

# Carlisle Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy



# Foreword



Human activity is damaging the environment in which we live and changing the world's climate.

Our Local Environment (Climate Change) Strategy aims to ensure that Carlisle City Council plays its full role in protecting the environment and in the worldwide movement which aims to tackle climate change.

Our commitment is, subject to public consultation and legal constraints, that all the activities of the Council, all strategic decisions, budgeting, and, in so far as the Council can influence, arrangements with partners, are in line with eliminating pollution and achieving net zero carbon emissions at the earliest possible date.

The challenge is deciding what the City Council can do. If we try to do everything, we will squander our resources and achieve nothing. It is important that we focus where we can influence change. The City Council will lead by example with a clear strategy and a dynamic action plan that is consistent with the targets set and resources available.

I would like to thank the Members who attended the working group for their contributions to this work. I would also like to thank all those that have contributed so far. Our strategy aims to ensure that all ideas and opportunities to address climate change or improve environmental performance are drawn together and are incorporated into appropriate actions, plans, strategies and future committee agendas for consideration.

The key to the success of our strategy, reaching net zero, will depend upon a co-ordinated and comprehensive programme of communication and engagement to encourage behavioural change by residents and businesses as well as the Council.

Working in partnership will be essential to reduce the carbon footprint for the whole of Carlisle.

**Councillor Nigel Christian**  
**Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport**

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# Vision and High-Level Strategy



In March 2019 the Council passed a motion to declare a Climate Change Emergency. In April 2019, the Council adopted the Joint Public Health Strategy. The Strategy included the key aim:

**‘To become a “carbon neutral” County and to mitigate the likely impact of existing climate change.’**

In June 2019, the Government announced an amend to the Climate Change Act 2008 to require net United Kingdom carbon emissions to be zero by 2050. The Council is committed to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) at the earliest possible date.

The Joint Public Health Strategy sets out a vision for a Healthier Cumbria based on the five capitals, taking inspiration from the World Health Organization’s Healthy Cities Model. The future for a healthier Cumbria can be seen as having five key components:

**Planet:** Cumbria’s natural environment, from our world-class landscapes to the centre of our towns, will be protected and enhanced. Sustainability will be at the heart of future development and Cumbria will reduce its ecological footprint even as it develops economically.

**People:** Everyone in Cumbria will have the opportunity to develop and use their skills and talents in a way that recognises the value they bring to society and to enjoy a varied and fulfilling life.

**Participation:** Cumbrian communities will be strong, resilient and inclusive, with well developed social networks and widespread engagement with community life.

**Place:** Cumbria’s physical infrastructure will promote health and wellbeing, with good quality housing, a high-quality urban environment and good access to the services needed for a healthy lifestyle.

**Prosperity:** Cumbria’s economy will develop sustainably, with growth particularly focused on tackling poverty and providing quality employment for all.

# The work done so far



## Local Plan Policies

**The Carlisle District Local Plan 2015-2030** sets out the long-term vision through the spatial strategy and strategic planning policies, seeking to ensure that future growth is sustainable. The Local Plan has four policy objectives that are directly related to this strategy:

### Spatial Strategy and Strategic Policies Objectives

- To promote a sustainable pattern of development, which will contribute to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, to support the vision for managed growth.
- To support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by meeting the housing needs of present and future generations, in a high-quality environment with accessible local services.
- To contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment (including improving biodiversity), using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.

## Climate Change and Flood Risk Objectives

- To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, including through securing energy from renewable sources, and avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding to ensure that the District is more resilient and less vulnerable to the effects of climate change and can successfully adapt to its effects.

## Health, Education and Community Objectives

- To create a thriving, successful and healthy community for all by promoting cohesive mixed communities and ensuring that everyone can have a decent home, in a safe environment, with good access to health care, educational provision and other community facilities by sustainable modes, including walking and cycling.

## Green Infrastructure Objectives

- To protect, enhance and increase the provision of the green and blue infrastructure across the District to create and maintain multifunctional, interconnected and attractive recreational and ecological networks for the benefit of residents, businesses, visitors and the wider natural environment.

# Property, estate and fleet



The Council owns over £120.7 million in assets<sup>1</sup> across the whole district area, delivering a range of statutory and discretionary services. The operational and investment assets have been assessed to produce Display Energy Certificates (DECS) and Energy Performance Certificates (EPCS), where required. This information is being used to assess the assets against the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES), these are the minimum level of energy efficiency required to let non-domestic property under the Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015.

The 3 Year Repair and Maintenance Programme (2020/21 - 2022/23) delivers on the duty to manage property assets, particularly operational assets, in a safe and efficient manner and which contributes to the quality of service delivery. This maintenance strategy is fully integrated with the Asset Management Plan and environmental policy.

The Council has developed a Fleet and Plant Strategy that delivers on the commitment to reducing its impact on the local environment and improve local air quality by reducing vehicle emissions. Controlling fleet costs and conducting a robust 'fleet challenge' to determine genuine business need to support all fleet decisions is a key part of this strategy.

Recent projects that are making a positive impact include:

- Review of depots and efficient use of operational assets.
- Replacement of waste and recycling fleet with modern efficient vehicles.
- Continued investment in cycling and walking infrastructure.
- Renewable electricity generation through Photo-Voltaic installations on the roof spaces of The Sands Centre and Civic Centre.
- Programmed maintenance to improve the energy efficiency of the estate.
- Homelife grants tackling energy efficiency and fuel poverty.

# Property, estate and fleet



The Council and its partners continue to develop and deliver Climate Change adaptation and mitigation. The following projects are underway, together they will significantly reduce the Council's greenhouse gas emissions:

- Sands Centre Redevelopment.
- Civic Centre Ground Floor Reinstatement.
- Replacement of footway lighting with energy efficient lamps.
- Ongoing replacement of fleet and plant with lower carbon vehicles and equipment.
- Waste management and recycling initiatives at operational sites.

The Council is delivering projects to help reduce Carlisle district's greenhouse gas emissions:

- Community Electric Vehicle Charging Points.
- Improvements to the cycling and walking infrastructure, increasing the network for active transport.

The Council is also working in partnership to adapt to Climate Change, over the next three years Carlisle will benefit from the delivery of new flood defences and upstream natural flood management projects.

# Waste and recycling



The collection of waste is a duty of the Council, since 2004 the Council has provided extensive kerbside and community recycling services, leading the way on waste recycling.

The Joint Cumbria Waste Management Strategy 2008-20 and Cumbria Minerals and Waste Plan 2015-30 sets out the overall countywide strategy for waste and recycling. The simple goal is to climb the Waste Hierarchy, whilst retaining self-sufficiency and dealing with waste as close as practicable to the point at which it is generated.

The key targets from the strategy are:

The goal of increasing the recycling rate to 50% (by 2020) and 65% (by 2030) is reported as a Key Performance Indicator. The collected recycling rate for 2018/19 is 41.3%.

When the collection recycling rate is combined with the tonnages from the Household Waste Recycling Centres and the recovery of materials during disposal, this rate of recycling increases to 55.7%<sup>2</sup> (CSe05/2018/19).

# Determining Carlisle's Carbon Footprint



A carbon footprint measures the total greenhouse gas emissions caused directly and indirectly by a person, organisation, event or product.<sup>3</sup>

Carbon emission largely come from several main sectors of the Cumbria economy:

- Energy.
- Housing.
- Transport.
- Waste.
- Industry/Infrastructure.
- Farming and Rural.
- Tourism.

The Countywide Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership (ZCCP) will connect into these sectors to influence and communicate what will be needed to become zero carbon. The purpose of this group is to plan and oversee a radical programme of action that will enable Cumbria to become a carbon neutral county and to mitigate the likely impact of existing climate change.

In order to do this, the group will:

- Propose a shared definition of “carbon neutral”.
- Propose a target date by which this is to be achieved.

- Commission a baseline carbon audit for the County and agree ongoing monitoring mechanisms.
- Identify leadership for developing action across key topics.
- Establish a programme of action by key partners.
- Lead joint campaigning to encourage wider public awareness and action.

The Countywide Climate Change Working Group has commissioned work from Small World Consultancy which will be pivotable to establishing a robust and consistent methodology.

This report has now been published on the Cumbria Observatory at: <https://www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk/environment/environment-further-information/>

The Council has also been working in partnership with all the local authorities in Cumbria to develop a methodology for organisation carbon footprinting. This combined approach will enable the Council to report a carbon footprint alongside the Carlisle district footprint, whilst putting these figures into the wider Cumbria and national context.

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# Objectives



To achieve the strategic goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions the following objectives will be progressed:

**Objective 1:**

Reducing emissions from the City Council estate and operations.

**Objective 2:**

Reducing energy consumption and emissions from homes and businesses in Carlisle and tackling fuel poverty, by promoting energy efficiency measures, sustainable construction, renewable energy sources and behaviour change.

**Objective 3:**

Reducing emissions from transport by promoting sustainable transport, reducing car travel and traffic congestion and encouraging behaviour change.

**Objective 4:**

Reducing consumption of resources, increasing recycling and reducing waste.

**Objective 5:**

Supporting Council services, residents and businesses to mitigate against and adapt to the impacts of Climate Change.

Each objective has a set of actions, listed with timescale for delivery. Each action will be linked to the carbon footprint and baselining work, using scopes and options.

The timescale for the delivery of any actions is linked to capacity and resources. A simple approach to the timescale using the terms short, medium or longterm is taken. These timescales are best described in terms of financial planning:

**Short:** Within the current budget year or budget cycle for the following year

**Medium:** Within the period of the current Medium-Term Financial Plan

**Long:** Beyond the Medium-Term Financial Plan period but before the target date for net-zero

The action plan is a working document, the latest version can be found at: <https://www.carlisle.gov.uk/Council/Council-and-Democracy/Climate-Change>

# Partnerships and procurement



Everyone and every organisation can get involved in this strategy. The Carlisle Partnership stakeholder map recognises the many examples of positive actions already underway. In addition, this map identifies the key groups and organisations that have specific roles in driving forward this strategy and commitments.

The Council, along with its partners, is committed to ensuring that services are delivered in a way that protects the quality of the environment and minimises any adverse impact on health and wellbeing. The Council recognises that procurement and commissioning is fundamental in delivering more sustainable outcomes. To achieve this, it is necessary to ensure that environmental and broader sustainability considerations are considered throughout the procurement and commissioning process, along with the use of local suppliers where appropriate.

Three key actions will help deliver this:

- Carbon Footprint.
- National and Countywide Citizens' Assembly/ Jury, to involve the wider population.
- Carlisle Partnership Climate Change focus, which will proactively include young people, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future.

Procurement decisions will provide opportunities to continually improve our environmental performance, especially in major capital projects and service contracts. The key partners will include:

- Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership.
- Carlisle Partnership.
- Carlisle Ambassadors.
- Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal partners.
- Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership.
- Cumbria Strategic Flood Partnership.
- Cumbria Local Resilience Forum.
- Cumbria Public Health Alliance.

# Performance



Alongside this strategy datasets will be identified and developed into management information for monitoring. As projects are initiated Key Performance Indicators will be established and monitored throughout the project lifecycle. This management information will be added to the Performance Dashboard and the KPIs will be included in the End of Year Performance Report for the Council's Executive and the Carlisle Partnership.

This strategy will be reviewed annually, and this review will be made available for public overview and scrutiny.