouraging sustainable consumption
- Restoring nature for all

¹ [A blueprint for accelerating climate action and a green recovery at the local level](#)

- Developing local authority funding, governance and accounting systems that are fit for purpose.

These themes linked to the Council Strategy 2020-2030² and the Cumbria Joint Public Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2019-2029)³.

Local context

The Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership (ZCCP) is working towards a zero carbon Cumbria by 2037. The ZCCP was established to run from September 2020, providing the 'step change' needed to deliver decarbonisation over the following 17 years to 2037.

In April 2019, all Cumbrian local authorities and the Lake District National Park Authority formally adopted the Cumbria Joint Public Health Strategy incorporating a pledge for Cumbria, "to become a 'carbon neutral' County and to mitigate the likely impact of existing climate change".

The Joint Cumbria Public Health Strategy 2019 provides the following priority areas which are addressed in Allerdale's Action Plan to Address Climate Change:

Green Spaces and Biodiversity

The co-benefits of protecting nature sites and creating new rich green space include better mental and physical health for local people, greater resilience to future climate change extremes and more resilient food production.

Air Quality

Supporting low carbon infrastructure and transport initiatives can reduce resource use, reduce CO₂e emissions and improve air quality, improving health and wellbeing of our residents and protecting the planet.

Climate Change

Slowing, stopping and then removing the greenhouse gases from our atmosphere is an ambitious target – achievable only with joined up thinking and commitment across all areas of local government and our communities. Local Councils are an indispensable partner in reaching the national target of net zero by 2050.

Waste reduction

We cannot easily recycle our way out of the strain on natural resources and the quantity of waste that is currently produced locally. New solutions to reduce single-use items and unnecessary products that soon end up as waste are needed.

The achievements of the Climate Change Advisory Group

At its 4 March 2020 meeting Council agreed that a Climate Change Group be established to further develop an action plan, advise the Portfolio Holder and work on implementation of the plan. It was agreed that the group, the Climate Change Advisory Group (CCAG), would have responsibility for monitoring progress against the Plan and publish an annual progress report to the Overview and

² Allerdale Borough Council [Council Strategy 2020-2030](#)

³ [Cumbria Joint Public Health Strategy 2019](#)

Scrutiny Committee, that any minor changes could be agreed by the Portfolio Holder, while significant updates would need to be approved by Executive.

The CCAG established a schedule of monthly meetings with both internal and external stakeholders attending. This work was supported by the Strategic Policy and Performance Team. Regular updates were made to the Executive and to full Council. An annual written report was submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Membership included six elected members, including the Portfolio Holder responsible for Climate Change Action within Allerdale Borough Council, together with Labour, Conservative and Independent members. Senior representatives of the following departments attended on a planned basis: Parks and Open Spaces, Planning and Building Control, Waste, Procurement, Communications and Training. The ZCCP Local Authority Coordinator was also a permanent member of this group.

External stakeholder attendance included Cumbria County Council's 'Recycle Cumbria' team including the Strategic Manager for Environment and Regulatory Services who was also the lead officer for the Local Government Reorganisation Climate Change Work package, Copeland and Carlisle Members, Cumbria Action for Sustainability, People Powered Retrofit, the REBUILD initiative, Cumbria Community Coastal Forest, Charge my Street, Cumbria Green Investment Plan, North West Net Zero Hub, Sustainable Keswick and Climate Emergency West Cumbria.

Over the last two years the Group prepared robust consultation responses for:

- Transport For the North Decarbonisation Strategy
- Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan
- Allerdale Borough Council Community Resilience Strategy
- Cumbria Green Investment Plan
- Workington Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan
- the initial Cumberland Council plan.

Achievements since the Council adopted the Action Plan to Address Climate Change

The details of the plan adopted by Allerdale Borough Council are set out followed by a brief summary of the achievements towards delivering the plan. Upon adoption the plan was intended to run from 2020 to 2030, hence some of the areas have not yet been addressed. These remain in the document for reference.

Each of these seven sections contains a summary of achievements together with recommendations to Cumberland Council for inclusion in their plan to address climate change. These recommendations have been developed by specialist officers working with the Climate Change Advisory Group.

Section A: Growing the low carbon economy – skills and infrastructure; community and business engagement

We want to create thriving resilient economy that supports a fair transition to Net Zero Carbon, through communication, training and skills, support for businesses and a procurement approach that influences the emissions of supply chains and products. We encourage bold use of technology to decarbonise our operations.

| | Actions | Activity |
|----|---|---|
| A1 | Reduction in the impact of climate change on our services and community | Assess the risk associated with climate change for the Council Services and our communities and produce plan to adapt accordingly |
| A2 | Review council policies and strategies to consider impact of climate change | Ensure climate change actions are reflected in both existing and any new strategies and policies |
| A3 | Develop a stakeholder engagement and communications strategy | Devise a programme in conjunction with partners to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) stakeholders b) Council members c) businesses particularly including tourism and farming d) the community to raise awareness of climate change, potentially addressing different age groups through targeted campaigns e) engagement with young people's groups f) further engagement with schools to include aspects of climate change in Council's education delivery g) communications strategy for the work of the group |
| A4 | Work with key partners | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) develop and implement strategic projects which deliver best practices in sustainable development b) develop plans to address the causes and impact of climate change according to local priorities |
| A5 | Support the work of the network of local partnerships in raising awareness of climate change in Cumbria | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) participate in the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership including working closely with other Cumbrian authorities b) work with Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership on citizen engagement projects c) encourage community groups to engage with the Council's climate change task groups around specific areas of interest |
| A6 | Building relationships with and lobbying the area's three MPs | Linking during 2022/23 with the Local Government Reorganisation and the Levelling Up agenda |
| A7 | Increased skills in local workforce to implement changes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) better understanding among Council officers of climate change implementation |

| | | |
|-----|---|--|
| | | b) sufficiently skilled local workforce to resource necessary changes |
| A8 | Provide and co-ordinate training on climate change for staff and members, particularly front line staff | Continue the programme of carbon literacy training and awareness raising [Phase 1 completed in 2021/22] Offer option for advanced/in depth climate training as appropriate. |
| A9 | Inward investment in renewables energies and other 'green job' opportunities | Support large scale projects |
| A10 | Work with neighbouring councils to ensure contiguous approaches across all activities and communities | These include those on the boundaries of Carlisle City Council (Thursby, Kirkbride etc) and Eden (Hesket New Market, Millhouse) as such it will be worth connecting with the plans for Carlisle City Council and Eden District Council to share learning and action. |

What has been achieved so far?

A1: The Council contributed to the Community Resilience Strategy and Cumbria County Council Flood Strategy.

A2: The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan have been published for some time. The Communications Team has made continuous improvements to Allerdale Borough Council's website.

New wording has been included in policy documents and for Council reports a new Climate Impacts section was introduced.

The pre-planning checklist and document cross referencing all national and local policy to be considered by planners has been created and published on the Council's website.

A3: Allerdale's Communications team have worked closely with colleagues from Recycle Cumbria to ensure that information surrounding the recycling of household items such as clothing, plastics, living aids and furniture is widely spread to the general public. This information has been promoted via the council's social media channels, and via the council's environmental email newsletter.

In addition to this, Allerdale's Communications team have regularly updated the council's recycling website pages to ensure that all information displayed on the pages is relevant and correct. These pages also contain links to relevant partner organisations.

The Communications team actively share beach clean events which have been organised by partner organisations such as the Solway Coast AONB. These events also get added to the team's environmental newsletters which go out on a weekly basis to 3000+ subscribers.

A4: The Communications team also provide support to Allerdale's Enforcement Team, promoting environmentally themed events which educate residents on what they can do to create a cleaner, greener Allerdale.

The team have supported all of 2022's Operation Respect events, and the 'Grime Scene' event in Workington – an event organised to generate awareness of the environmental impact of fly-tipping, and what residents can do to report such behaviour.

Communications networks have been created with Electricity North West (ENW), Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (CLEP), Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership (ZCCP), CAFs, town and parish councils and community groups.

- A6: Whilst some lobbying of government ministers has taken place, the Climate Change Advisory Group fully acknowledge need to engage with our local MPs.
- A7: The Council's Economic Growth and Recovery Strategy recognised the potential for the area to succeed in the development of 'green jobs' over the coming years
- A8: Climate Literacy Training has been delivered to around 60 officers and members, and this has had an impact on individuals and teams.
- A9: The Group was actively involved in the development of the Cumbria Green Investment Plan report commissioned by ZCCP in 2021.
- A10: Members from Cumbria County Council, Copeland and Carlisle were invited to attend our meetings and members of the CCAG regularly attended webinars and meetings of other stakeholders

Actions for Cumberland Council to consider

Provide mandatory climate literacy training to Members and officers – The Climate Change Advisory Group hopes that Cumberland Council will continue the work begun by all its constituent councils in providing climate literacy training to its Members and officers, and preferably follow the example set by Allerdale Borough Council in recognising this as mandatory training.

It is important that all officers working directly in related roles i.e. covered by the themes of this plan, and the plan Cumberland Council will prepare, are trained as soon as possible.

Outcomes from literacy training are embedded by service areas and individuals in their job roles; identify aspects of service provision to benefit from more detailed, in-depth training on specific subjects - There are three related further actions which Cumberland Council could take: firstly, once the training has been undertaken, consider how the training outcomes will be embedded by service areas and individuals in their job roles; and secondly consider which aspects of service provision would benefit from more detailed, in-depth training on specific subjects. As an example, the Climate Change Advisory Group has initiated support for a training needs analysis on retrofit knowledge and skills for council officers. Thirdly the council could develop a 'green team' approach: as more of the staff team become trained in climate literacy, alongside integrating the learning into

the roles and service provision, by adopting a team approach across the themes the Council agrees in its first climate plan would create an integrated, cohesive response.

Cumberland Council should lead discussion of skills and training opportunities - Retrofit, or more accurately energy efficiency housing improvement work, is one area with a recognised need for more skilled people across the county. Cumberland Council will be well placed to advance discussion about the skills and training opportunities the inception of the council presents, in influencing progress as well as allowing the Council to benefit from advances in the skills available across the workforce in meeting net zero targets.

Build on successful approach to communication and collaborative working - Communication with the public and collaborative working across services has clearly been crucial in the success of a number of initiatives highlighted in this report. Cumberland Council should build on the basis of this successful approach to communications and expand it into other areas of its approach overall and particularly to its climate related initiatives needing public support and involvement.

Formation of a Climate Change Advisory Group for Cumberland Council - From its inception as a short term task and finish group under the Overview and Scrutiny Committee process responding to a request from Council, the group attracted Members from across the political spectrum and included the Portfolio Holder as a member, and developed the plan through consultation with partner organisations, stakeholders and community groups.

The group focused on the delivery of the whole plan, though initially looked at specific aspects within the sections. Members also chose to form groups of 2 or 3 members to gain a greater depth of knowledge on topics of their interest. This helped develop the depth and breadth of the input and support the group could offer to officers attending meetings and delivering services. The Climate Change Advisory Group would advocate the formation of a similar group to Cumberland Council, although recognising there are considerations created by the number of councillors in the new council.

One possibility which Allerdale Borough Council looked at but due to the issues created by the pandemic was unable to implement, was to include stakeholder group representatives as part of the Advisory Group. That said, the group should be focused on the council's activities and plans, leaving meetings for partnership arrangements to Zero Carbon Cumbria.

Section B: Retro-fitting homes and buildings

We want to improve housing stock and the wider built environment to reduce carbon emissions, build resilience to future climate change, reduce fuel poverty and influence improved living conditions

| | Actions | Activity |
|----|--|---|
| B1 | Work with Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS) and other partners to promote energy efficiencies in households | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) promote availability of energy saving measures in homes in conjunction with CAfS b) promotion of government schemes to improve homes c) promote full occupancy of homes |
| B2 | Running energy efficiency schemes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) targeting deprivation and fuel poverty, including working with Housing Associations (HAs), environmental groups and other agencies b) promotion of government schemes to improve homes, including those targeting social housing providers c) build knowledge through working with social housing providers d) regularly run a collective energy switching scheme |
| B3 | Ensure Private Rented Accommodation in Allerdale does not have an EPC rating below an E | Enforcement activity in accordance with the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES) regulations |
| B4 | Raise awareness of funding available for energy efficiency | Improve awareness amongst front line staff, visiting officers, Customer Service Advisors and partners |
| B5 | Encourage awareness of emissions from domestic heating sources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) promote eco-friendly sources including ground and air source heat pumps and PV options b) promote awareness of emissions from log burners and coal fires c) work in conjunction with local community energy focused groups and organisations |
| B6 | Work with tenants, lessees and occupants of Council owned buildings to identify energy savings opportunities | Once work to identify which buildings require work to address emissions is complete, begin to develop solutions |
| B7 | Review energy use and plan for energy efficiencies and decarbonisation in Council buildings and estate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) identify potential for energy efficiencies and sustainability for operational buildings b) produce prioritised action plan c) implement prioritised action d) replace (repair) footway lighting with LED as need arises until completed e) explore the potential for an 'invest to save' project to replace existing lighting with LEDs |

| | | |
|-----|---|--|
| | | f) support parish councils wishing to participate in Dark Skies project compliance |
| B8 | Investigate the potential for installing renewable energy generation in existing or new Council buildings | a) establish a baseline of the current position and need for improvements (audit of estate) b) explore potential for improvements initially at Allerdale House e.g. solar panels and other sources of energy creation, then other Council owned buildings |
| B9 | Review energy suppliers for Council building and seek to move towards 100% supply from 'green' sources or suppliers | Work to ensure Council purchases of electricity are from renewable sources and identify alternatives to gas supply |
| B10 | Engage in the Borderlands energy masterplanning work | Participate other local authorities to develop solutions |

What has been achieved so far?

B1: Allerdale Borough Council was part of a successful consortium of all six of the Cumbrian District Councils has successfully applied for £20m worth of grant funding from the Government's Sustainable Warmth Scheme which combines the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Phase 3 (LAD3) and the Home Upgrade Grant (HUGs) which brought funding into Allerdale to help decarbonise housing stock, improve energy efficiency and address fuel poverty. The LAD3 funding supported circa one hundred on-gas grid homes whilst the HUGs funding aimed to deliver to over one hundred off the gas grid homes. Locally, the scheme is being led by officers at Carlisle City Council who distributed the promotional materials. The previous LAD2 scheme delivered by the Cumbrian Consortium received an unprecedented number of applications from across the region.

Allerdale had some success working in collaboration with Eden District Council to obtain housing retrofit funding. It was very hard to find contractors with the right skills. Although those skills are still in short supply, the situation has improved since then.

We also worked with Home Group on their application for funding to retrofit their properties on the two major estates at Abbeytown and Oughterside. The Climate Change Advisory Group was pleased to hear the retrofit co-ordinator for Home Group working on projects in Allerdale has recently won a national award in recognition of their work.

6580 letters were sent to addresses in Allerdale using the following criteria: at least 35% anticipated fuel poverty anticipated in the area; with a D, E, F or G Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating and be either an Owner Occupier or Private Tenant.

B2: Work to reduce fuel poverty was and is ongoing. Inspections on homes under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System includes energy efficiency. The Climate Change Advisory Group has initiated a Training Needs Analysis of the support required for those working in Energy Efficiency Retrofit with the intention that this will help to develop bespoke training packages.

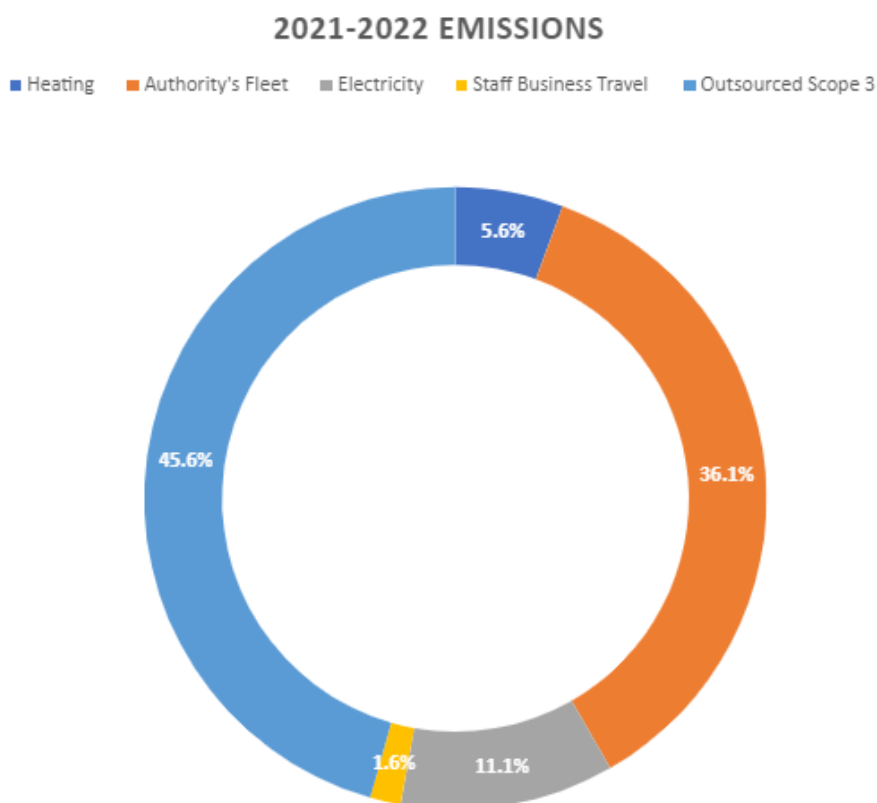
B7: Allerdale House was designed to be energy efficient though further improvements can be made. It is a legal requirement to display energy certificates in large public sector buildings. Audits for energy performance certificates are ongoing in relevant Council buildings. Council staff are encouraged to switch off computer equipment when not in use.

For Allerdale’s own estate, the Council began to use the Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool produced by Local Partnerships/Local Government Association to help local authorities establish their baseline greenhouse gas emissions. The tool follows the Greenhouse Gas Protocol methodology, accounting for the seven greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol, expressed as carbon-dioxide equivalent (CO₂e).

Currently the reporting of carbon emissions is voluntary for organisations. The reporting of scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions are recommended as a minimum basis for achieving net zero carbon.

The tool is constantly being updated and refined, and for the year 2021-2022 the emissions in Scope 3 were updated. For this reporting year 2021-2022 Allerdale have included scope 1 and 2 and some scope 3 information relating to mileage for street cleansing and parks and open spaces. We have also now included the energy usage for our Leisure Centres which are run by Better on behalf of the Council.

Overall this report provides a more accurate presentation of this council’s emissions and highlights areas in need of attention. However, until the baseline is consistent, the figures need to be viewed with caution.



B8: Allerdale Borough Council's building has an EPC and DEC 'C' rating. Future potential included working with Environmental Health and the Audit Team to consider environmental management systems and classifications such as ISO14001.

B10: The development of the Wigton Place Plan has followed the steps of the Cumbria Borderlands Place Programme Route Map. The route map will also be used to take forward projects and activities that will address the challenges and issues identified within it to allow the vision for Wigton to be achieved.

Actions for Cumberland Council to consider

Continue to access government funding to decarbonise the housing stock - Cumberland Council should continue to access government funding to decarbonise the housing stock across Cumberland and improve homes.

Enhance retrofitted home energy improvement skills across the area – Cumberland Council should review the outcomes of the retrofitted home energy improvements training needs analysis currently being undertaken and seek to provide appropriate support to implement the training needs identified.

Energy in council buildings is from renewable or sustainable sources - The Council should work to ensure energy in council buildings is from renewable or sustainable sources. Cumberland Council could consider environmental management systems and classifications such as ISO14001.

Establish an emissions baseline for the Cumberland Council area - Public interest in local authority activities towards net zero is increasing and the new Cumberland Council will be expected to provide relevant information. The Council will need to establish an emissions baseline for the Cumberland Council area, its services and operations, to help highlight buildings and services requiring decarbonisation work.

Section C: Decarbonisation of transport & reducing road miles

We want to reduce traffic and shift to more sustainable modes of transport. This will lead to improvements in emissions, air quality, noise and safety.

| | Actions | Activity |
|----|---|--|
| C1 | Contribute to addressing wider community-based transport issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) transport savings by holding virtual meetings b) lobbying for more bus services c) explore lift sharing apps and the use of data these can provide d) respond to changes as a result of greater numbers of people working from home |
| C2 | Review existing car user policy to identify sustainable travel incentives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) consider staff pool bicycle scheme b) continue supported purchase schemes for staff c) encourage staff use of public transport d) regularly promote sensible driving message to staff and members e) Continue to operate flexible, agile and remote working arrangements to minimise staff travel |
| C3 | Work with main partners to achieve reduction in energy use and greenhouse gases in the delivery of Council services | Particularly in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) planning replacement of vehicles b) encourage transition from petrol fuelled equipment to electric c) Reducing distances and frequency of travel |
| C4 | Maximise benefits of projects by partners | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support projects to install electric vehicle charge points with providers and partners b) further promote Local Cycling and Walking Plans (LCWiPs) |
| C5 | Promote sustainable travel options | Work with groups involved in promoting sustainable travel to support initiatives |

What has been achieved so far?

C1: COVID19 led to a change in travel and working patterns which has massively decreased road miles. Many of these adaptations will be retained for the future.

C2: The Council's staff travel policy requires staff to make efficient journeys and consider public transport.

The Council currently promotes a scheme to encourage staff to cycle to work.

C3: Electric vehicles have been recently purchased for some Council Services.

The Council has been represented on the ZCCP transport sector group.

C4: The Council has been a member of the One Public Estate (OPE) group alongside all the other Cumbrian authorities to develop a unified approach to electric vehicle chargepoint installation across the county. The group has been able to submit an application to the government's funding schemes for LEVI (the pilot project for Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure) and the ORCS programme (On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme).

On 21st February 2023, the Government announced £1.9m to support EV chargepoint installations across Cumbria, resulting from the applications made by the One Public Estate group via Cumbria County Council.

Alongside the OPE process, the Climate Change Advisory Group worked to enable the installation of chargepoints in Cockermouth by Charge my Street.

C5: Close working with partners has led to an extensive cycle network in West Cumbria. As tourism and visits to the Lake District evolves, the Council is working in collaboration with its partners to consider any challenges emerging through increased numbers of people visiting the area, particularly by car, whether electric or fuel driven.

The Climate Change Advisory Group agreed to use some of its budget to support an initial project to establish a community car club project in the Keswick area.

Actions for Cumberland Council to consider

Transport is a major source of emissions as well as being a necessity of life in Cumbria and Cumberland.

Ensure a comprehensive programme of electric vehicle chargepoint installation - The recent announcement of new funding to expand the number of electric vehicle chargepoints in the short term must be seen as a starting point, not the solution. The progressive roll-out of funding to support such initiatives needs to be embraced and implemented.

Progress decarbonisation in the public transport sector - However to get there, there are some 'bumps in the road' to address including public transport provision including coverage and accessibility, tourism pressures, and supporting business in efforts to decarbonise.

Cumberland Council should set up dialogue with public transport providers with a view to increasing services in rural areas, review fare structures and initiate effective links between bus and rail, as well as community transport schemes.

Encourage staff to reduce travel emissions – as well as continuing to promote schemes such as cycle to work, and advocating that staff should use public transport for work travel whenever possible, the Council could also consider schemes which support staff to switch their travel options, for example by equating cycling with current mileage expenses.

Section D: Planning to deliver zero carbon development that protects and enhances nature

We want to ensure that new development is carbon neutral, makes space for nature and links with walking and cycling routes to essential facilities.

| | Actions | Activity |
|----|--|--|
| D1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure forthcoming legislation is effectively implemented and supported within the authority b) Regularly review planning policies to incorporate sustainable development taking into account the needs and character of the area through the Local Plan c) Ensure robust strategies are in place to support legislation d) Ensure interdepartmental coordination enables continuous improvement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) i - ensure all senior managers are aware of the impacts of proposed legislation ii - ensure the Council is able to service the requirements of implementing the proposed new planning requirements b) develop supplementary planning documents relating to biodiversity and environmental gains c) continue to collaborate with other Cumbrian authorities on the draft local nature recovery strategy and ensure this is implemented when adopted d) enable close communication between all relevant staff, particularly planning policy and development control in conjunction with parks and open spaces |
| D2 | Examine existing supplementary planning guidance for sustainable development and determine if any change is required to bring guidance in line with best practice | Consider if planning conditions can <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) enable the commissioning of independent monitoring of planning applications as a condition of approval b) require the installation of electric vehicle charge points in public facing developments c) advocate that new infrastructure, especially roads, avoids flood plain wherever feasible or is built above anticipated flood heights |
| D3 | Promote higher building quality standards that include sustainable and green building principles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) monitor use of pre-planning checklist b) promote biodiversity support measures including swift bricks, hedgehog runs etc. c) expand list and use of appropriate external organisations as consultees |
| D4 | Review existing main Council policies and consider making amendments to assist in tackling climate change | Development and phasing in of 'green clauses' (such as requiring energy efficiency) into Council leases and rental contracts |
| D5 | Protect good agricultural land for food production | Local Plan policy S36 and para 329 page 142 sets out the principle of protection of most versatile agricultural land for food production. |

What has been achieved so far?

D1: The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, which involves three overarching interdependent objectives – economic, social and environmental. These objectives are delivered through the preparation and implementation of plans and the application of policies in the NPPF. The environmental objective includes mitigating and adapting to climate change. Section 14 of the NPPF relates specifically to meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change. The Allerdale Local Plan is consistent with the NPPF.

Building Control are ensuring that new developments have appropriate thermal insulation as required by the current Building Regulations and are helping construction companies build environmentally-friendly homes.

Actions for Cumberland Council to consider

Embed climate change mitigation and the green economy in strategy and policy - The development of the new Cumberland Local Plan provides a significant opportunity to embed climate change mitigation and the green economy in its strategy and policies. This will ensure that future communities are resilient to climate change impacts, that biodiversity flourishes, that energy efficient buildings and renewable energy sources become mainstream and that the built environment supports a healthy and active lifestyle.

Implement the Climate Checklist - Consideration should also be given to implementing the Climate Checklist for planning (created and adopted by Allerdale Borough Council) across the Cumberland authority. This tool has been used at the pre application stage to provide structure and focus to the discussion to maximise climate change mitigation and resilience at the design stage.

Ensure existing green spaces are enhanced around and within housing developments – These requirements should be linked to larger development projects in Cumberland. Unique areas of biodiversity should be identified and carefully worked with.

Section E: - Reducing waste and encouraging sustainable consumption: within Allerdale Borough Council estate

We aim to reduce waste and support sustainable consumption and production, through a more circular economy. We want to be bold in our use of technology to reduce resource use and greenhouse gas emissions. We will regularly issue communications and newsletters

| | Actions | Activity |
|----|--|--|
| E1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Review departmental and central printing strategy b) Review potential for further reducing volume of paper for Committee work c) Consider extending the use of video conferencing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Continue to minimise printing by staff b) Continue to encourage greater use of electronic devices by councillors c) Continue to offer hybrid provision to allow combined in-person and virtual meetings |
| E2 | Continue re-use schemes when disposing of furniture/ equipment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Repair and extend life where possible b) Offer spare or replaced items to community groups and voluntary organisations |
| E3 | Consider impact of on staff and the community in accessing and delivery of services at current and potential Council Centres. | Review options for the delivery of Council services |
| E4 | Monitor working temperatures and other factors adversely affecting workforce. | Ensure steps are taken to mitigate any changes in working conditions or wellbeing in Allerdale Borough Council workplaces. |
| E5 | Regularly review the Council's Strategic Procurement Strategy to increase the purchase of sustainable goods and services | Ensure any new aspects of climate change including legislation are incorporated into the Strategic Commissioning and Procurement Strategy as required |
| E6 | Review the Council's use of outside caterers and when used include the need for locally sourced food and reusable or recyclable utensils. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) choosing sustainable resources should be the intended choices b) work in conjunction with the Grow Local Eat Local project (ZCCP) |

Reducing waste and encouraging sustainable consumption: Allerdale Borough Council residents and businesses

We aim to reduce waste and support sustainable consumption and production, through a more circular economy. We want to discourage wasteful lifestyles that create environmental problems both here and abroad, on land and in the marine environment.

| | | |
|----|---|--|
| E7 | Improve recycling knowledge and practices in Allerdale including awareness of service | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Review trade waste options b) Review bulky waste collection and potential re-use system for furniture c) Review information on bin calendars [complete] d) Update Council website and information links [complete] e) Run further targeted PR campaigns to raise awareness of facilities and services |
|----|---|--|

| | | |
|-----|---|---|
| | | <p>f) Promote repair, reuse and recycling in the community for example through initiatives such as Freegle and repair cafes</p> <p>g) Continue campaigns to engage the public based on these principles: rethink - <i>reducing consumption</i> refuse - <i>saying no to environmentally unfriendly goods and services, including packaging</i> reduce - <i>reducing consumption of environmentally impactful purchases that you cannot live without</i> recycle - <i>finally, if the above options are not possible then look at the recycling options and ensure you recycle correctly</i></p> |
| E8 | Extend provision of doorstep recycling facilities in accordance with annual programme | <p>a) work with Allerdale Waste Services to determine programme</p> <p>b) address issues for areas of the borough not covered by current services</p> |
| E9 | Minimisation of residual waste | <p>a) continue to work on Tetra-Pak recycling scheme options</p> <p>b) investigate : i - anaerobic digestion for food waste ii - soft plastic recycling iii - electrical repair and recycling iv - furniture reuse v - deposit return scheme (bottles)</p> <p>c) promote Sustainable Food Action Plans</p> <p>d) consider reduction in residual waste collection container volume in line with national initiative</p> |
| E10 | Minimisation of residual waste at source | <p>a) raise awareness of staff and public on waste minimisation and recycling</p> <p>b) work on a waste minimisation campaign</p> <p>c) work to improve attitudes and actions regarding environmental crimes e.g. fly-tipping with a particular focus on identified hotspots</p> <p>d) carry out educational campaigns to support the above</p> <p>e) Extended Producer Responsibility scheme</p> |

What has been achieved so far?

E1: Electronic versions of meeting papers are now the standard method of distribution. Old computer equipment is reused or recycled.

E2: Wherever possible the Bulky Collections crew identifies furniture which is suitable to pass on to the Allerdale Borough Council Homeless Team and the items are stored at Solway House

- E3: The recycling facilities for staff in main offices include cans and bottles in addition to paper. The design and print tender specifications will include the need for use of recycled paper.
- E5: The Procurement Team has run a number of carbon reduction in procurement workshops, relevant to officers across the Council.
- E7: We work with Recycle for Cumbria to promote recycling across the council with initiatives planned in advance and publicised. Of particular interest this year have been the Daily Living Aids Take Back schemes where unwanted aids have been returned to the community support teams or to the NHS.
- E8: The roll out of recycling has continued with additional areas such as Newton Arlosh, Crofton, parts of Cockermouth and a new paper collection in Moorclose, in addition to providing recycling facilities to the many hundreds of new properties that have been built in the borough. We also did a re-routing exercise to balance up the vehicle loads to enable us to identify space tonnage capacity on the vehicles.
- E9: The kilograms per head of population figure reduced in the Q2 to 108.25 kgs from 111.98 kgs in Q1. Similarly the Q2 figure in 2021/22 was 114.02kgs. This is the latest audited data we have available. We have submitted an Expression of Interest form to Tetra-Pak who are gauging interest in possible funding opportunities to provide recycling machinery for their product. We are working in conjunction with our reprocessing contractor on this.
- E10: Through Recycle for Cumbria we promote the Waste Hierarchy with waste reduction being the top priority followed by reuse.

Actions for Cumberland Council to consider

Create a cohesive waste collection service and make changes to the waste collection rounds -

Cumberland Council should move the current Allerdale area to Alternate Weekly Collection in Year 1 of the new council, as part of the process to create a cohesive waste collection service.

At the same time the Council should seek to make changes to the waste collection rounds to reduce vehicle emissions and increase recycling opportunities in what were once regarded as remote areas.

Procure a low carbon waste treatment option - The Council should look to procure a low carbon waste treatment option when the current contract expires.

Continue and expand advertising campaigns - The Council should continue and expand advertising campaigns to explain the environment AND commercial benefit of recycling and even more importantly of waste reduction.

Embrace and introduce efficiency and effectiveness challenges - The Council should embrace and introduce the efficiency and effectiveness challenges of the Government's plans to introduce:

- the Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme;

- a weekly food waste collection by 2025; and
- the Deposit Return Scheme allowing the decarbonisation of the litter stream in particular.

Similarly, Cumberland Council should identify areas within the 2023 Environmental Improvement Plan to sign up to, including reducing:

- residual waste produced per person by 24%;
- total residual waste in total tonnes by 21%;
- municipal residual waste produced per person by 29%;
- residual food waste produced per person by 50%;
- residual municipal plastic waste produced per person by 45%;
- residual municipal paper and card waste produced per person by 42%;
- municipal metal waste produced per person by 42%; and
- residual municipal glass waste produced per person by 48%

As well as continuing to adhere to the Waste Hierarchy of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover, Cumberland Council should also implement the Energy Hierarchy of Prevent, Reduce, Recover and Replace.

Link adopted policies to the Environmental Services Association - In establishing its approach to the climate change and waste decarbonisation agendas, the Council should link adopted policies to those of the Environmental Services Association whose aim is to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2040 a full 10 years ahead of the UK's legally binding target.

Support local suppliers for catering requirements – when using local outside caterers, while the Council should support a mixture of options with more plant based/vegan choices, ensuring a good food hygiene rating from the Council's Environmental Health, or these areas all available online via Food Standards Agency (FSA) England: [Search for ratings | Food Standards Agency](#).

Address carbon reduction through procurement – Cumberland Council should develop a mechanism for procurement to measure carbon emission levels when looking at different ways of achieving service delivery. This will be required when the Procurement Bill receives Royal Assent (expected end March 2023). There will be a six-month period to put plans in place to be able to provide greater reporting and transparency around Council Contracts.

Different funding mechanisms should be investigated in commissioning services as part of transformation of commissioning and procurement and contract management, investigating different delivery models including how services are funded and any potential for partnerships. Cumberland Council should use its procurement processes to deliver positive change in support of its ambitions to address carbon reduction including:

- consider new contracts carefully – is a new contract needed? can things be done differently?
- continue to spend locally and consider any gaps in the supply chain.
- address future regulation changes – include new content in procurement documents.
- include in the specification - more than just asking to see a policy.
- use output or outcome specifications linked to the Council's sustainability ambitions.
- use 'relevant and proportionate' carbon reduction as part of the award criteria.
- include carbon reduction monitoring in ongoing Contract Management.

Section F: Restoring nature for all: Biodiversity, land use, land use change and forestry

We want to provide easy access to quality natural spaces, supporting wellbeing for individuals and communities. We want green spaces to have the co-benefits of providing natural potential for flood water slowing, carbon capture, flourishing insect friendly pollination areas and wildlife habitats, in addition to human focussed leisure facilities.

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| F1 | Nature reserves become sustainable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Progress the Solway Coast AONB Management Plan b) Progress delivery of management plans for the Council's nature reserves at Harrington and Siddick Ponds |
| F2 | Support for community focused projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Encourage orchards & allotments b) support development of horticultural businesses c) develop a small grants scheme d) Complete the Allonby to Silloth coastal cycle path extension [completed 2021/22] |
| F3 | Promote biodiversity by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) planting to minimise maintenance/ links to biodiversity b) identify areas of land for tree planting c) encourage composting d) promote/develop more Get Cumbria Buzzing sites e) promote habitat restoration, particularly including saltmarsh and seagrass beds f) Work with Cumbria Farmers Network to promote sustainable farming and improved environmental practice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i - change bedding plants to perennials ii - use peat free compost iii - introduce wildflower planting where viable and revise cutting timetable to encourage growth iv - reduce the use of Glyphosate as a general weed killer b) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i - work with the Woodland Trust and local groups such as TWIG; ii - be part of the emerging partnership project for a West Cumbria Community Coastal Forest c) through promotional campaigns encourage citizens to engage in composting d) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i - work with Cumbria Wildlife Trust and local groups ii – work with town and parish councils e) support local and community groups developing projects to restore or create habitats for biodiversity f) develop relationship Cumbria Farmers Network |
| F4 | Reduction in overall flood risk | Planting to mitigate the effects by slowing the flow in rivers and streams |
| F5 | Reduce flood probability and severity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) continue to promote and ensure urban run-off through SUDS (sustainable urban drainage systems) b) work with United Utilities with regard to reviewing water management from Thirlmere |
| F6 | Explore carbon capture potential | This would include both usage and storage |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| F7 | Explore hydrogen-related energy possibilities | Continue to monitor the project research being undertaken for Cumbria LEP and partners |
| F8 | Increased community awareness of climate change issues in AONB area | Through communication and community engagement |
| F9 | Prevent import of pests, diseases through local docks | Work in collaboration to ensure adherence to legislation |
| <p>Restoring Nature for All: Water, flooding and coastal change</p> <p>We want to address water wastage and develop grey water systems. We want to work with partners to improve flood resilience, consider coastal erosion, shoreline management, improve biodiversity and address beach litter.</p> | | |
| F10 | Implement results of trial using water saving devices in Council buildings and assess scope for extending | Improve ABC utilities supply/usage |
| F11 | Assess scope for reuse of grey water in Council buildings and prioritise for action | Improve ABC utilities supply/usage |
| F12 | Recognise the Council's role in ensuring sufficient public water for agriculture, industry, council use including statutory duties with regard to private water supplies and improving water sanitation | Work with Environment Agency, United Utilities, Cumbria County Council and other partners Ensure compliance with Sustainable Development Goal 6 |
| F13 | Raise awareness of staff and community on water saving measures | a) develop goals to reduce water leakage, wastage b) consider feasibility of installing rainwater and/or grey water recovery systems |
| F14 | Work to address coastal issues | a) work with partners to support the implementation of the Cumbria Coastal Strategy b) work with partners to support the implementation of the Shoreline Management Plan c) work with partners and Cumbria County Council on coastal issues, particularly around the B5300 d) continue to participate in the LGA Coastal Special Interest Group |
| F15 | Increase river and coastal flood resilience and safety | a) assess risk for people, livelihoods and prosperity b) ensure access to flood-readiness information (for evacuation) c) ensure access to flood-resilience and support information d) work closely with the Environment Agency and respective flood action groups throughout the borough e) assist EA and CCC with all flood alleviation methods including improving river defences |
| F16 | Review beach cleaning activities | Work with a range of groups to help clean beaches. Of greater importance to raise the issue |

| | | |
|-----|---|--|
| | | of dirty beaches and how the public can help reduce this. |
| F17 | Support ongoing work with partners to address diffuse pollution and improve bathing water quality | Promote the benefits of domestic travel and blue spaces for recreation and health, in conjunction with initiatives such as Love My Beach and Active Coast. |
| F18 | Support ongoing action plan for Allonby as a priority bathing water. | Ensure compliance with Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 14 |

What has been achieved so far?

F1: The Council’s AONB team manage the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The Parks and Open Spaces team manages the Council’s two nature reserves at Harrington and Siddick Pond with help from community groups, and through an extensive programme for volunteers and education. The management plans for these areas are regularly reviewed to increase biodiversity, create carbon sinks and help slow run-off of water producing biodiversity and carbon capture co-benefits.

We continued to actively manage our two Local Nature Reserves at Siddick Pond and Harrington in accordance with the current 5-year Management Plans, primarily through the efforts of the Workington Nature Partnership Officer and our fantastic band of regular volunteers.

In addition to our commitment to the Nature Reserves, we have carried out volunteering sessions on a number of other sites such as Workington Hall Park, Oldside and the sites that we are responsible for through the “Get Cumbria Buzzing” and “Planting for Pollinators” initiatives.

F2: The Climate Change Advisory Group established a Community Climate Grants Fund, administered by CAfS & ZCCP, to enable community groups to establish carbon and energy emissions reducing initiatives and make environmental improvements across the Borough.

F3: Allerdale Borough Council is an active partner in the successful bid to secure funding for the Cumbria Coastal Community Forest - an ambitious and exciting new initiative that will see thousands of new trees planted along the western coast of Cumbria and help bring people closer to nature.

We have allocated three sites totalling 4.3 hectares for delivery in the current planting season, these being:

Camerton Brickworks. Area = 1.8 Hectares. Previously under an annually renewable grazing licence. We were developing a scheme that was to combine new planting with ongoing use of the site for grazing. However the licensee decided not to renew the licence which has enabled a bigger and better scheme to be developed that includes the whole site.

Land at Salisbury Street, Mossbay, Workington. Area = 1.5 Hectares. Another site under an annually renewable grazing license. We have agreed a scheme with the licensee that combines new planting with grazing, to everyone's advantage.

Ellerbeck meadow, Moorclose, Workington. Area = 1 hectare. A parcel of land along the Ellerbeck green corridor, immediately south of the Gleasons housing site at Ashfield Road South. As well as being a CCCF site it is also a Planting for Pollinators site. A woodland planting scheme is being prepared that integrates tree and shrub planting with wildflower meadow creation.

The 3.5 year lottery-funded initiative Get Cumbria Buzzing, managed by Cumbria Wildlife Trust came to an end in June 2022.

Altogether we carried out work on 12 sites most of which are already showing great results, especially in respect of the population of the small blue butterfly, where we are leading the way nationally with the work that has been undertaken on our coastal sites between Workington and Maryport.

The Planting for Pollinators initiative, a follow-up to "Get Cumbria Buzzing", funded by the Green Recovery Fund, and again managed by Cumbria Wildlife Trust, comes to an end at the end of June 2023.

We have already carried out work on 10 of the 14 sites and much more work is planned over the next 5 months. Sites include Mote Hill, Maryport; Lakeland Park, Keswick; Camerton Brickworks; Flimby Coast; as well as a variety of regular and new sites in and around Workington.

Also worth highlighting is the B-Lines initiative (which Get Cumbria Buzzing and Planting for Pollinators support and help deliver) which has now gone international. The European Commission have committed to developing 'Buzz Lines' across all member states – working from the UK model and approach. See https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_23_281 and details on EU pollinator initiative here [EUR-Lex - 52023DC0035 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/lexUri.do?uri=EUR-Lex:52023DC0035-EN).

After much hoop-jumping and frustration along the way, the exciting Siddick Pond project to create a new wetland area alongside the brackish pond and to install sluices to enable the control of water levels between the freshwater and brackish ponds will be starting on site in February 2023, with funding coming from the Water Environment Grant and our capital programme.

We are supporting a number of local community groups and voluntary organisations who want to play their part in promoting biodiversity by adopting or carrying out improvements to small areas of land in council ownership e.g. Cockermouth Rotary Park and an "In Your Neighbourhood" Group in Workington.

Biodiversity and education is delivered via Enforcement Teams and Environmental Health when responding to calls for service e.g. smoke/noise nuisance allegations or accumulation complaints of putrescible waste.

- F4: Following initial discussions with the Allerdale Investment Partnership (AIP) we have commissioned West Cumbria Rivers Trust to undertake an initial scoping exercise for the AIP land (flood plain) on Ellerbeck Green Corridor, the east side of Ellerbeck (opposite side of the Gleasons housing site) which will involve a walkover survey of the site and production of a report outlining the potential environmental improvement options that could be considered.

This report will be used to progress discussions with the AIP about a potential green infrastructure project on this site, which could integrate habitat creation works (ponds, woodland, meadow) with public access as well as mitigating silt deposition in the watercourse, which is carried downstream and as far as the “reservoir” on Harrington Nature Reserve, where it continues to be a major cause for concern.

We continue to work with Tivoli to develop our approach to grounds maintenance in a way that promotes biodiversity. Tivoli have been very involved with the implementation of many of the above projects, which has been beneficial to them as well as us, and we are developing a good way of working that will contribute to our Action Plan to Address Climate Change objectives.

- F8: Air quality awareness has been delivered through Allerdale Borough Council Environmental Health team’s air quality work, implementing our environmental permit obligations and report this through Annual Status Reports for Allerdale. [Air quality \(allerdale.gov.uk\)](https://www.allerdale.gov.uk/air-quality)
- F9: Allerdale Borough Council was the Port Health Authority for Workington Port and Silloth Port. Allerdale Borough Council Environmental Health regularly completed ship sanitation inspections for vessels that require their regular ship sanitation inspection under WHO guidelines [Ship sanitation inspections \(allerdale.gov.uk\)](https://www.allerdale.gov.uk/ship-sanitation-inspections)

Environmental Health (EH) staff are trained on ship sanitation inspections. Those EH staff in food safety have recently undertaken food hygiene export certificates training in order to allow food businesses to export certain food products of animal origin outside of the UK, depending on the commodity and importing destination.

- F10: The Council’s Employee Engagement and Health and Wellbeing groups completed a Toilet Twinning initiative in 2018 and are part of the Refill campaign. A water fountain for the public is located in the main reception of Allerdale House to help encourage a reduction in plastic pollution.
- F12: The Environmental Health Act identifies local authorities as the regulators of private water supplies with a number of duties under the Private Water Supplies Regulations, and these duties are regularly carried out. [Private water supplies \(allerdale.gov.uk\)](https://www.allerdale.gov.uk/private-water-supplies)

F14: A Shoreline Management Plan for the Northwest of England and North Wales has been developed. This sets out the long-term direction for managing risk to our coastline. The Cumbria Coastal Strategy was approved by all partners, including Allerdale Borough Council, in 2021.

F16: While there is regular maintenance from Tivoli, beach cleans are typically coordinated by Workington Partnership for Workington beaches alongside Cumbria Wildlife Trust and other environmental conservation organisations (e.g. Dynamic Dunescapes Cumbria).

F17: As of 2023, LoveMyBeach has been dissolved and campaigns such as Active Coast which Allerdale took part in 2019 have also been dissolved.

Turning Tides, coordinated by Keep Britain Tidy (NW England initiative), still remains and new initiatives are to be explored. Allerdale Borough Council also sits with the Solway Firth Partnership with partners in South West Scotland.

Allerdale Environmental Health, working with Communications and Public Health colleagues at the County Council, have delivered a Clean Air Day campaign every year since 2018 as well as raising awareness of air quality matters during Visit Allerdale events where possible.

F18: Allonby is declared as a priority bathing water by the Environment Agency for additional work required to maintain the 'Good' bathing water quality classification.

Officers are working to submit a Seaside Award application for Allonby bathing water in 2023.

There is growing interest nationally for inland waters to receive bathing water status from campaigners such as Surfers Against Sewage. Designation investigation are to take place in summer 2023 for Harrington as a bathing water destination with Environmental Health and the community.

Actions for Cumberland Council to consider

Mainstream successful programmes - Successful programmes such as "Get Cumbria Buzzing and "Planting for Pollinators" should be mainstream and therefore not reliant on grant funding.

Attribute a budget that reflects ambition - Cumberland Council should attribute a budget that reflects its future Climate Change Action Plan ambition seriously.

Work with partners via Service Level Agreements - With a great track record of working with partner organisations such as Cumbria Wildlife Trust, West Cumbria Rivers Trust, Natural England and now the Cumbria Coastal Community Forest Team, Cumberland Council could look to work even more closely with partners through Service Level Agreements to ensure more delivery on the west coast.

Purchase specialist biodiversity management equipment - Specialist pieces of machinery are often required to achieve some of the biodiversity management objectives the council strives for, e.g. working with conservation grassland. At present Tivoli have to hire-in some of this equipment (such

as the Amazone Profihopper) which is costly and not always available when needed. It has been advocated to Tivoli that they should consider purchasing such equipment, however if this is not possible the new council could consider making the purchase of specialist biodiversity management equipment because, not only could it be used throughout the Cumberland Council area (Copeland and Carlisle councils have both been active in Get Cumbria Buzzing and Planting for Pollinators and have had similar requirements), it could also be hired out to other local organisations who are slowly looking to follow the lead such as housing associations e.g. Riverside.

Continue to maintain and monitor air quality across Cumberland – for much of the Allerdale and Copeland areas this has been good and this will no doubt continue across Cumberland.

Consider an Environmental Management System - for Cumberland Council an EMS could be considered, working towards an accreditation scheme such as ISO14001:2015, to enhance the Council's environmental performance.

Section G: Developing local authority funding, governance and accounting systems that are fit for purpose

We want to develop a strategic approach to influencing climate and biodiversity problems. We hope to provide citizens with appropriate engagement opportunities based on transparent proposals, processes and performance, which will deliver innovative solutions. We aim to influence investment strategies and procurement policies to ensure they are in line with this Council's Climate Change ambitions and contribute to a local, circular economy

| | Actions | Activity |
|----|---|--|
| G1 | Scrutiny of treasury and procurement via Overview and Scrutiny and/or Audit Committee to ensure actions are in line with the Action Plan to Address Climate Change aims | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ensure that whole life costs and local, ethical purchasing guidelines are followed b) address policies to include the economic costs of climate change adaptation and mitigation c) look to divest from financial arrangements damaging to the climate |
| G2 | Innovative funding and financing mechanisms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) look at community bonds and funding partnerships b) explore potential for large capital schemes c) engage with regional procurement frameworks where appropriate d) develop a funding strategy including assessing, readiness to apply for and utilising grant funding schemes as these become available |
| G3 | Explore options for UK Shared Prosperity Fund to fund the transition to the low carbon economy | Ensure low carbon/net zero goals are considered in the development of the UKSP Investment Plan |
| G4 | Provide government with the evidence that helps local authorities to apply policies and target resources to deliver necessary cuts in emissions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) address carbon reduction in service planning and performance management b) assess the carbon emissions when developing proposals for capital schemes c) continue use of impact assessment section in council report templates d) lobby Government |

What has been achieved so far?

Within our sphere of influence as a local authority we seek to influence around a third of the area's emissions through place shaping, partnerships and leadership. The Council's Procurement Strategy addresses the environment and sustainability in a purchasing context. Ongoing work with the other Cumbrian local authorities through EPiC (Effective Procurement in Cumbria) should help establish a consistent approach in helping to address climate change and support the local economy across Cumbria through sustainable procurement.

G1: The National Themes, Outcomes and Measures (referred to as TOMs) framework is incorporated into all Tenders. The Framework provides a minimum reporting standard to help buyers measure social value outcomes in contracts. Key Performance Indicators will ensure maximum buy-in for local economy and targets to ensure carbon reduction for the project/building lifecycle. All Tenders for capital works are required to provide evidence of their Environmental Management Policy and capability.

The Procurement team have bimonthly workshops on a range of subjects to ensure the full value of all procurements is achieved. 'Taking account of carbon reduction in Council Contracts' was held in November 2021, and was repeated in March 2023, to ensure carbon reduction is considered not just in the things we buy but also in looking at whether all contracts are necessary, can we reuse, share or work differently to reduce our carbon footprint.

G2: Allerdale has run a Community Lottery for the last few years. This is a partnership between the Council with an external lottery provider to raise money for grass roots community groups including environmental local projects. From funding raised 60p of every pound goes directly to good causes (double the amount of other national lotteries). In 2022/2023 the Community Lottery is set to raise £36,847.20 for good causes in Allerdale with the intention to extend the geographical scope of the lottery as we transfer to Cumberland.

The UK Shared Prosperity investment Plan in year one has concentrated on continuation of existing schemes. As we progress to years two and three, an assessment tool has been developed which will assess projects using a prioritisation tool. Carbon reduction/ zero carbon energy infrastructure installed is an output that all capital work projects to improve towns projects will be measured against.

The Climate Change Advisory Group supported a Training Needs Analysis of the support required for those working in Energy Efficiency Retrofit which in turn should lead to the Council having a better readiness to apply for grant schemes.

Actions for Cumberland Council to consider

Scrutinise financial arrangements - Scrutiny of finance and financial arrangements should be considered by Cumberland Council's overview and scrutiny processes including:

- the Local Government Pension Scheme in order to ensure the journey towards Zero Carbon investment continues
- insurances services to ensure they have ethical investment policies
- Council banking services to ensure they are divesting funds away from fossil fuel projects and other environmentally damaging projects

Climate Change Advisory Group – Recommendations

Recommendations to Cumberland Council from The Climate Change Advisory Group are summarised below.

The headings are taken from the key aim and 4 key areas of focus in the Cumberland Council plan. It may be felt that all the recommendations should sit under the environment and climate heading, except the changes needed to address the issues we all face as a community run through every aspect of the services a council provides. The letter in brackets indicates the section of this document where detail of the recommendation can be found.

Cumberland Council must always consider the co-benefits of projects in terms of environmental impacts and community wellbeing as well as financial cost.

Improving health and wellbeing

Establish a greenhouse gas emissions baseline for the Cumberland Council area (B)

Progress decarbonisation in the public transport sector (C)

Implement the pre-planning Climate Checklist (D)

Embed climate change mitigation and the green economy in strategy and policy, including the new Local Plan (D)

Local economies

Change policy to ensure that all energy in council buildings is from renewable or sustainable sources (B)

Ensure a comprehensive programme of electric vehicle charge point installation (C)

Address carbon reduction through procurement policy (E)

Support local suppliers and low carbon foods for any Council catering requirements (E)

Work with partners via Service Level Agreements to enable the delivery of more biodiversity projects (F)

Attribute a budget to restoring nature for all that reflects the Council's climate change ambition (F)

Excellent public services

Form a Climate Change Advisory Group for Cumberland Council, involving a wide range of Members, officers and stakeholder groups (A)

Provide mandatory climate literacy training to Members and officers (A)

Review the outcomes from carbon literacy training by service areas and individuals in their job roles. Identify aspects of service provision that would benefit from in-depth training on specific subjects (A)

Build on successful approach to communication and collaborative working (A)

Encourage staff to reduce travel emissions (C)

Mainstream successful land use programmes (F)

Scrutinise financial arrangements (G)

Addressing inequalities

Cumberland Council should lead discussion of skills and training opportunities (A)

Continue to access government funding to decarbonise the housing stock (B)

Environmental resilience and climate

Enhance retrofitted home energy improvement skills across the area (B)

Ensure existing green spaces are enhanced around and within housing developments (D)

Create a cohesive waste collection service and make changes to the waste collection rounds (E)

Procure a low carbon waste treatment option (E)

Continue and expand advertising campaigns e.g. raising awareness of the waste hierarchy: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover (E)

Embrace and introduce efficiency and effectiveness challenges (E)

Link adopted policies to the Environmental Services Association (E)

Purchase specialist biodiversity management equipment (F)

Continue to maintain and monitor air quality across Cumberland (F)

Consider an Environmental Management System and accreditation (F)

Climate Change Advisory Group Action Plan Summary

Cumberland Council's Plan 2023-2027 has a number of themes around an overall ambition to improve health and wellbeing. These themes include delivering excellent public services, addressing inequalities, local economies that work for local people, and environmental resilience and addressing climate change.

As the work of local authorities in addressing the changes which climate issues are creating, it is important to recognise that this affects us all and the services we each access and consume at some level. Perhaps not right now but very soon – establishing target dates for some years in the future suddenly become tomorrow.

The Climate Change Advisory Group would like to see Cumberland Council continue and expand its work to embed practices and processes which embrace adaptation to meet peoples' needs and excellent solutions to the climate concerns in Cumberland and Cumbria.

Most of the recommendations for Cumberland Council to consider can be directly related to the environmental resilience and climate change theme of plan, with clear connections to each of the other themes. These are referred to as co-benefits and can be a useful tool in building public awareness of how changes in services can be beneficial. Public understanding of the need to adapt lifestyles and how we live is clearly increasing though the need to further increase awareness and knowledge is a task Cumberland Council will need to address.

In conclusion, the Climate Change Advisory Group was set up to support the Portfolio Holder and officers in delivering this Council's work to address climate change. We made progress in many areas with work still to do. As Cumberland Council establishes itself as the successor authority to Allerdale Borough Council and our partner authorities, the work to date highlights an approach on which build and which we hope the new Council, Portfolio Holders and officers will use in setting their own agenda.

Our very best wishes.

Appendix 1 – Climate Checklist

It is not always apparent how a development proposal has been designed with these policies in mind, and how the development will mitigate and adapt to climate change.

A climate change checklist has therefore been prepared to help in the assessment of new homes, commercial development, and infrastructure projects, to ensure that developers are doing all they can to respond to climate change.

Table 1 below sets out the draft checklist which consists of a series of questions relating to the themes within the policies outlined in table 2.

Whilst the checklist does not form part of the formal validation checklist, the Council will use these questions to consider and assess proposals, ensuring that climate change is properly taken into account as a material planning consideration. Applicants are encouraged to complete the checklist to demonstrate how they are addressing climate change and complying with existing relevant policies. It will also be used in pre-application discussions.

Table 1. Checklist

| Question | Relevant Policies |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Is the development located and designed in a way that it will enable people to choose sustainable transport modes (walking, cycling, public transport)? Does the layout and design promote appropriate connectivity to encourage and facilitate walking and cycling? | S2, S3, S4, S22, DM14 |
| 2. Will the development incorporate facilities for charging plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles as required by building regulations? How will this be accommodated within the design of development? | S2, S22 |
| 3. Does the development prioritise the re-use of land and buildings, and use sustainable building materials (taking account of their full lifecycle) and construction methods? Have locally and responsibly sourced materials been considered? Are recycled and recyclable products employed For example. re-using demolition materials for hardcore and aggregate. | S2, S4, S30, S31, DM12 |
| 4. Does the development identify opportunities to increase the proportion of energy derived from renewable sources, including opportunities for on-site renewable and low carbon technologies? | S2, S19, DM12, |
| 5. Does the development carefully consider how biodiversity net gain will be achieved and does it incorporate | S2, S4, S24, S35, DM12, |

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <p>green/blue infrastructure which will help mitigate and respond to climate change? For example. tree planting to absorb carbon and provide shade from overheating, wetland SuDS features to manage flood risk, green routes for active travel etc). Will existing trees and hedgerows and ecological features be retained, and blue and green spaces linked to the wider green infrastructure assets of the borough? Does the scheme provide for on-going management of green and blue spaces and/or biodiversity habitats?</p> | <p>DM14, DM17, SA52</p> |
| <p>6. Has the development proposal identified how the development might be at risk from local climate change impacts such as flooding, increased precipitation and storm events, overheating and drought, and explained how it has been designed in a way to adapt to climate change, increase resilience and protect people from its impacts?</p> <p>For example, are Sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) or other measures designed to reduce surface water runoff from roofing and external surfaces included. Who has any maintenance responsibilities and what other benefits could be achieved such as biodiversity & amenity? Are areas of impermeable paving minimised. What measures prevent excess solar gain in summer. Street trees and landscaping can provide shade and reduce heat island effects. Does the development include water efficient fittings and appliances, rainwater harvesting systems or recycling and harvesting facilities for grey water?</p> | <p>S2, S24, S29, DM12, DM14, SA52</p> |
| <p>7. Does the development promote sustainable waste management, through applying the waste hierarchy, providing sufficient space in appropriate locations for recycling and composting, and considering a zero waste to landfill approach?</p> | <p>S2, DM12</p> |
| <p>8. Does the development's design and layout promote energy conservation and efficiency?</p> <p>For example, through the orientation of properties to maximise passive solar gain, measures to capture solar energy, incorporation of micro-renewables, the provision of passive ventilation for cooling and through appropriate construction materials and methods?</p> | <p>S2, S4, DM12</p> |

Table 2. Allerdale Local Plan Policies relevant to Climate Change

| Policy reference | Summary of policy | Contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation |
|---|---|--|
| Allerdale Local Plan Part 1 | | |
| <p>Strategic Objectives</p> <p>SO1a - SO1g Climate Change and Sustainability</p> <p>SO4a, SO4c Transport</p> <p>SO5a, SO5d, SO5e Built Environment</p> <p>SO6b, SO6d, SO6e Natural Environment</p> | <p>Promotes reducing Allerdale’s carbon footprint and supports a low carbon future, locating development close to services, alternative means of transport (other than car), and supports energy efficiency, renewable energy and effective use of land and buildings. Promotion of Green Infrastructure, protection of biodiversity and ensuring a resilient liveable environment.</p> | <p>Aim is to reduce the need to travel by car, where travel is necessary there are alternatives such as public transport, walking and cycling. Energy sources are from low or zero carbon. Natural resources such as land are effectively and efficiently used. Development is safe and energy efficient, whilst green infrastructure is protected, promoted, and provided.</p> |
| <p>Policy S2 Sustainable Development Principles</p> | <p>Overarching strategic policy for sustainable development, setting out high level economic, social and environmental principles that contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Seeks to reduce Allerdale’s carbon footprint and ensure the impact of development on climate change is mitigated and that a comfortable, resilient and liveable environment is achieved by adapting to its effects. Aims to minimise impact on natural resources through waste reduction, recycling, renewable and low carbon energy, encourage sustainable construction to improve energy efficiency, provide renewable energy, reduce water consumption and waste and use sustainably sourced materials,</p> | <p>Policy sets out high level principles to ensure development can mitigate and withstand and adapt to climate changes. For example flooding, drainage systems that can cope and reduce impacts of surface water run-off. Design of development which includes green infrastructure, orientation of buildings, energy efficiency, shading (tree planting), renewable energy sources.</p> <p>Use of locally sourced materials to reduce the transporting of resources over long distances. Similarly local food production.</p> |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | <p>minimise flood risk and do not undermine flood defences or alleviation methods, habitat and species protection, green infrastructure and ecological networks sustainable drainage, support local food production. Minimise travel. Effective and efficient use of land, encouraging the reuse of previously-developed land.</p> | |
| Policy S3 Spatial Strategy | <p>Development strategy for the district that concentrates growth in existing centres to take advantage of access to services, public transport and employment</p> | <p>This strategy seeks to reduce the need to travel to access jobs, housing and services by concentrating the majority of development in the main towns, where there is also the availability of alternative means of transport.</p> |
| Policies S4 Design Principles | <p>Sets out the overarching framework for design in all development. This includes incorporating sustainable construction methods that reduce energy consumption, and improving connections between people and places through the provision of well thought-out layouts, public realm, landscaping, streetscape and public and private greenspaces. References buildings for life 12 and Manual for streets</p> | |
| Policy S19 Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies | <p>Policy supporting renewable energy and low carbon technologies from all potential sources.</p> | |
| Policy S22 Transport Principles | <p>Underpins the spatial strategy by requiring development to be</p> | <p>This policy requires sites to be connected or create connections</p> |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | located in areas which help to reduce journey times and have safe and convenient access to public transport, improve travel choice and reduce need to travel by private vehicle. Sustainable travel is promoted. Seeks to prioritise pedestrians and cyclists in development and links to public transport hubs. Charging points for electric and hybrid vehicles | and networks for pedestrian and cyclists as part of the development. Travel Plans to support schemes to encourage a shift away from the car to public transport. Location of development that can benefit from existing public transport services. |
| Policy S24 Green Infrastructure | Promotes the creation, enhancement, maintenance and protection of a range of GI assets and ensure that GI is woven into development. Multi-functional habitat networks, green buildings, sustainable drainage and flood mitigation solutions, woodland management | The benefits of green infrastructure are managing flood events and drainage of surface water. It provides for habitat and species resilience as well as providing possible walking and cycling routes, thus encouraging these activities. |
| Policy S29 Flood Risk and Surface Water Drainage | Aims to ensure that development is not located in high flood risk areas, that schemes include sustainable drainage systems and where flood risk an issue appropriate mitigation is achieved. | This policy aims to minimise the number of properties that could be at risk from flooding by avoiding known flood areas, and install drainage systems that can adapt to changing rainfall. The supporting evidence (flood modelling) builds in climate change forecasts to try to future-proof decision making. |
| Policy S30 Reuse of Land | Supports the use of brownfield sites | Supporting the reuse of sites in towns so that land can be used as efficiently as possible. |
| Policy S31 Reuse of rural buildings and replacement dwellings in the countryside. | Supports the reuse of rural buildings | Supports the recycling of building for alternative uses. |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Policy S35 Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity and Geodiversity</p> | <p>A key priority of the local plan is to promote sustainable development whilst conserving and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity. This policy ensures biodiversity is protected and enhanced as part of any development. This is also reinforced in the design and green infrastructure policies.</p> | <p>To build robust and climate resilient species and habitats. The Environment Act introduces a mandatory requirement for developments to demonstrate a measurable 10% increase in biodiversity from 2023, but planning policies already support and promote the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and the achievements of net gains for biodiversity.</p> |
| <p>Policy S36 Air, Water and Soil Quality</p> | <p>Ensures that development does not have adverse impacts on air, soil and water quality. Safeguarding of high-quality agricultural land.</p> | <p>Protection of high-grade agricultural land does provide the opportunity to secure a local food supply chain.</p> |
| <p>Policy S37 Shoreline Management and Coastal Development</p> | <p>Limits coastal development to proposals that require a coastal location and also supports the relocations of businesses and homes in land where coastal erosion is an issue.</p> | <p>This takes account of the changing coastline from rising sea levels and erosion and also tidal flood risk. This policy limits new development to reduce potential impacts from coastal erosion but it also supports relocation of existing property if it is affected by coastal change.</p> |
| <p>Policy DM12 Sustainable Construction</p> | <p>Sets out the Council’s expectations for new development in terms of sustainability and responding to climate change. Includes minimising surface water runoff through sustainable drainage and green infrastructure, implementing water and energy efficiency measures, use of renewable energy, orientation of buildings, locally sourced and recycled materials, waste management including recycling</p> | <p>This policy is outlining in greater detail what is expected in the design of schemes. Government currently consulting on proposed changes to Building Regulations to improve energy efficiency measures and low carbon energy sources such as ground source heating.</p> |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| | and composting facilities, and minimising impact on biodiversity. The supporting text signposts the BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) 'very good' standard for building design, construction & operation, and the Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4, the latter is no longer supported | |
| Policy DM14 Standards of Good Design | Supports policy S4 providing details on what is required to ensure an appropriate standard of design is achieved and maintained. Reference is made to appropriate facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, and green infrastructure and the retention of existing assets such as trees and hedgerows. The policy also sets out expectations for landscaping in new development, offering opportunities for biodiversity enhancement. The supporting text signposts good practice such as Building for Life 12 and Manual for Streets | |
| Policy DM17 Trees, Hedgerows and Woodlands | Seeks to safeguard existing trees and hedgerows and where that is not possible ensure appropriate mitigation and replacement. | Benefits biodiversity and delivers climate change mitigation by reducing surface water run-off rates and providing shade in hot weather. |
| Allerdale Local Plan Part 2 | | |
| Site Allocations SA8-SA29, SA36-45 and SA46-49 | | Each site allocation policy incorporates requirements relating to flood risk, sustainable drainage, enhancement to biodiversity and |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| | | green infrastructure. Site selection included factor such as distance from bus stops and local services to try and encourage walking, cycling and use of public transport. |
| Policy SA52 Protecting and Creating Green Infrastructure | In support of Policy S24 and design policies that highlight the role of green infrastructure, this policy sets out further expectations regarding the provision of green infrastructure and identifies a green infrastructure network in the main towns. | The benefits of green infrastructure are managing flood events and sustainable drainage of surface water, particularly in storm events, and providing shading in hot weather. It provides for habitat and species resilience as well as promoting walking and cycling. |