

Sheffield City Council
**Our Statement of Climate
Commitments**

December 2023



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Our Commitment to Addressing Climate Change

On 11th December 2023, the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee approved the first Annual Climate Progress Report since Sheffield City Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and set an ambitious target to be a net zero city by 2030.

This report highlighted that progress has been made, however it is not at the pace and scale needed to meet our 2030 target:

- 12.03% reduction in Sheffield City CO₂e emissions between 2017 and 2021
- 3% reduction in Sheffield City Council CO₂e emissions between 2019 and 2022
- Sheffield is expected to exceed its recommended carbon budget for 2018-2022

The climate emergency is one of the biggest challenges we will face as a city, region, country and global community. Following the announcement from Government in September 2023 to delay key climate change related legislation, we face a period of uncertainty around the policy levers that will be available in the coming years to support us to deliver our climate action at pace and at scale. Further to this, significant additional resources from central government will be required to help us to meet our ambitions and realise the opportunities that climate action brings. We will continue to work with government and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to influence this.

We, as elected Members, wish to restate our support and commitment to the targets that Sheffield has set around addressing climate change. We remain committed to tackling challenges that can be addressed by this council, using the opportunities and levers that are available to us. We also commit to developing council-wide climate adaptation plans within each of our service areas. By working together with Sheffield's communities, businesses, institutions and partner organisations to reduce our carbon emissions and adapt to our changing climate, we can minimise the impact of change, realise the widespread benefits of investing in homes and new technologies, and address issues around social justice.

How Climate Change Relates to Our Committees

It is stated in the Sheffield City Council Constitution under the council functions of each committee that 'when devising policy, evaluating service delivery and taking decisions the committee must consider...climate and biodiversity'. In relation to climate change, each of our committees' work is impacted and affected by other

committees' decisions, and we will only succeed if we take a cross-committee approach to climate action.

The following pages set out how climate change relates to the nine policy committees and highlights key activity on the current work plans and service plans that support net zero and address climate change.

Policy Committee Statements

Transport, Regeneration and Climate Change Policy Committee

The Transport, Regeneration and Climate Change Policy Committee's remit is to provide oversight and steer in relation to climate and net zero, as well as for specific regeneration and transport activity.

The latest CO₂e emissions data set released by the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) in 2023, shows Sheffield's 2017 baseline emissions at 2,580 ktCO₂e, with the largest contributors being the housing sector (30%), followed by industrial and commercial (24%), and transport (22%) sectors. In 2021, the latest year for which data is available, Sheffield produced 2,270 ktCO₂e. This showed a reduction in annual emissions by 310 ktCO₂e (12.03%) since the 2017 baseline, but an annual increase of 89 ktCO₂e (4.09%) since the previous year, 2020.

The impacts of climate change will be very significant for the city. They are many and varied, and include increased extreme weather events, increased risk of flooding and drought, ecological degradation, higher goods, services and energy costs, food and water insecurity, and reduced health and well-being. Those in vulnerable groups, already living in poverty or in deprived communities will be most affected, and the impacts of climate change are likely to further increase the number of people within these groups.

Some of these impacts are unfortunately now inevitable, however any delay in acting will only increase the scale and severity of the impacts in the future. We need to, and can, act now to minimise, mitigate and adapt to the changing climate. This committee will lead the council's response to the climate emergency by taking decisions which:

- support the development and integration of climate action as a cross-cutting issue, embedding climate responsibility across the organisation and city
- take a longer-term approach, particularly where data or funding requirements for future years may be unclear, or where benefit realisation is not immediate
- take a proactive approach to climate leadership and highlight climate as an issue of significant strategic importance
- take a pro-active approach to the management and mitigation of climate adaptation, recognising it as a significant financial and wider risk to the council and city
- are aligned with policy and strategy, backed by robust evidence, and supported by inclusive and balanced public engagement which seeks to reach a wide range of views, including less-heard communities, those likely to be disproportionately affected and the majority of the population who polling evidence suggests are concerned about and want to see action on climate change, but do not regularly engage with the council.

Transport

The Transport sector contributed 572.03 ktCO₂e (22%) to Sheffield's emissions in 2021 and remains the third largest emitting sector in the city. Transport emissions have reduced by 15.9% since 2017, however they increased again by 2.4% between 2020 and 2021. Almost two-thirds of these emissions are from cars and over a quarter from light and heavy goods vehicles, and around 98% of the vehicles in the city are either diesel or petrol.

If the city doesn't act further to shift to low- or zero-emission modes of travel mode and decarbonise its transport system, we could see:

- reduced air quality and increased air pollution-related illnesses such as asthma, strokes, lung cancer, cardiovascular and respiratory disease, and air-quality related deaths
- increasing traffic growth leading to an increase in congestion, journey time, gridlock events and road collisions, and causing disruption to services, businesses and basic amenities
- significant continuing CO₂e emissions past 2030, due to transport being the third largest sector in Sheffield
- increasing vehicles ownership, exacerbating existing parking constraints and increasing emissions further
- increase in time-poverty for those who do not have the means or capacity to travel by vehicle, are reliant on public transport, or have to trip-chain in order to meet their needs
- increased insecurity over fuel cost and supply.

This committee will contribute to increased travel mode shift, and decarbonising the way we travel, by taking decisions which:

- enable and encourage modal shift towards zero emission travel by supporting increased safe active travel and public transport participation for as many people as possible
- lower resident and business dependency on cars and vehicles to reduce journeys, traffic and vehicle numbers
- lever influence to support businesses in consolidating and decarbonise their freight fleets whilst maintaining efficient and affordable goods movement in the city
- support an equitable provision of infrastructure necessary for the transition to vehicles powered by electricity or alternative fuels, suitable for each locality and community
- give consideration of every opportunity for investing in renewable energy projects on council land and buildings to generate energy and income.

Reducing travel emissions has perhaps the most extensive, strongest and most obvious wider benefits, many of which would be worth the investment even without the carbon benefits:

- increased social inclusion and travel choices as bus and tram services expand and improve, and more people are able, and choose, to use them

- better health and wellbeing as more people walk, cycle and wheel, helping increase healthy life expectancy, reduce absenteeism, and increase productivity
- quieter neighbourhoods with better air quality, where people feel safe to walk and cycle and where children are free to be more independent and to play
- less dependency on car ownership and use reduces the number of cars, improving pressure on car parking and congestion and making neighbourhoods more pleasant places to live and spend time
- new economic and business opportunities are created as the sector grows, and well-planned improvements result in more people visiting local businesses as they travel about their day.

Regeneration

The impacts of regeneration on our cities are varying and difficult to quantify. Construction activity can be a significant source of emissions, and land-use and surface structure changes can decrease carbon sequestration. However, regeneration also offers the significant opportunity to implement equitable and lasting change in relation to decarbonisation and adapting our city for a changing climate, as we invest in the areas that need improvement and development from a city-wide to neighbourhood level.

The council can lead, influence and support sustainable regeneration by using its spheres of influence, through direct delivery and working with partners to encourage delivery that goes beyond building regulations, facilitates innovation, and showcases good practise for replication at scale. Taking a place-based approach to delivery of regeneration enables a number of varying measures, such as renewable energy generation, electric vehicle charging and sustainable urban drainage, to be incorporated into schemes, to reduce emissions and deliver an adapted, climate-ready and lasting solution, while reducing local disruption and increasing the schemes lifecycle benefits.

If the city doesn't act further to support reducing city emissions and deliver an equitable distribution of regeneration that is adapted for a changing climate, we could see:

- increased infrastructure maintenance and repair costs, as well as an increased cost and occurrence of abortive works
- increased costs for future schemes
- increased property and infrastructure damage from extreme weather events such as flash flooding, drought and heat waves
- on-going and repeated local disruption from multiple schemes as we deliver the action needed to respond to the climate emergency
- loss of green-space, reduced carbon sequestration and ecological degradation
- a city, neighbourhoods and infrastructure that does not meet the changing future needs of its residents.

This committee will contribute to support sustainable and equitable regeneration, by taking decisions which:

- take a longer-term approach that reduces the need for further future intervention, particularly where investment and innovation in future years is unclear
- support taking a place based, multi-measure approach to maximise climate mitigation and adaptation, and reduce the need for future works to decarbonise and adapt for a changing climate
- give consideration of every opportunity for investing in renewable energy projects on council land and buildings to generate energy and income
- explore opportunities to integrate sustainable urban drainage, following a similar approach to our award-winning Grey to Green schemes to replicate best practice
- Our draft Local Plan requires new developments to cut carbon emissions and supports the council's clear objective to be net zero carbon by 2030.

The benefits of taking this approach are:

- a city, neighbourhoods and infrastructure which is future-proofed and fit for a changing climate, while meeting the needs of our citizens
- supporting a just and fair transition, by ensuring that actions we take consider inequities and have a positive impact on those who are already disadvantaged
- helping to create a more sustainable economy, through supporting the development of local supply chains and skills to deliver our regeneration programmes
- utilising investment in high quality, sustainable public realm to create a setting for wider investment
- helping to support creation of new habitat and improving biodiversity.

Key Actions

1. Decarbonisation Routemaps	The seven thematic routemaps will set out the vision of a net zero city and council, and the action that will be taken over the next few years to achieve that. The Transport, Regeneration and Climate Committee approved the Our Council and The Way We Travel routemaps on 19 th July 2023, and will continue to have oversight, and contribute to, the development of the remaining thematic routemaps.
2. Local and Neighbourhood Transport Programme 2022-2023	The programme for developing and implementing the council's capital transport schemes, including pedestrian and cycling enhancements, electric vehicle charging, highway safety enhancements active neighbourhoods, cycle parking, and signage for active travel routes, wayfinding to public transport and localised pedestrian navigation.
3. Connecting Sheffield	Connecting Sheffield supports mode shift toward zero-carbon travel by delivering high-quality, convenient and safer routes into and around the city for walking, wheeling,

	cycling and public transport, such as the Arundel Bus Gate, Sheaf Valley cycle route, and a number of active neighbourhoods.
4. Sheffield Local Plan	Local Plan addresses climate change through choice of spatial strategy to determine distribution of regeneration and new development and by inclusion of policies in the plan that embed sustainable principles within the decision-making process relating to proposals.
5. Sheffield Flood Programme	Our city-wide flood programme continues, with city flood schemes significantly having reduced impacts in floods experienced in February 2023 and October 2023. Following the completion in October 2023 of the Upper Don Flood Alleviation Scheme phase 1 (Loxley) the business case for phase 2 of the scheme from Neepsend to Kelham will be presented next year (2024/25). This will be followed by proposal for the Sheaf & Porter Catchment Flood Alleviation Scheme which is also in business case development. We will also continue to work with our partners in the Environment Agency, our Parks & Countryside colleagues and wider groups including the Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust in delivering nature-based flood risk reduction measures across the city.
6. Decarbonisation Routemap: Energy, Generation and Storage	This report will bring forward the Energy Generation and Storage Routemap, setting out city-wide actions up to 2026.

Strategy and Resources Policy Committee

The Zero Carbon Mitigation Pathways report on governance recommended that climate change needs to be a central council priority, structuring action around outcomes, and that embedding climate action into the structure of the organisation will be essential to deliver our climate objectives. As the committee with overall responsibility for the development of cross-cutting policy and providing strategic direction to operation of the council, the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee is in a key position to enable this to happen.

The impacts of climate change are many and varied and are predicted to include higher energy and food bills to extreme weather, increased risk of flooding and negative impacts on our health. Our more vulnerable communities are expected to be more negatively affected by these changes, which is why it is essential that as an

organisation we act now to both reduce our impact on the climate, as well as preparing for the changes that are predicted to occur.

This committee will contribute to the council’s net zero ambitions and to adapting to climate change, by taking decisions which:

- support the development and integration of climate action as a cross-cutting issue, embedding climate responsibility across the organisation
- ensure that the strategic direction of the council is taking climate into account, in a dynamic and evolving way, recognising rapid changes in various factors such as cost
- take a longer-term approach, particularly where funding requirements for future years may not be covered within the council’s medium term financial plan, as many climate decisions, and funding to support delivery will require a longer-term approach
- along with the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee, take a proactive approach to climate leadership as an issue of significant strategic importance
- take a pro-active approach to the management and mitigation of climate adaptation as a significant financial and wider risk to the council,
- give consideration of every opportunity for investing in renewable energy projects on council land and buildings to generate energy and income.
- support and align with the draft Council Plan 2024-28 which sets out a clear mission for the Council and three interlinked policy drivers - People / Prosperity / Planet.

The benefits of taking this approach will help to enable the council to accelerate the pace and increase the scale of the decarbonisation and climate mitigation activities we are directly delivering or where we are supporting and enabling others in the city to take action and invest their own resources. It will support greater ownership across the organisation and help to embed climate action, which will not only benefit climate change goals but also support wider strategic objectives.

Key Actions

1. City Goals	The City Goals are bringing together views on our future from across the city, so everyone, no matter who they are or where they come from, can live well and be part of Sheffield's story on terms that make sense to them. The goals will help drive our response to the changing and challenging world we live in, and the draft version has a goal specifically on a green and resilient Sheffield, which recognises the need for us all to act faster on the climate and environmental crisis.
2. Council Plan	Sheffield has the opportunity to lead the transition to a low carbon world. Building on our ingenuity, industry and talented workforce, we can use the path to net zero to propel the city's prosperity, creating opportunities for businesses to start-up, grow and create more good jobs;

	enabling more people to use their skills and talents in our economy and have more money in their pockets; and improve health by tackling air pollution and using decarbonisation as a driver to tackle cold, damp homes. The draft Council Plan 2024-28 sets out a clear mission for the Council and three interlinked policy drivers - People / Prosperity / Planet - which will be part of everything we do and ensure that we are focused on the positive contribution that the Council can make to the city's future.
3. Continuous development of our system of democratic committee governance	The committee has the opportunity to ensure that as it develops our democratic committee governance, climate action continues to be integrated across all committee structures, as well as considering how our committees work together to co-ordinate activities.
4. Budget delivery and Medium-Term Financial Strategy	The council has committed to ensure that its budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy will take account of climate impact and consider appropriate mitigation measures. The committee should scrutinise this and ensure that decisions consider climate implications. (Shared with Finance Committee)
5. Cost of living crisis	Everyone is affected by the cost-of-living crisis in some way, and the council is providing support through a number of programmes. This includes home energy efficiency advice through Warm Homes Sheffield. A future discussion could consider other ways we can support people to reduce their energy costs.

Finance Committee

Our Zero Carbon Mitigation Pathways report on governance recommended that the council considers structuring budgets and funding priorities around outcomes to support delivery, including placing climate as a central decision-making factor. Following this, our 10 Point Plan for Climate Action, adopted in 2022 gave a commitment that the organisation will be proactive in finding ways to resource the action that is needed.

The significant costs associated with decarbonisation require flexibility in our investment strategies, recognising that it is not the council's duty or responsibility for its entirety– we will need others to invest, fund or contribute, for example the Government or private sector. However, the report also acknowledged that the council understood that it needs to increase financial resources significantly to deliver zero carbon. To do this, we will need to identify additional resources to support our climate activities.

The impacts of climate change are many and varied and are predicted to include higher energy and food bills, extreme weather, including an increased risk of flooding and negative impacts on our health. Our more vulnerable communities are expected to be more negatively affected by these changes, which is why it is essential that as an organisation we act now to both reduce our impact on the climate, as well as preparing for the changes that are predicted to occur.

This committee will contribute to the council’s net zero ambitions and to adapting to climate change through the following actions:

- we have developed and implemented a Climate Impact Assessment Tool (CIAT) in response to this, and there are further opportunities that should be exploited to ensure that climate is a dominant factor in financial decision-making
- ensuring that monthly monitoring of the council's budget considers climate implications, primarily through application of the Climate Impact Assessment tool
- our budget-setting process and Medium-term Financial Strategy will take account of climate impact and consider appropriate mitigation measures
- explore the commissioning of a carbon budget to assess and report overall carbon emissions created directly or indirectly as a result of activities it contains
- our investment strategy will help us to prioritise and to identify funding and investment routes for our decarbonisation programme
- we will identify funding, invest in feasibility studies and develop outline business cases so that we are ready to respond to funding opportunities. We will develop a pipeline of investment opportunities and continue to work with partners to explore funding and investment routes
- give consideration of every opportunity for investing in renewable energy projects on council land and buildings to generate energy and income.

The benefits of taking this approach will enable us to accelerate the pace and increase the scale of the decarbonisation and climate mitigation activities we are directly delivering or where we are supporting and enabling others to take action and invest their own resources. It will also help to ensure that we have a pipeline of deployable projects and are ready to take advantage of other external investment and funding, from a range of sources including public (Government) or private sources.

Key Actions

1. Budget monitoring and budget implementation plan delivery	The council faces many budget challenges but will use its Climate Impact Assessment Tool as required to ensure environmental impacts are considered.
2. Medium-Term Financial Strategy	We have committed to ensure that our budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy will take account of climate impact and consider appropriate mitigation measures. The committee should scrutinise this and

	ensure that decisions are consider climate implications (shared with Strategy and Resources Committee)
3. Capital scheme approvals	We will require capital projects to complete a Climate Impact Assessment as part of the approval process.
4. Review financial regulations with a view to climate impact	The annual review of financial regulations provides an opportunity to consider climate impacts, and to share this with the committee as part of the sign-off process.

Housing Policy Committee

Sheffield's housing sector contributed 769.5 ktCO₂e (30%) of Sheffield's carbon emissions in 2021, a 4% reduction since the baseline year of 2017, and is the largest contributing sector in the city. Approximately 77% of these emissions come from non-renewable gas consumption for space heating and cooking. The latest 2015 BRE data for Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings for private housing across the city, commissioned in 2022, showed that only 23.4% of private housing is within EPC band A-C, with 25.3% falling into the lowest energy performance band, E-G.

Sheffield City Council's social housing was responsible for 86% the council's own emission in 2019. Unfortunately, more recent data is not available (*Annual Climate Progress Report page 11*), however it is expected that emissions have remained at a similar level despite the investment that has taken place. In comparison to private tenure housing, 82% of our council homes are within EPC bands A-C, and 18% are within the D-G band. Notably, less than 1% of council stock falls into the E-G rating.

If the city doesn't act further to decarbonise its existing housing estate and new homes, we could see:

- a reduction in social justice, independence and inclusion, and greater social division, as the negative impacts of climate change are more severely felt by vulnerable groups
- an increased number of vulnerable residents, fuel poverty, and potentially homelessness as higher energy costs will impact households without the financial means to adequately heat or cool their home more severely
- increased risk of property damage and the associated repair and maintenance costs due to more frequent and more extreme weather events
- worsening health due to the increased risk of exposure to excess cold hazards and damp and mould in households without adequate heating or cooling
- a reduction in quality and quantity of available housing that is fit for a changing climate.

It is important to note the challenge of how we change our behaviour and interact with our homes in a different way. Our homes are strongly linked to how we each live our lives; it may influence our personal schedules, hobbies and interests, family and social interactions and self-care. Some low carbon technologies need to be operated in different ways at different times and have the potential to change daily routines if not carefully supported and managed. Adopting new technology can also present a challenge to people, regardless of age, background or ability, if they do not feel confident using it. New technology needs to be accompanied with supportive education and engagement to ensure the intended benefits to the occupant can be achieved.

This committee will contribute to the council's net zero ambitions and to adapting to climate change, at the same time as supporting the provision of safe, good quality and affordable housing, by taking decisions which:

- improve the quality of housing to that which supports good health, is more affordable to heat and cool, and is fit for a changing climate and a net zero future
- reduce fuel poverty and support vulnerable citizens with the costs associated with decarbonisation and climate adaptation
- enable and support all residents to reduce their personal impact on the climate by improving the building fabric, reducing energy consumption, transitioning to renewable energy, and adapting the way they interact with their home
- incorporate supportive education and engagement into the delivery of new technologies to ensure the intended benefits to the occupant can be achieved
- support collaborative working with other council services, committees and external partners on place-based approaches that deliver multiple climate and low carbon solutions, whilst reducing costs and disruption to residents
- incorporate and address multiple key challenges and strategic priorities, such as climate, health, social justice, fuel poverty and economic growth
- support an exit from fossil fuels such as gas
- give consideration of every opportunity for investing in renewable energy projects on council land and buildings to generate energy and income
- reduce future abortive or upgrade works from the installation of measures that will not be fit for a changing climate or a net zero future
- support housing that is planned and designed to support biodiversity and nature through schemes such as 'wild' green spaces, vertical gardens, green roofs, bee and swift bricks, and sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS)
- encourage growth of a local retrofit supply chain that can deliver the best quality of outcomes, value for money and is supported by our procurement approach
- support green jobs, training and skills within the council and city to deliver retrofitting, including the training of new entrants to the jobs market in new technology of the future, and reskilling of workers whose jobs may become redundant in a net zero future
- lead by example, such as adapting our services to continue to operate effectively in a changing climate with lower carbon impact, sharing and demonstrating good practice, and piloting innovation to increase market confidence and accelerate take-up

- contribute to revenue streams for the council (whether in the Housing Revenue Account or general fund).

In addition to reducing carbon emissions, there are significant societal and economic benefits associated taking this approach to adapting and decarbonising our homes:

- homes that are well-insulated are healthier and more affordable to heat and cool, as they provide a more consistent and comfortable internal temperature that keeps people warm in winter, cool in summer and reduces occurrences of excess cold hazards, damp and mould
- healthier and more affordable housing reduces the number of vulnerable residents due to fuel poverty, worsening physical and mental health conditions and homelessness, in turn increasing social justice, independence and inclusion
- increase opportunities to socialise for people who may have felt unable to have friends and family visit due to a previously cold, damp or mouldy home
- adapting our homes to a changing environment reduces the risk and scale of property damage from extreme weather events, such as flooding, drought and intense storm winds, and the associated repair and maintenance costs
- retrofitting properties can also both preserve and enhance property value, securing its longer-term future, as well as make estates look more attractive and increase pride in the local environment and community
- job creation within a growing local retrofit supply chain, supported by better quality available housing, attracts people, organisations and businesses to the city, increasing investment and economic growth.

Key Actions

1. Housing Strategy 2024-2034	The Housing Strategy will reflect the climate crisis and the councils climate commitments and set climate change mitigation and adaptation as a key priority across all strategic objectives to meet our vision of Sheffield homes that are “affordable, safe and climate-ready”. Each of the key objectives will outline the actions we will take to accelerate decarbonisation of social and private housing, encourage and support behaviour change, and achieve a just transition to climate-ready housing and neighbourhoods, along with the timeframes.
2. Roadmap to net zero for Council homes	We have commissioned Rider Levett Bucknall (RLB) to develop a roadmap for its social homes to achieve carbon net zero, which will include actions and the timeframes in which they should be taken.
3. Roadmap to net zero for Private tenure homes	Development of a roadmap for private tenure homes to achieve net zero, which will include actions and the timeframes in which they should be taken.
4. Maximise energy funding support across the city	Developing the Warm Homes Sheffield offer to bring together a range of grant funding support and energy advice, including ECO4 (Energy Company Obligation),

	HUG (Homes Upgrade Grant), GBIS (Great British Insulation Scheme) and Connected for Warmth. Sourcing and bidding for investment and funding support wherever possible, including pension funds and institutional investors.
5. Develop retrofit accelerator scheme and 'one stop' shop offer	Work with South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) and South Yorkshire Sustainability Centre (SYSC) to evaluate a range of models through which to develop a Sheffield offer. Identify potential partnerships including compelling delivery and finance solutions for both private sector as well as council stock.
6. Grounds maintenance	Ongoing grounds maintenance supports nature and biodiversity e.g. enhance tree and hedge planting; identify spaces for food-growing / community projects; enhance spaces to protect against water run-off to reduce flooding; phase out use of glyphosate.
7. Climate adaptation planning	Review Housing Service operations and resources and develop a climate adaptation plan that sets out how we will adjust our systems, ways of working and services to continue to operate effectively in a changing climate and with lower carbon impact.
8. Home energy Advice	Continue to develop Warm Homes Sheffield as a single, multi-tenure hub for residents across Sheffield to access energy support and advice. Work closely with the Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP) and Green Doctor schemes, and other voluntary and community sector organisations, such as the Citizens' Advice Bureau to deliver services.
9. Future Homes Standard	Ahead of its introduction 2025, we are developing plans for how we will meet the Future Homes Standard, which will require new build homes to be future proofed with low carbon heating and high levels of energy efficiency.
10. Repairs and maintenance programme	Integrating low carbon solutions into activity within the ongoing repairs and maintenance programme, such as boiler replacements and gas fire removals/replacements, as well as measures taken to address damp and mould and excess cold hazards.
12. Partnership and Collaboration	Encourage pilot project funding, best practice and driving funding changes, by working in partnership with Government, Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities, Homes England, National Level Associations, universities, for example.

Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee

In 2021, business and industry in Sheffield was responsible for 27% of greenhouse gas emissions generated in the city. As well as being a significant contributor to the city's emissions, the transition to a net zero economy has profound implications for Sheffield's economy. With the necessary investment from Government, there is the opportunity for significant growth and new jobs in the low carbon economy. At the same time, businesses that improve their energy efficiency can reduce costs, and finance and investment is increasingly dependent on clear commitments to becoming environmentally sustainable: businesses which do not become environmentally sustainable will risk becoming uncompetitive, reducing financing and income options.

The city needs to ensure that the workforce has the skills needed to enable a transition to net zero economy, and to harness the opportunities that the scale of activity required provides. Some skills and jobs are likely to become obsolete, and existing employees will require retraining to ensure that the transition is a fair one.

The impacts of extreme weather events are also likely to have an impact on the economy, with heat waves, extreme cold and flooding all creating significant risks for businesses and the culture sector.

This committee will contribute to our net zero ambitions and to adapting to climate change, at the same time as supporting the economy, jobs, skills and culture, by taking decisions which:

- raise awareness to support businesses and organisations to decarbonise and to adapt to climate change
- maximise the potential of local academic and business strengths in the low carbon economy to support green economic growth, including through innovation and research and development
- ensure that the future workforce is equipped with the skills to take advantage of jobs and opportunities presented by the transition to net zero and that funding drawn into the city generates local wealth by providing jobs for local people
- support the culture sector to be part of the transition, harnessing its potential to inspire and facilitate change in the city
- give consideration of every opportunity for investing in renewable energy projects on council land and buildings to generate energy and income.

Key Actions

1. Our business and industry decarbonisation Routemap	The 10 Point Plan committed the local authority to developing plans (routemaps) for the decarbonisation of seven sectors, including business and industry. This will involve engaging with businesses and their representatives and will need to consider both how businesses decarbonise their processes and operations,
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	and how commercial landlords can be influenced and encouraged to decarbonise their buildings.
2. Low Carbon Business Support Programme	£1.292m of Shared Prosperity Fund finance will be used to support Sheffield small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to improve their energy efficiency through energy audits and grants. The committee will continue to receive reports on performance of the programme.
3. Sustainable Community and Cultural Assets Project	£2.3m of Shared Prosperity Fund finance will be used to support Sheffield cultural and community organisations to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings. The committee will continue to receive reports on the performance of the programme.
4. Employment and Skills Strategy	The low-carbon economy creates significant opportunities for Sheffield, as demand for sustainability professionals beyond 'traditional' green economic sectors. Green skills are integral to the drive of clean, inclusive growth in Sheffield, as products, services and processes are adapted to account for climate change and organisations respond to environmental regulations and corporate social responsibility expectations. Green skills and jobs will therefore feature prominently in the new Employment and Skills Strategy to be delivered in 2024.
5. Economic Recovery Fund	The Economic Recovery Fund will offer a range of support for beneficiary organisations. This will include providing advice and information to raise awareness of the climate emergency and empower beneficiaries to make decisions that will contribute to the city's net zero goals.

Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee

The Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee is responsible for a broad range of services and will be impacted by the climate emergency and be able to contribute to the council's response in several ways.

Communities are likely to be impacted over time as the impacts of climate change are felt. This is already starting to impact as extreme weather conditions may increase the need for community support to cope with heat, cold and flood, especially in the context of cost-of-living crises. The increasing number of adverse weather events is increasing the need to provide our communities with greater support, including help with energy bills through our cost-of-living helpline and providing welcoming spaces in our libraries and other buildings which can keep people warm in winter, cool in summer and safe in the event of flooding.

Communities with high levels of renewable energy and planning for adapting to

climate are likely to be better protected from both extreme weather and from crises such as cost-of-living and fuel and food insecurity.

Extreme weather events, sea level change and resulting conflict in countries impacted most by climate change is likely to increase the number of people seeking refuge in the UK (as well as internally displaced people from low lying areas of the UK in the longer term). The wellbeing and financial position of communities with strong connections to affected countries can also be affected by climate change. These have the potential to impact on cohesion and the support needed by communities.

The work of this committee will contribute to the council's commitment to net zero by 2030 and to adapting to climate change, at the same time as benefiting its core purposes by:

- taking decisions to invest in buildings which are future-proofed against climate and energy policy changes. These can have low carbon emissions, lower long term costs and provide warm and cool spaces to communities
- taking decisions to minimise the emissions of services (including by decarbonising vehicles and machinery). These improvements have the potential to save costs and improve the health and well-being of employees using machinery
- taking decisions to mitigate actions which might otherwise have negative impacts on climate (for example where tree felling is required, replacing trees on a two for one basis wherever possible)
- working closely with the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee to support people to increase physical activity through active travel, improving well-being and strengthening communities as well as reducing emissions
- maximising the potential for the council's parks and rural estate to protect the city from flood risk and extreme heat and to capture carbon from the atmosphere to offset residual emissions
- using our expert ecologists to design land management schemes that increase and protect biodiversity whilst reducing our carbon footprint
- increasing availability of allotments to encourage sustainable communities growing their own food
- supporting communities to be resilient and adapt to climate change, including encouraging wealth generating community energy and sustainable food systems
- giving consideration to every opportunity for investing in renewable energy on the land and buildings within Communities Parks and Leisure Policy Committee's remit, to generate energy and income.

Key Actions

1 Update on Green and Open Space strategy	A Green and Open Spaces Strategy will be developed in the context of the nature and climate emergencies, to include:
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	taking opportunities to include nature-based solutions to climate change related challenges, including natural flood management, the potential for sustainable food growing and the potential for renewable energy in line with recommendations from the forthcoming Local Area Energy Plan.
2. Bereavement provision	A Bereavement Strategy will be developed in the consideration of the nature and climate emergencies by offering alternatives to traditional burial and cremations and considering the future replacement of cremators from traditional carbon-based fuels to water and electronic cremations.
3. Biodiversity task and finish group	A task and finish group has been established to consider the committee's response to the nature and biodiversity emergency considering how to embed the nature emergency into council policy in a similar way to the climate emergency. This review is taking into consideration the inter-relationship between climate and nature emergencies.
4. Investment in sport and leisure Facilities	Following the Leisure and Investment Review, investment in our sport and leisure facilities will include capital interventions to reduce energy usage and carbon output of facilities and include renewable energy.
5. Our Land and Energy Storage and Generation decarbonisation Routemaps	The Our Land decarbonisation Routemap is scheduled to be developed during 2024 and will sit across several committees, but Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee will have a clear interest and involvement.

Waste and StreetScene Policy Committee

The Waste and StreetScene Committee has responsibility for the council's key environmental services including waste management, highways maintenance, parking services, licensing and environmental regulation. These services both contribute to the council's and city's greenhouse gas emissions and will be impacted by future climate scenarios. This committee therefore recognises the leadership role and responsibility it has to achieving net zero and building resilient services.

Since 2017, emissions from the city's waste management have reduced by nearly 4% to 2,270kt/CO₂e in 2021, contributing nearly 7% of Sheffield's overall greenhouse gas emissions.

The emissions from our streetlighting and other ancillary services on our highways such as CCTV and traffic signals are included in the council's greenhouse gas

reporting and make up just over 2% of the council’s emissions. Through the replacement with LED technology and smart controls, along with the decarbonisation of electricity supply, these emissions have reduced by 32% since 2019.

As a result of climate change, Sheffield is most likely to experience:

- wetter winters and more intense rainfall events throughout the year, increasing the risk of flooding. This could result in a high amount of surface water, exceeding the capacity of drainage systems leading to localised flash flooding
- warmer and drier summers will increase the risk of damage to our highways infrastructure

The policies and work programme of this committee will contribute to the council’s and city-wide net zero by 2030 target as well as adapting to climate change by:

- working with other policy committees on surface water flooding remediation and wider flood strategy work
- engaging with Yorkshire Water to ensure their business plan for maintaining and managing their assets, infrastructure and sewers are robust and fit for future weather events
- ensuring the future Waste Strategy for the city maximises decarbonisation and circular economy opportunities
- continuing to maximise opportunities for heat decarbonisation by promoting the district Energy Network and supporting expansion opportunities
- Working with the Street Tree Partnership to enable carbon sequestration opportunities, whilst also recognising the climate adaptation contributions street trees make
- improving local environmental quality through our regulation and licensing function
- giving consideration of every opportunity for investing in renewable energy projects on council land and buildings to generate energy and income.
- influencing the development of our green travel plan for all our staff and partners to include grey fleet, staff parking and active travel
- continuing to identify the regulatory levers/powers that we can employ to reduce carbon emissions.

Key Actions

<p>1. Future waste collection service options</p>	<p>Collect a wider range of plastic and cartons for recycling to meet our new legal obligations of the Environment Act. Refresh our Waste Strategy and set out options for future waste collection services, consider different collection services (different containment options) and our consultation strategy. Review lower carbon collection vehicles.</p> <p>We will carry out proactive campaigns to encourage more food recycling and composting.</p>
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<p>2. Review of the district energy network</p>	<p>The district energy network supplies a low carbon source of heat to buildings within the city centre. To meet national 2050 net zero targets, the Government is introducing Heat Network Zoning legislation in which buildings within a zone will be mandated to connect to a heat network. The zones will be designated where it is identified that heat networks can provide the lowest cost low carbon heat. Having participated in the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's Heat Network Zoning Pilot and Advanced Zoning Programme, Sheffield is working towards designating and progressing Heat Network Zones from 2025. We have secured funding from the Heat Network Delivery Unit to undertake a techno-economic feasibility study to inform early opportunities for expanding the heat network and further decarbonising heat supply through the integration of waste heat supplies, the findings of this will be finalised in early 2024.</p>
<p>3. Street Tree Partnership</p>	<p>The Sheffield Street Tree Strategy has a vision of a network of street trees that Sheffield can be proud of, well maintained and cared for; resistant to the threats of disease and climate change; and delivering many benefits for people and our environment. These benefits include contributing to offsetting our carbon emissions and helping combat the effects of climate change such as flash floods and rising temperatures. Delivery of the strategy is led by the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership. The Waste and Street Scene Policy Committee will continue to engage with, and champion the work of, the partnership, providing support where required.</p>
<p>4. Renewable energy and infrastructure projects</p>	<p>Develop a business case and source funding to connect Moor Market onto the District Energy Network. Explore opportunities to increase renewable energy generation on our assets, including the installation of solar panels on car parks. Work to increase the amount of electric vehicle charging infrastructure across our car parks.</p>
<p>5. Regulatory and licensing influence</p>	<p>Further work to identify the regulatory levers/ powers that we can employ to reduce carbon emissions via our work with business. For example, packaging & plastic use in food venues. Ensure we support businesses where possible through this transition to reduce / eliminate all forms of waste. Continue to build resilience and develop approaches across Parking Services to continue to effectively manage bus lanes, yellow box, pavement parking, idling, school streets and circling for spaces.</p>
<p>6. Reduce single use plastics</p>	<p>Install more drinking water fountains in public spaces to encourage refills rather than consumption of single use plastics.</p>

7. Influence the development of our green travel plan for all our staff and partners to include grey fleet, staff parking and active travel	Ensure all officers are aware and have access to green travel plans. More secure bike parking in the city centre. Work with contractors to decarbonise their fleet.
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Education, Children and Families Policy Committee

As set out in the Our Council Decarbonisation Routemap, this Committee acknowledges that whilst children and families in our city who already experience disadvantage have contributed the least to greenhouse gas emissions, they will be most impacted by it and be least able to adapt to it, especially those living in poverty and in deprived communities and those with health issues.

Our maintained schools accounted for 4,425t/CO₂e in 2022, a reduction of 36% from the council's emissions baseline year of 2019. Emissions from our maintained schools account for 46% of our non-domestic estate emissions or 3% of the council's overall emissions.

As a result of climate change in Sheffield, the following impacts will be experienced by our citizens:

- an increase in heat related illnesses and reduced well-being during extreme weather, leading to an increase in loss of life
- increased costs for food, utilities and other goods and services, increasing the number of children living in poverty
- impact on educational provision during extreme heat events as seen in the summer of 2022.

This committee commits to ensuring climate change and decarbonisation is at the heart of our decision making when designing our policies, support and service provision to children and their families and our looked after children. This will:

- enable the decarbonisation of our school estate and residential settings ensuring our children and young people have access to quality school environments and homes in which they feel safe to learn and live and develop the skills to reach their full potential
- ensure we're meeting our primary objective in promoting and enhancing the rights, wellbeing and safeguarding of all our children
- ensure that our learning and skills policy, programme and intervention work support climate change education and develops the skills required for our future workforce and low carbon economy

- ensure our work aligns to the Department for Education’s (DfE) sustainability and climate change strategy
- give consideration of every opportunity for investing in renewable energy projects on council land and buildings to generate energy and income.

Key Actions

1. Draft School Improvement Framework 2023-2024	Ensure sustainability and climate education is embedded into school improvement. Encouraging the implementation of the DfE’s Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy and supporting schools with their climate action plans by 2025.
2. Children and Families Sufficiency Strategy	This Strategy will set out our approach to ensuring our looked after children are placed within Sheffield as priority as this is in their best interest. This will also ensure that children and their social workers are having to travel less for appointments and contact sessions, helping to reduce our travel related emissions. In seeking options for new residential settings, we will look for opportunities to install renewable energy and refurbish any acquired properties to ensure their energy efficiency and reduced operational costs.
3. Belonging Framework	The Belonging Framework will ensure that everything we do is focussed on developing and deepening children and young people’s sense of belonging. This will lead to sense of pride of the places they call home and may in time lead to children going to school and socialising in their community, reducing the need for travel.
4. Renewable energy projects	We will work with other policy committee areas to identify opportunities and funding for renewable energy projects.
5. School transport	We will work with other policy committee areas to ensure a sustainable school transport service.

Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee

It is difficult to quantify the emission that our adult health and social care services contribute to the city’s emissions, however Sheffield public sector as a whole

contributed 127.5 ktCO₂e (5%) of Sheffield's carbon emissions in 2021 and has increased by 7.7% since 2017.

Our performance data along with the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, highlights that demand for social care will continue to rise. The recent COVID-19 pandemic showed how reliance on social care services can increase exponentially in the face of a public emergency. While adult health and social care is not a major contributor to emissions in the city, the negative impacts of climate change are disproportionately and more severely felt by vulnerable groups reliant on our adult health and social care services as was the case with COVID.

If the city doesn't act further to adapt our adult health and social care services in readiness for a changing climate, we could see the severity of these impacts increase further. In particular:

- climate change impacts such as extreme weather events such as heatwaves and flooding, poor air quality, food and water shortages and changes in ecology increases climate-sensitive health risks, particular for those already in poor health, such as:
 - malnutrition
 - heat-related illnesses
 - serious noncommunicable diseases such as cancers, cardiovascular disease and lung diseases
 - mental and psychological health conditions
 - injury and mortality from extreme weather events
 - water-borne, vector-borne and animal-to-human (zoonotic) transmitted diseases.
- rising costs, such as for energy, food and water, will exacerbate existing poverty and push more citizens below the poverty line further increasing inequalities in the city
- the rising costs for energy, food and water also affect providers of care services and voluntary sector ability to meet these costs. This risk destabilising our market and reducing the options for support, should funding not be provided to adult social care services to meet these costs
- increased reliance on adult health and social care services, facilities and providers will lead to an increase in operational cost and the necessary resources to meet demand
- increase in frequency and severity of extreme weather events, as well increased power outages from reduced energy security, will cause delays in response, disruption and reduced access to care and services and more reliance on ensuring effective business continuity and agility of social care services across all sectors to meet demand
- widen social division and exclusion – those who can participate and those who can't – pollution tends to be higher in less affluent areas, food and water scarcity driving up prices, trip-chaining (time-poverty), reliance on car ownership (transport poverty)

This committee will contribute to the council's net zero ambitions and to adapting to climate change, at the same time as supporting adult health and social care, by taking decisions which ensure adult social care is:

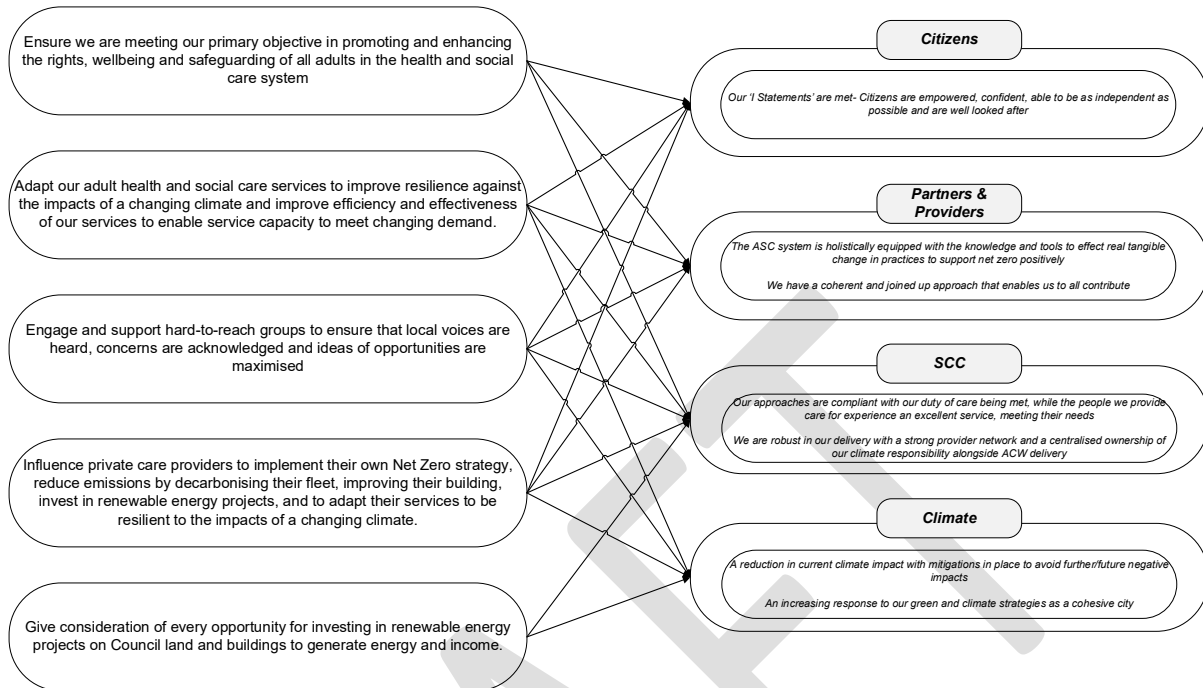
- meeting our primary objective in promoting and enhancing the rights, wellbeing and safeguarding of adults
- adapting our adult health and social care services to improve resilience and agility against the impacts of a changing climate
- openly discussing the impact of climate change with individuals, family members, providers, faith and voluntary sector so that we are working collaboratively to mitigate effects of climate change as well as contributing to net zero
- through our commissioning and strategic planning actively including our ambitions about net zero, so that any provider funded through the council is contributing to climate change
- influence private care providers to implement their own net zero strategy as part of their own corporate strategies, reduce emissions by decarbonising their fleet, improving their building, invest in renewable energy projects, and to adapt their services to be resilient to the impacts of a changing climate
- give consideration of every opportunity for investing in renewable energy projects on council land and buildings to generate energy and income.

The benefits of this approach:

- for citizens and unpaid carers, our 'I Statements' are met 'I have aspirations in my life and achieve my goals'
- providers of social care are holistically equipped with the knowledge and tools to effect real tangible change in practices to support net zero positively and can respond effectively to impact of climate change, ensuring continuity of service delivery
- we have a coherent and joined up approach across care providers that enables us to share best practice and learn from each other
- our approaches enable people to live the life they want to live, are compliant with our duties and enable individuals, families, and unpaid carers to experience an excellent service and satisfaction with our delivery, no matter who the provider.
- we are robust in our delivery with and a centralised ownership of our climate responsibility alongside delivery
- a reduction in current climate impact with mitigations and adaptations in place to avoid further/future negative impacts
- an increasing response to our green and climate strategies as a cohesive city.

Decisions

Benefits



Key Actions

Milestone	Benefit	Priority
<p>1. Through our contract monitoring arrangements ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All commissioned providers have effective business continuity arrangements are in place to respond to impacts of climate change. We have agreed with providers our climate expectations and opportunities for development. 	<p>Providers are holistically equipped with the knowledge and tools to effect real tangible change in practices to support net zero positively and can respond effectively to impact of climate change, ensuring continuity of service delivery.</p>	<p>Outcome 4: Effective and Efficient - Priority 12- Climate & Net Zero</p> <p>Outcome 1: Safe and Well - Priority 2 – Quality and Continuity of Care</p>
<p>2. Review through our internal arrangements that all council providers have effective business continuity arrangements are in place to respond to impacts of climate change</p>		
<p>3. Embed through our recommissioning programmes, a requirement for providers funded by Adult Care to work to net zero and ensure that providers</p>		

can respond to effects of climate change.		
<p>4. Organise dedicated climate focused workshops during 2024 with providers and voluntary sector funded via Adult Care to identify opportunities for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • innovation projects which support and can realise net zero • mid to longer-term projects in which we can pool or share resources to reduce our overall carbon footprint • 'buy and use local' as using local resources has a substantially better impact on our climate than importing from other areas; • introducing climate champions who will be responsible for holding us to account, providing a climate steer, horizon scanning and identifying opportunities for improvements • a move towards fleet vehicles and/or electric vehicles for our workforce. 	<p>We have a coherent and joined up approach across care providers that enables us to share best practice and learn from each other.</p> <p>We are robust in our delivery with and a centralised ownership of our climate responsibility alongside delivery.</p> <p>An increasing response to our green and climate strategies as a cohesive city</p>	<p><i>Outcome 4: Effective and Efficient - Priority 12- Climate & Net Zero</i></p>
<p>4. Through implementation of Adult Care Target Operating Model – specifically homecare, residential, supported living and care management - embed locally community-based and connected working to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enable travel necessary to reduce our carbon footprint • launch an inter-agency car share scheme, promote the use of bicycles and walking route • optimise the use of assistive technology or wider digital applications, enabling more remote working, a reduction of risk and transport emissions. 	<p>A reduction in current climate impact with mitigations in place to avoid further/future negative impacts.</p> <p>Our approaches enable people to live the life they want to live, are compliant with our duties and enable individuals, families, and unpaid carers to experience an excellent service and satisfaction with our delivery, no matter who the provider.</p>	<p><i>Outcome 4: Effective and Efficient - Priority 12- Climate & Net Zero</i></p> <p><i>Outcome 3: Active and Independent Living – Living and Ageing Well, Mental Health and Disability Friendly City.</i></p>
5. Through our Strategic Planning Partnerships have open discussions about climate change and agree actions	Our 'I Statements' are met- I aspire in my life and achieve my goals.	<i>Outcome 4: Effective and Efficient - Priority</i>

which will support people to achieve their own goals.

12- Climate & Net Zero

*Outcome 3:
Active and Independent Living – Living and Ageing Well, Mental Health and Disability Friendly City.*

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