



Agenda

Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Wednesday, 17 April 2024 at 10.30 am
Flensburg Room - Civic Centre, Carlisle

The press and public are welcome to attend for the consideration of any items which are public.

Enquiries and requests for supporting papers to: Democratic Services
Email: democratic.officers@cumberland.gov.uk

Membership

Cllr A Markley
Cllr H Tucker
Cllr M Eldon
Cllr J Forster
Cllr J Ghayouba
Cllr L Jones-Bulman
Cllr C McCarron-Holmes
Cllr C Wills

Substitutes:

Cllr M Johnson
Cllr R Dobson
Cllr J Mallinson
Cllr T Allison
Cllr M Mitchelson
Cllr D Moore
Cllr T Pickstone
Cllr A Pratt
Cllr B Wernham
Cllr G Mitchell
Cllr G Minshaw
Cllr A Glendinning
Cllr J Gisdale
Cllr A Harid
Cllr M Harris
Cllr M Hawkins
Cllr L Patrick
Cllr B Pegram
Cllr S Pollen
Cllr A Semple
Cllr G Troughton
Cllr C Weber
Cllr J Whalen

Access to Information

Agenda and Reports

Copies of the agenda and Part A reports are available for members of the public to inspect prior to the meeting. Copies will also be available at the meeting.

The agenda and Part A reports are also available on the [Cumberland Council website](#).

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Declaration of Interest

To receive declarations by Councillors of disclosable pecuniary interests, personal interests, other registerable interests or any other interests in respect of items on the agenda.

3. Exclusion of Press & Public

To consider whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any items of business on the agenda.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 8)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2024.

5. Public Participation

To receive any questions or representations which have been received from members of the public.

6. Climate and Nature Strategy (Pages 9 - 44)

The Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport to submit the Draft Climate and Nature Strategy which sets out the objectives, commitments, and programmes that the Council will deliver for climate and nature.
(Copy report enclosed)

7. Tourism (Pages 45 - 50)

The Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport to submit a report providing an overview of the activity the Council is engaged with to support tourism.
(Copy report enclosed)

8. Committee Update Report and Work Programme (Pages 51 - 58)

The Policy and Scrutiny Officer to submit a report regarding an overview of matters related to the committee's work.
(Copy report enclosed)

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Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Wednesday, 28 February 2024

Time: 10.30 am

Location: Flensburg Room - Civic Centre, Carlisle

Present: Cllr A Markley (Chair), Cllr H Tucker (Vice-Chair), Cllr M Eldon, Cllr J Ghayouba, Cllr L Jones-Bulman and Cllr C Wills

Also Present: Councillor Brown – Aults and Community Health Portfolio Holder

In Attendance Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport.
Policy and Scrutiny Officer
Assistant Director of Thriving Place and Investment
Assistant Director Communities and Localities
Programme Manager - Capital Programme

PLOS.39/23 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor J Forster.

PLOS.40/23 Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were submitted.

PLOS.41/23 Exclusion of Press & Public

RESOLVED – That the agenda as circulated be agreed.

PLOS.42/23 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 January 2024 be agreed as a correct record. The Chair signed the minutes.

PLOS.43/23 iSH Enterprise Campus Development

The Programme Manager presented a report which provided an overview and update in respect of the Leconfield Regeneration Project. The Programme Manager gave an overview of the history of the project; the progress made on the project; digital infrastructure; active travel; and funding packages and the associated council decision making processes for the remainder of the remainder of the project.

In considering the report, Members raised the following questions and comments:

A Member sought further detail on the ‘Meanwhile Hub’ referred to in paragraph 2.1 of the report.

The Programme Manager advised that the iSH was to be a permanent structure which would take around 12 months to construct. The Meanwhile Hub would provide aspects of the iSH services during the construction of the permanent Hub and would be housed in an existing building at the site.

A Member noted that there had previously been concerns expressed in relation to the use of a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO).

The Programme Manager responded that the Order related to a future phase of development and was not currently required, the existing development was being undertaken on Council owned land.

The Assistant Director of Thriving Place and Investment advised that officers were aware of communications to the relevant landowner who had been informed that a Compulsory Purchase Order was not currently underway.

A Member commented that the provision of Electric Vehicle Charging Points illustrated in the plans in the report seemed low.

The Programme Manager responded that the design process of the site would allow for additional provision in the future.

Regarding marketing of the project, a Member suggested that a networking programme for business start ups may be useful.

The Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport explained that he was the Council's representative and director on the iSH Board and marketing was a key part of the current discussions taking place. Moreover, business network was an essential aspect of the iSH project.

In relation to the five year ring fencing of revenue income, a Member asked whether there was list of potential tenants for iSH?

The Programme Manager explained that rental income would come from both existing and new tenants at the site. In terms of new tenants, iSH, as part of its business case development was working to identify potential tenants and to set up initial meetings.

The Member further asked whether the new jobs referenced in the report would be new jobs in their own right or if an existing role carried out off site but moved on to the iSH site would be classed as new.

The Assistant Director of Thriving Place and Investment advised that a significant portion of the government funding was predicated on the creation of entirely new jobs.

The Committee then discussed the importance of performance metrics to assess the success of the project, with the number of permanent jobs created and retained being a very important measure. Members requested that metrics be developed and reported to the committee on a regular timeframe.

The Programme Manager noted that the metrics listed in the report in relation to car parking provision and new trees planted had been included as they were measures to be report to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLHUC) in respect of its funding. A suite of measures in relation to performance would also need to be reported to funders and may be used as a basis for reporting to the Committee. Those measures had been submitted with two funding bids and were available in summary form and the Programme Manager undertook to provide them to the Committee.

The iSH campus provided a range of spaces and support for SME's. The Hub was able to provide both short and long term tenancies that would allow businesses to dip in and out as required. There would be units for SME's as well as 'grow on units' for those looking to expand their business further.

The Assistant Director of Thriving Place and Invest added that the development of SMEs in the whole of the Cumberland area was being considered as part of the emerging Economic Strategy.

A number of Members raised concerns regarding issues in and around the development site: the condition of the access road; the need for lighting on the cycle track to be provided so people would feel safe to use it; and the entrance arrangements and the possible provision of a zebra crossing.

The Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport noted that there had been significant change within iSH and also the recent reorganisation in local government. He suggested that it may be useful for the relevant ward members, the Chief Executive of iSH and himself to meet and discuss any concerns and ideas.

RESOLVED – 1) That the report be noted.

2) That an annual update report be provided to the Committee.

3) That performance measures be for the project be developed for future reporting to the Committee.

4) That the Programme Manager circulate to the Panel the performance measures submitted with the two funding bids associated with the iSH project.

PLOS.44/23 Community Power

The Assistant Director of Communities and Localities presented a report describing the spectrum of community empowerment and community power as well as setting out the journey the Council was currently on and exploring options for the future and the role of elected members in shaping the approach to ways of working with communities.

In considering the report Members raised the following questions and comments:

A Member felt community power and engaging with communities was very important work, and that outreach work would be particularly important. He asked how the Place Standard operated in practice.

The Assistant Director of Communities and Localities responded that it was important that the use of the Place Standard was broader than only council officers as communities knew themselves best. In his view the Community Networks were the most appropriate arena for the Place Standard work to be undertaken. An offer of a further briefing for Members on the Place Standard was offered and accepted.

The Committee discussed their experiences of the Community Panels and Networks thus far which overall had been very positive, with Members appreciating the ability to set priorities that were for the area. The Community Networks needed further development / time to be in for them to become a conduit of information for their associated Panel.

Members noted that the Community Networks and Panels were a new approach to engaging with communities as such it was important that their activity was publicised as widely as possible to spread awareness. The Panels distributed funds via it's Neighbourhood Investments, a Member suggested that the Council's social media channels be used to publicise activity funded by the Community Panels. The Assistant Director of Communities and Localities welcomed the suggestion.

A Member expressed concern that the Community Development team had sufficient resources to support the expanding work of the Community Panels and Networks.

The Adults and Community Health Portfolio Holder advised that she had held several discussions on the matter of staffing resource. The Community Panels and Networks were for everybody and positive contributions had been received from a variety of the Council's directorates which indicated an understand that the work of the Panels was not seen to be delivered solely by the Community Development team.

RESOLVED – That the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee had:

- 1) Noted the report.
- 2) Given views on the principles of engagement as contained in the draft Community Engagement Framework.
- 3) Given views on the development of Community Panel and Networks as referred to in paragraph 2.2.
- 4) Discussed the potential of member's role in the future direction of the Council's community power journey.
- 5) That the Council's social media platforms be used to share work in the community funded by the Community Panels' Neighbourhood Investments.

PLOS.45/23 Scrutiny Overview Report and Draft Workplan

The Policy and Scrutiny Officer submitted the Committee Update report and Work Programme. The report set out items on the most recent Forward Plan of Key Decision and provided an update on the progress on resolutions from previous meeting. The draft Work Programme was appended to the report.

RESOLVED – That the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- 1) Noted the items on the most recent Forward Plan of Key Decisions.
- 2) Noted the progress on resolutions from previous meetings.
- 3) Agreed the draft work programme.

The meeting finished at 12.00 pm



Report to Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Date – 17 April 2024
Key Decision – Yes
Public/Private – Public

Portfolio – Councillor Bob Kelly, Cumberland Policy and Regulatory Services
Directorate – Darren Crossley: Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport
Lead Officer – Chloe Tringham, Assistant Director Climate & Waste
Steven O’Keeffe, Climate and Natural Environment Manager (interim)

Title – Draft Climate and Nature Strategy

Brief Summary:

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

Recommendations:

The committee is invited to comment on the draft strategy with particular reference to:

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

Tracking

Executive:	June 2024
Scrutiny:	17 April 2024
Council:	Not applicable

1. Background

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

Strategy development

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

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

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

- 1.8. People, nature and climate are interwoven. Cumberland's natural capital plays a vital role in our economy; it also provides health and wellbeing benefits for residents, workers and visitors, as well as protecting society and the economy from adverse effects of pollution and weather. Action to restore nature is best co-ordinated with action to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- 1.9. As well as the risks and consequences there are opportunities for common benefits, if we join up the goals for people, for nature and for climate. As a unitary council we are in a unique position to take this fresh approach, putting sustainability at the forefront of our decision making and policy development.
- 1.10. We have learnt from the work of the previous councils and their consultations; we have considered the recommendations of the Copeland Citizen Jury and Youth Summit in prioritising our programmes. Many of the previous actions have become 'business as usual' and we will seek to sustain this positive progress through service planning; the goal is sustainability for the long term.
- 1.11. Over the last month work on the draft strategy has been streamlined into:
 - A Plan on a Page (contained in draft strategy)
 - Draft strategy (Appendix A)
 - Background information used for the strategy development

The climate and nature challenge

- 1.12. The 'climate and nature challenge' is described as follows:

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

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

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

- 1.13. This challenge is set out in strategy on pages 5 and 6, through the Plan on a Page and the warming (North West of England) and biodiversity loss (UK) stripes. This sets the context for the strategy and creates a call to action.
- 1.14. The Plan on a Page is a communication tool that summarise the draft strategy into a concise set of statements and diagrams that is engaging and easy to understand.

Control and influence

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

Table 1: Controlling and influencing.

Definition	Examples from the strategy
Direct Control: Our own actions	Council's Assets and fleet; Operations; Workforce
Indirect Control: The actions of others	Community Panels and Community Networks
	Procurement and commissioning
Influence: through our leadership roles	Development Control; Local Plan; Transport Planning; Waste strategy
	Town and Parish Councils; Place and thematic partnerships
	Communications and engagement; consultation responses on national policy

Risks, consequences and opportunities

1.16. The section on risks, consequences and opportunities brings together information from the national risk assessment and our partnerships for flood resilience and emergency planning.

1.17. The development of the strategy and related plans has highlighted a number of opportunities for greater collaboration on risks and opportunities, especially around existing interdependencies such as shared assets and business continuity arrangements.

1.18. As the strategy develops there will an opportunity to horizon scan for emerging risk, especially as new information on the National Flood Risk Assessment (NaFRA2) is released later in the year. We will also be exploring the opportunities of adaptive risk assessment and reporting through the Local Climate Adaption Toolkit and the Local Authority Adaptive Reporting Pilot. This research will inform our approach to integrating climate and nature risks into our Council Operating Model and partnerships.

1.19. When reporting on risk and opportunities we will need to take an equal focus on mitigation (Net Zero, 1.5°C), adaption (2°C), and protecting and enhancing nature.

Community Panels, Community Networks and Community Power

1.20. The Committee received a report on Community Power at their meeting in February 2024. This report set out the critical role that Community Panels and Community Networks will have in tackling the climate and nature challenge as follows:

'The depth and complexity of many modern problems from climate change to deindustrialisation or social isolation are beyond the ability of any single institution to resolve. We need an approach that recognises how Cumberland Council can ensure communities are not merely passive recipients of services or transactional customers and one which recognises their role at the heart of sustainable solutions.'

1.21. The Community Panels and their priorities provide an opportunity to link actions to the places that matter most to our communities, their neighbourhoods, villages and towns. So far, the panels we have offered over £40,000 in funding to organisations for projects that will make a difference for climate and nature by:

- Improving access and biodiversity
- Providing outdoor learning sessions and community activities
- Providing energy efficiency measures in community buildings and supporting community hubs
- Protecting and conserving red squirrels
- Enabling a future play area and community orchard
- Supporting a safe cycleway and cycle parking
- Providing healthy lunches in warm spots during winter months
- Providing gardening and cooking equipment for community groups

1.22. This strategy is dependent upon:

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

1.23. It is through the Community Panels and Community Networks that we will bring together the communities of interest and place, linking in the local climate and nature groups. We will also look to scale-up climate and nature actions across Cumberland through external funding. (See Paragraph 5.6)

Partnerships

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

Objectives and commitments

1.25. There are 4 objectives:

- *Adapting now to the changes we can expect over our lifetimes*
- *Giving nature a helping hand*
- *Growing the know-how, skills ,opportunities and inspiration for change*
- *Supporting more sustainable places, practices, livelihoods and lifestyles*

1.26. Each objective is presented with a set of aspirational commitments and aims (Pages 12-13) which summarises the related work in the partnerships and programmes. As we finalise the strategy, we will link these objectives and statements to the programmes listed and the related strategies and plans. This will create a link to tangible actions.

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

Communications and engagement

1.28. Communications and engagement are paramount for influencing behaviours. Under the objective '*Growing the know-how, skills ,opportunities and inspiration for change*' we have committed to:

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

1.29. Since Vesting Day we have been publishing an Environment and Climate Newsletter with the goal of growing the subscribers issue by issue. In March 2024 we published our fourth issue of the newsletter which reached 14,823 recipients. This is a growth of 4% in the number of subscribers from our first issue in July 2023. We will continue to promote the newsletter as our main source of information on the development and delivery of the strategy and programmes.

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

- £250,000 of government funding has been secured for public swimming pools in Carlisle, Wigton and Workington.
- Substantial funding boost of £870,588 for Active Travel initiatives.
- In collaboration with the Hadrian's Wall Trail Partnership, has developed a new ramped access to a popular riverside footpath in Carlisle.
- Advising residents to be careful when driving through Caldbeck as amphibians are currently crossing roads in the area.

- Community planting for pollinators day in Whitehaven
- Successful Completion of Ravenglass Flood Alleviation Project
- Recycling Rambler hits the road

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

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

Themes, programmes, and plans

1.32. The 23 programmes are presented under their themes (Pages 14-17) and again with more information in the table at the end of the strategy. Additional action planning will be incorporated into the Council's planning processes and partnership working.

1.33. The two management plans which support our Council actions are summarised on pages 18-20. The Carbon and Energy Management Plan will be taken to Business and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then form part of the appendices to the final strategy. The Biodiversity Management Plan will be developed over summer and adopted alongside the Local Nature Recovery Strategy in autumn, completing the set.

1.34. A list of related strategies and plans, including pending documents, is included to illustrate the breadth and depth of work underway.

1.35. The monitoring and reporting on the progress of the strategy will be through the quarterly performance reports. An annual review of the strategy will be reported through the Portfolio Holder.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and Biodiversity Duty

1.36. The Cumbria LNRS will outline our county's priorities for nature recovery and identify key locations that could contribute to achieving these priorities. Westmorland and Furness Council are the responsible authority for the Cumbria LNRS, with Cumberland Council, Lake District National Park Authority, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and Natural England acting as supporting authorities. There are also many other

organisations involved in the development of the LNRS such as Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre, Forestry Commission, Environment Agency, Cumbria Wildlife Trust and many more NGOs, organisations, and individuals.

- 1.37. The communications and engagement work on the LNRS includes a survey asking for views on nature and wildlife in the local area. The survey responses will help support the first chapters of the LNRS by showing how important nature is to people. (Survey link: [Nature in Cumbria](#)).
- 1.38. It is through the adoption of the LNRS, as a supporting authority, and the Climate & Nature Strategy's Biodiversity Management Plan we will fulfil our strengthened biodiversity duty.

2. Proposals

- 2.1. The proposal is to engage and consult on this strategy and the two management plans as part of the hierarchy of strategies and plans under the Council Plan.

3. Alternative options considered

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

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

Combining climate (mitigation and adaption) and nature topics into a single strategy (with two supporting plans as appendices) is the preferred option.

4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 4.1. The report provides the committee with an overview of the development of the strategy and the draft prepared for engagement and consultation. This report provides an opportunity for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to comment on the draft.

5. Implications:

Contribution to the Cumberland Plan Priorities -

- 5.1. The Cumberland Council Plan has 'environmental resilience and climate emergency as an area of focus, this draft strategy sets out how we are going to deliver against this challenge.
- 5.2. The Cumberland Approach identifies sustainability as a fundamental principle for shaping our approach to service delivery, working with partners and engaging residents. The Council Plan defines sustainability as:

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

Relevant Risks and explain how risks can be mitigated –

5.3. The relevant risks are managed through the Risk Management and Framework as follows:

- Overarching Corporate Risk for Climate Change
- Directorate and Service Risk Registers
- Programme and project risks through the Programme Management Office

The treatment these risks is in line with the risk tolerances.

Consultation / Engagement –

5.4. The Community Engagement Framework is being used to guide our approach to engagement and consultation. It is through improved community participation that we can build trust and understanding, which can help better shape the delivery of the strategy and improve decision-making.

5.5. As part of the consultation on the draft strategy we will be publishing an online survey which sets out the sections of the strategy with related links and information.

5.6. The content on the website for climate and nature will be reviewed and updates prepared as the strategy is finalised. A designed version of the final strategy will be produced.

Climate and nature local groups

5.7. Cumberland has over 14 active local groups work on climate and nature. Many of these groups are part of the Cumbria Sustainability Network, supported through the Zero Carbon Cumbria Programme. We will be engaging with these groups during the consultation on the strategy to brief them on the draft and seek their views. We will take this opportunity to connect these groups to their local Community Network and Community Panel.

Economic Summit

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

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

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

We will be arranging a further workshop for partners to brief them on the draft strategy and seek their views.

Potential Citizens Jury/Assembly

- 5.9. There are resources available through the Zero Carbon Cumbria Programme to look again at a Citizens Jury/Assembly. Citizens Assemblies and Juries are a way of bringing together citizens to try and work through complex issues and make recommendations in an attempt to influence policy. They have been used throughout the world and at a local level in Copeland, Furness and Kendal over the last few years organised by local not for profit organisation.
- 5.10. The proposal is to organise two Citizens Juries or an Assembly in Cumbria on a particularly important issue that is key to successfully addressing climate change. A workshop will be organised in April to consider this offer in more detail.

Engaging with young people

- 5.11. The development of the strategy has benefited from the Youth Summit, the Copeland Youth Panel (2021) and recent engagement with young people on possible solutions to encourage climate awareness and action.
- 5.12. We will be taking the opportunity to engage with the Whitehaven Youth Summit this summer on climate and nature.

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

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

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

It is anticipated that the delivery of the strategy and accompanying management plans will require legal advice on a case-by case basis. (Lead Senior Lawyer, 3/4/24)

Finance – There are no direct financial implications within the recommendations for the draft strategy and related plans. A criteria for action planning, based on the Financial Procedure Rules, has been part of the development of the strategy. As projects are developed to deliver

the strategy detailed business cases will be needed setting out the costs and savings as well as the potential for external funding.

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

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

(Group Accountant, 28/3/24)

Information Governance – Climate and nature topics give rise to Environmental Information Regulations 2004 requests. We will review these requests annually to see if we can routinely publish more information through the updates to the strategy. (Information Governance and Data Compliance Officer, 27/3/24)

Impact Assessments –

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

The draft strategy has been screened using the Impact Assessment tool. The screening will be updated once the consultation and engagement is completed.

Author & Lead Officer Contact details:

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Background papers:

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

Carbon and Energy Management Plan (Business and Resources OSC agenda item on 16/4/24)

Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership: Summary of Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Cumbria

Available online at: <https://zerocarboncumbria.co.uk/about/reports/cumbria-greenhouse-gas-emissions-report/>

Appendices attached to report:

Draft strategy

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Cumberland Council
Climate and Nature Strategy
2024-2027

For people, for nature, for climate

Date created: 04/04/24

Version 0.1

DRAFT

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Welcome from the Executive Portfolio Holder, Councillor Bob Kelly

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Glossary

Abbreviation/term	Meaning
Adaption	Adaptation refers to the adjustments in ecological, social or economic systems in response to actual or expected climatic changes and their effects.
Carbon neutral	This represents the position where the CO ₂ released by an organisation is balanced by an equivalent amount being removed.
CO ₂ e	A quantity that measures the global warming potential of any mixture of greenhouse gases using the equivalent amount or concentration of carbon dioxide.
Decarbonisation	The reduction of the carbon emissions from an emitting system or process.
EIP (EIP 23)	Environment Improvement Plan 2023. The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023 for England is the first revision of the 25 Year Environment Plan (25 YEP).
Greenhouse Gases (GHG)	There are seven major Greenhouse Gases: Carbon dioxide (CO ₂), Methane (CH ₄), Nitrous Oxide (N ₂ O), Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), Perfluorocarbons (PFCs), Sulphur hexafluoride (SF ₆), Nitrogen trifluoride (NF ₃)
GHG Scope 1	Direct GHG emissions from buildings, plant and vehicles owned or controlled by an organisation, e.g. natural gas used in boilers or fuel used in company owned vehicles.
GHG Scope 2	Indirect emissions associated with purchased energy consumed, e.g. grid supplied electricity.
GHG Scope 3	All other indirect emissions that occur in the supply chain, e.g. business travel, purchased goods and maintenance contracts.
Insetting	The reduction of emissions by the implementation of measures such as re-forestation, renewable energy and regenerative agriculture within an organisation's own management scope.
Mitigation	Decreasing the amount of GHG emissions released into the atmosphere and reducing the current concentration of carbon dioxide (CO ₂) by enhancing sinks, such as increasing the area of forests.
Natural Capital	The elements of nature that directly or indirectly produce value to people, including ecosystems, species, freshwater, land, minerals, the air and oceans, as well as natural processes and functions.
Net Zero	The organisation or place has achieved a position where the effects of its activities are such that they release no carbon dioxide (equivalents) emissions into the atmosphere.
Residual Emissions	The estimated emissions left after the reduction measures have been implemented.
Sequestration	The process of capturing, securing and storing of CO ₂ from the atmosphere in either a solid or dissolved form. This can be either by a biological or geological process, creating a natural carbon store.
Zoning (Heat Networks)	Designated zones where heat networks are expected to offer the lowest-cost solution for decarbonising heat.

Plan on a page

The climate and nature challenge

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

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

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

Climate and Nature Strategy 2024-2027

Through our Climate and Nature Strategy we will:

Proactively engage in making Cumbria carbon neutral by 2037 whilst embedding adaption and recovering biodiversity, creating an abundance of thriving plants and wildlife.

Objectives

- *Adapting now to the changes we can expect over our lifetimes*
 - *Giving nature a helping hand*
- *Growing the know-how, skills, opportunities and inspiration for change*
- *Supporting more sustainable places, practices, livelihoods and lifestyles*

Our approach

8 Community Panels and Community Networks working towards active, resilient and empowered communities

Where communities of interest meet communities of place to tackle local priorities

23 Partnerships working across the climate and nature challenge

23 Programmes for the detail on Council delivery

2 detailed underpinning management plans:

Carbon and Energy Management Plan

Decarbonisation of buildings, fleet and supply chain

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

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

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

Biodiversity Management Plan

Pending

To be adopted in autumn 2024

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

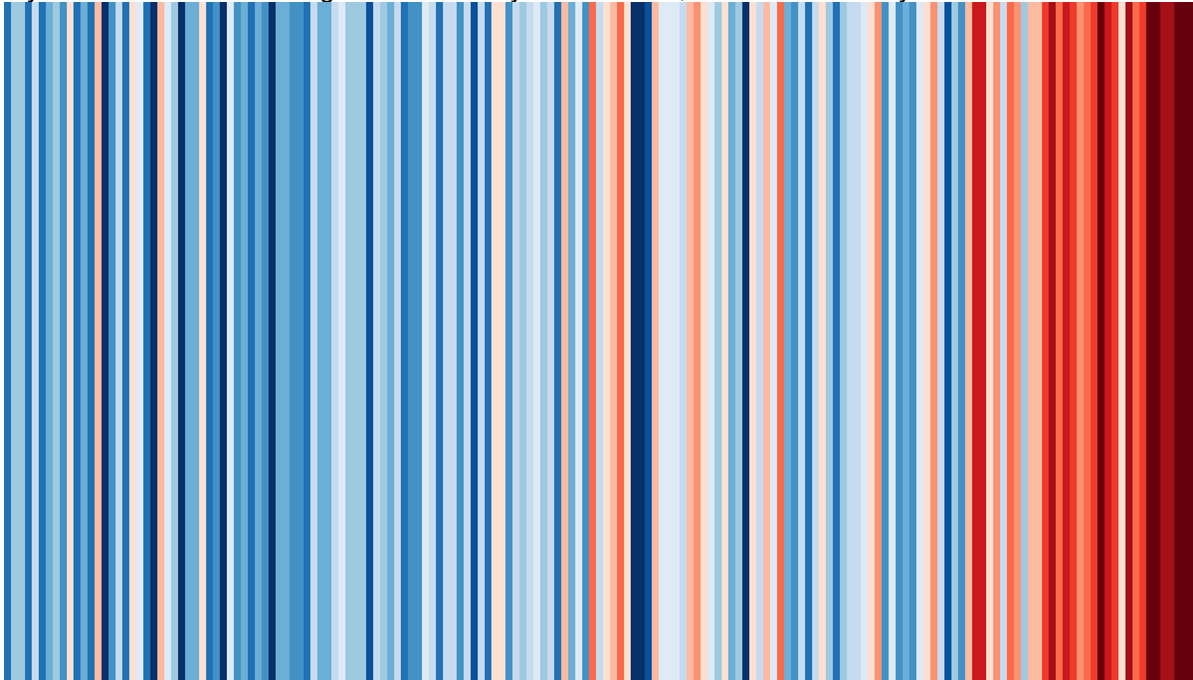
Nature Networks
Biodiversity and Council assets
Natural Capital and Council assets

Baselining and opportunities for improvement
(Nature Recovery Planning)

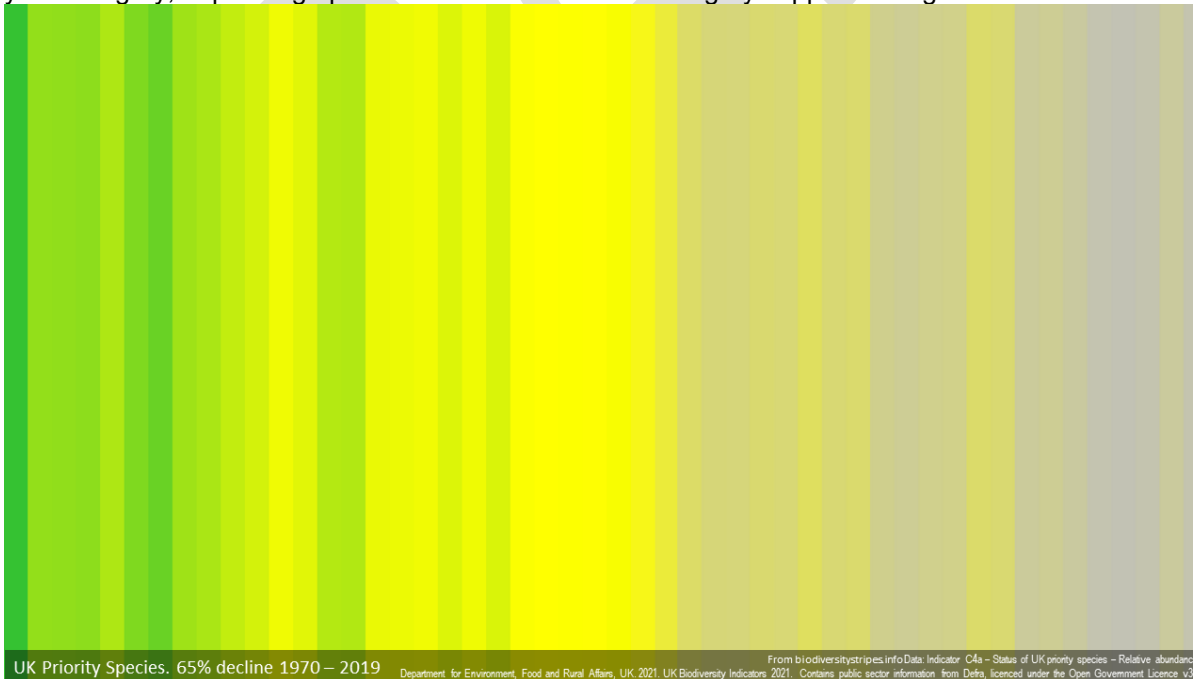
Over 50 linked plans and strategies

The climate and nature challenge in stripes

These 'warming stripe' graphics are visual representations of the change in temperature as measured in England over the past 100+ years, each stripe or bar represents the temperature over a year relative to the average. The coolest years are blue, and the warmest years are darker red. ¹



The 'biodiversity stripes' provide a visual representation of the change in biodiversity over time, since 1970. The highest level of biodiversity is coloured bright green. Lower levels move through yellow to grey, depending upon the level of decline. Darker greys appear with greater declines. ²



¹ Temperature change in England relative to average 1971-2000 (Degrees Centigrade, °C), Credit: <https://showyourstripes.info/c/europe/unitedkingdom/england>

² Biodiversity loss of UK Priority Species. 65% decline 1970-2019, Credit: <https://biodiversitystripes.info/ukpriorityspecies>

Introduction

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

The strategy and action plan has been developed alongside the Council's Delivery Plan, informed by the strategies, actions and partnership work underway and work undertaken by the previous councils.

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

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

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

The themes in this strategy include matters that are within the Council's control, directly or indirectly, and matters where the Council can use its influence.

Only 3% of greenhouse gas emissions in the Cumberland area are attributed to the Public Sector.³

However, it is widely understood that a local authority's place-shaping powers and actions potentially influence around a third⁴ of UK emissions. These are principally in the buildings, transport, waste and land-use sectors.

We will deliver this strategy through these definitions of control and influence (Table 1).

Table 1: Controlling and influencing.

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

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics>

⁴ <https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/councillor-workbook-local-path-net-zero>

Risks, consequences and opportunities

The effects⁵ of climate change and biodiversity loss are multipliers of many global threats, and these threats are predicted to continue to worsen over the next decade.

We are already seeing the impact of climate change and biodiversity loss locally, responding to and recovering from the devastating effects on our communities from severe weather⁶ and unprecedented flooding in recent years. The consequences of inaction will be significant for our local economy, the health and wellbeing of our communities and for all our Council services.

The key risks for Cumberland are:

- A combination of risks⁷ being realised at the same time, impacting on our infrastructure services, energy, transport, water (and public water scarcity) and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).
- Risks that worsen existing inequalities through their disproportionate effects on disadvantaged groups.
- The increased severity, frequency and variability of flooding (fluvial, coastal and surface water) and related coastal erosion risk, impacting on the viability of coastal communities and coastal businesses due to sea level rise. Increasing the pollution of our rivers, lakes, wetlands and coasts with sewage, wastewater and agriculture and industrial run-off.

There are risks to:

- The supply of food, goods and vital services due to climate-related collapse of supply chains and distribution networks.
- To human health, wellbeing and productivity from increased exposure to heat in homes and other buildings through seasonal changes.
- To the viability and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species from multiple hazards (including invasive non-native species).
- To soil health from increased flooding and drought.
- To sequestration in natural carbon stores⁸ from multiple hazards, leading to increased emissions.
- To crops, livestock and commercial trees from multiple climate hazards.

The most likely common consequences are:

- Increased demand for welfare and local interventions to sustain health and wellbeing.

⁵ [UK Climate Risk](#)

⁶ Severe storms, floods and thunderstorms; heatwaves, droughts and wildfires.

⁷ [Cumbria Community Risk Register](#)

⁸ <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5419124441481216>

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

The opportunities for Cumberland are:

- Improved health and wellbeing through the co-benefits of warmer more efficient homes, better food and diets, opportunities for active travel, better air quality, better mental and physical health, and more access to green spaces.
- Narrowing the gaps in health inequalities for our most vulnerable communities.
- Green growth and inward investment in a low carbon economy, creating new skills and jobs.
- Greater resilience through community empowerment and wealth building.
- Stable funding for the rural economy through the transition to 'public money for public goods' and marketing of new green investable propositions.
- Investment of green finance⁹ through the development of green investable propositions for natural capital assets and services, creating new skills and jobs in farming and other land use change.
- Greater understanding and appreciation of nature's role within the landscape. The potential of nature and 'eco-system services' are fully realised across Cumberland for the value it brings to health and wellbeing, carbon sequestration, improved air quality and access to green spaces.
- Healthy, safe and clean rivers, lakes, wetlands and coasts that have an abundance of wildlife and plants, with water that is safe for people to swim.

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/green-finance>

Community Panels and Community Networks

The climate and nature challenge requires active and resilient communities working on solutions with the right institutions. With this in mind we are developing our approach to community power (community empowerment). We recognise that we need to develop an approach that can ensure communities are at the heart of sustainable solutions.

There are 8 Community Panels covering Cumberland, each is made up of the ward councillors for that area. Each panel has a Community Network made up of residents, businesses, partners and third sector organisations. These networks engage with residents to find out exactly what investment is needed in each neighbourhood creating local priorities.

These local priorities¹⁰ are the starting point for each of the Neighbourhood Investment Plans which are co-produced through the Community Networks. The panels include co-opted members to strengthen community engagement.

The 126 town and parish councils in Cumberland are linked into the Community Networks.

Table 2: Community Panels and Community Networks

The Community Panels and Community Networks
Carlisle West Belle Vue, Castle, Denton Holme, Morton, Yewdale
Petteril Botcherby, Currock, Harraby North, Harraby South, Upperby
Border, Fellside & North Carlisle Belah, Brampton, Corby & Hayton, Houghton & Irthington, Longtown, Stanwix Urban, Wetheral
Fells & Solway Aspatria, Dalston & Burgh, Solway Coast, Wigton, Thursby
Lakes to Sea Bothel & Wharrels, Cockermouth North, Cockermouth South, Dearham & Broughton, Keswick, Maryport North and Maryport South
Workington Together Harrington, Seaton, Mossbay & Moorclose, St John's & Gt Clifton, St Michael's
Whitehaven & Coastal Bransty, Egremont North & St Bees, Hillcrest & Hensingham, Howgate, Kells & Sandwith, Mirehouse
South Cumberland Cleator Moor East & Frizington, Cleator Moor West, Egremont, Gosforth, Millom, Millom Without

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

We engage communities, through the Community Panels, as we are developing the programmes so that they can help shape the delivery.

¹⁰ [Combined list of local priorities 2023-25](#)

Partnership working

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

Partnership	Mitigation	Adaption	Protect and enhance nature
Cumberland Council area only			
Cumberland Joint Public Health Board		✓	
Food Cumberland Partnership	✓	✓	✓
Workington Nature Partnership	✓	✓	✓
Cumbria			
Cumbria Catchment Partnership ¹¹	✓	✓	✓
Cumbria Community Forest Partnership Board and the Community Forest Trust (Cumbria Community Forest)	✓	✓	✓
Cumbria Innovative Flood Resilience Programme partners		✓	✓
Cumbria Local Nature Partnership	✓	✓	✓
Cumbria Lead Local Flood Authority Partnership		✓	✓
Cumbria Resilience Forum		✓	
Lake District National Park Partnership	✓	✓	✓
Nutrient Neutrality Board			✓
One Public Estate Programme Delivery Board	✓		
Planting for Pollinators Partners			✓
Transition Planning for Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership through Joint Executive	✓		
Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership	✓		
Regional			
Borderlands Partnership (Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal)	✓		✓
Integrated Care Boards and Integrated Care Systems		✓	
Nature North			✓
Northern Upland Chain Local Nature Partnership	✓	✓	✓
North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee		✓	
North West Net Zero Hub	✓		
Solway Firth Partnership	✓	✓	✓
Transport for the North	✓		

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

¹¹ We will include Tyne River Trust and equivalent organisation for the Border Esk.

Objectives and commitments

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

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

We will:

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

Giving nature a helping hand

We will:

- Protect, restore and gain biodiversity, ensuring that sustainable growth supports nature recovery. Delivering biodiversity net gain and nature recovery on our own green spaces and estate.
- Work in partnership so that our wildlife and ecological networks are improved, helping these networks to be 'bigger, better and more joined up.' Creating an environment in which plants and wildlife can thrive.
- Protect and enhance the coastal and marine environment of the Solway Coast making it a more resilient landscape, richer in wildlife and biodiversity.
- Work in partnership to create high quality ecology data and information; ensuring that data and information is used effectively to achieve our shared goals.

Supporting more sustainable places, practices, livelihoods and lifestyles

We will:

- Proactively engage in making Cumbria carbon neutral by 2037.
- We will collaborate with partners to influence national decision making to accelerate green growth in Cumberland.
- Improve our own energy resilience, efficiency and accelerate decarbonisation of services.
- Tackle the challenges of fuel poverty and affordable warmth.
- Support a Food Cumberland Partnership to help ensure locally available good quality food. Promoting sustainable food and farming with an end to food waste.
- Change the attitude towards resources and their consumption, reducing emissions and waste by increasing choice and opportunities to repair, reuse and recycle.
- Work with River Trusts¹² to improve water quality and the health of our rivers and lakes.
- Develop and deliver initiatives to promote low and no carbon modes of transport, making it easier for people to walk and wheel.
- Improve air quality through action on transport, industrial, agricultural, and domestic emissions.

Growing the know-how, skills, opportunities and inspiration for change

We will:

- Build capability and opportunities, motivating people to make climate wise and nature positive choices.
- Improve access and connect people to nature to benefit their health and wellbeing.
- Grow the training and skills needed for green growth and nature recovery.
- Build trust and inspire change by promoting positive examples of adaptation and mitigation, sharing the opportunities and choices through our proactive communications and engagement.
- We will increase awareness of nature and climate-related issues.

¹² Equivalent bodies for the river Esk (Border)

Themes, programmes and plans

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

They are summarised below under their themes:

Energy and green growth

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

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

The programmes are:

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

Food and waste

Everyone in Cumberland has a right to good food¹³. Food is at the heart of some the biggest public health challenges in the UK, from obesity and diet-related ill-health to food poverty and waste, climate change and biodiversity loss to declining prosperity and social dislocation.

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

¹³ [Right to food motion to Cumberland Shadow Authority, July 2022](#)

The programmes are:

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

Infrastructure, housing and transport

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

The Transport Decarbonisation Plan¹⁴ sets out the national plan and a regional approach is set out in the Transport Decarbonisation Strategy for the North¹⁵. Locally we have our plans and programmes for transport and connectivity, supporting sustainable and inclusive growth.

The programmes are:

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

Investment and policy

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

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

The Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) will be part of a system of locally led, evidence based, collaboratively produced strategies that cover the whole of England, with each one mapping existing areas of value for nature, establishing priorities for nature's recovery and mapping locations where action for nature, or use of nature-based solutions would be particularly beneficial. The LNRS will form the basis for a Nature Recovery Network, a joined up network of places important for plants and wildlife.

The programmes are:

¹⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transport-decarbonisation-plan>

¹⁵ <https://transportforthenorth.com/decarbonisation/>

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

Nature and natural capital

Nature, biodiversity and natural capital are all different ways of describing the environment. In the Plan on a Page we have adopted the national Environmental Improvement Plan¹⁶ overarching goal of halting the decline in our biodiversity so we can achieve thriving plants and wildlife.

The programmes are:

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

People, risk, and resilience

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

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

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

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

¹⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan>

The programmes are:

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

Additional action planning

[Action planning in italics is pending]

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

- The Community Panels and Community Networks
- Internal: *Asset Management Strategy and Plans; Fleet Strategy; Human Resources Strategy*; approach to procurement and commissioning; Transformation Programme and Capital Programme; and *service planning*
- *Local Area Energy Plan¹⁷, in partnership with Electricity North West (summer 2024)*
- *Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership: Cumbria Decarbonisation Plan (summer 2024)*

Timescales

This first strategy is for 2024-2027, the same timescale as our first Cumberland Council Plan. The programmes are presented in the table (Pages 24-25) using the following definition of timescales:

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

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

Long term: Progress will continue beyond 2027.

¹⁷ [https://www.enwl.co.uk/future-energy/facilitating-net-zero/local-area-energy-planning/#:~:text=Local%20Area%20Energy%20Planning%20\(LAEP,local%20industry%20and%20the%20environment.](https://www.enwl.co.uk/future-energy/facilitating-net-zero/local-area-energy-planning/#:~:text=Local%20Area%20Energy%20Planning%20(LAEP,local%20industry%20and%20the%20environment.)

Carbon and Energy Management Plan

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

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

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

By March 2027 we will reduce our GHG emissions across all scopes¹⁸ (1,2 and 3) by 2% from the baseline year.

The baseline year for the Council is the financial year 2023/24, the Council's inaugural year. The total emissions forecasted for the baseline year are 140,316 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). Of the total emissions calculated, 91% are attributable to the Scope 3 GHG emissions reflecting the magnitude of the services provided by the Council's supply chain. The remaining emissions fall into Scope 1 at 6% and Scope 2 at 3% .

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

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

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

Buildings are the largest generator of Scope 1 and 2 emissions for the Council. This includes both the energy used by the building systems, such as lighting and heating, as well as the plant and equipment, and office systems used by the occupants. The measures identified to reduce these emissions follow a hierarchy of activities and include behaviour change, building fabric improvements and energy reduction measures which will involve capital investment. Reduction measures include the upgrading of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems through change from fossil fuel to electric heat pumps and a programme to replace the existing lighting with LEDs and domestic hot water (DHW) generation systems. Where appropriate local solar PV installations and small-scale wind generation may be installed on or around buildings.

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

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

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

¹⁸ <https://ghgprotocol.org/corporate-standard>

The supply chain accounts for approximately 127,000 tCO₂e and is the greatest proportion of Council emissions. The strategy recognises that the emissions associated with the delivery of these services are outside of the direct control of the Council but through active engagement and encouragement with the service providers, improvements in emissions can be delivered. The supply chain includes the purchases and contracts required for the operation and delivery of services, in particular delivery of the capital programme (including highways contracts) and the operation of care services.

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

Residual emissions are those left after the reduction measures have been implemented. The Council will set out a plan for the management of residual emissions in 2024/25. This plan will include options such as: offsetting through Council land or in partnership through an approved code (Sequestration); utilising 'insetting' through development of renewable energy on Council land or in partnership; identifying opportunities for Carbon Capture and Storage.

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Biodiversity Management Plan

The Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) forms part of the overarching Climate and Nature Strategy. It focuses on protecting and enhancing nature with the assets we own and manage. We will develop the BMP in 2024 to link directly to Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), which is to be adopted by winter 2024/25.

The BMP will have improvement actions developed around the:

- 10 improvement goals and targets in the Environmental Improvement Plan¹⁹
- The LNRS priorities and measures

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹⁹ [Environmental Improvement Plan \(EIP23\)](#)

Monitoring, reporting and reviewing

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

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

The key measures for this first strategy are:

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

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

We will review the strategy annually, reporting any significant changes through the Portfolio Holder reports to Council.

Links to other strategies and plans

This strategy is linked to the following strategies and plans.

[Strategies and plans in italics are pending]

Linked internally to:

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

Linked externally to:

- [Borderland Inclusive Growth Deal](#)
- [Cumberland Council Plan](#)
- [Cumberland Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#)
- [Cumbria Local Nature Partnership Strategy](#)
- [Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#)
- [Cumbria Community Forest Plan](#)
- [Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership Plans and Strategies](#)
- *Economic Strategy*
- [Transport for the North Decarbonisation Plan](#)
- [Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership Cumbria Decarbonisation Plan](#)

No.	Programme	Lead Director/Assistant Director	Portfolio Holder	Partnership/Delivery Partner(s)	Timescales
Theme: Energy and green growth					
1	Prepare for the new energy decarbonisation opportunities of additional offshore wind power, electrolytic 'green' hydrogen and nuclear energy.	Darren Crossley/Jane Meek	Leader's	Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) ²⁰	Long term
2	Working in partnership to keep our local industries globally competitive by supporting decarbonisation of energy intensive processes.	Darren Crossley/Chloe Tringham	Leader's	LEP	Long term
3	Prepare for the new heat energy decarbonisation opportunities of Zoning and Heat Networks.	Darren Crossley/Jane Meek	Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places	North West Net Zero Hub/LEP	Medium term
4	Deliver the climate and nature co-benefits set out in the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal (BIGD) Energy Masterplan and Energy Investment Programme, BIGD Carlisle Station Gateway, Citadels & Place Programme; Town Deals Projects; Future High Street Funds Projects; Levelling Up Projects; and UK Single Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Projects	Darren Crossley/Chloe Tringham Darren Crossley/Jane Meek	Cross-cutting	Place Boards (internal)	Short term
5	Work in partnership to grow the skills and training need for green growth and nature recovery.	Darren Crossley/Jane Meek	Leader's	LEP/ Land and Nature Skills Service for Cumbria	Short term
6	Deliver our own Carbon and Energy Decarbonisation Plan focused on our own Council assets and services.	Darren Crossley/Chloe Tringham Simon Higgins/Stuart Knight	Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places / Vibrant and Healthy Places	Internal	Long term
Theme: Food and waste					
8	Deliver the Food Cumberland Strategic Framework	Colin Cox/Paul Musgrave/Graeme Wilson	Governance and Thriving Communities	Food Cumberland Partnership	Long term
9	Harmonise our waste service and prepare for a new waste strategy and disposal contract, meeting the new guidance and duties.	Darren Crossley/Chloe Tringham	Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places	Shared Service Board	Short term
Theme: Infrastructure, housing and transport					
10	Deliver Saint Cuthbert's Garden Village (StCGV) as a showcase of new climate wise and nature positive design codes and the innovative 'starting with the park' project.	Darren Crossley/Jane Meek	Cumberland Policy and Regulatory Services	StCGV Board	Long term
11	Deliver the Transport Infrastructure Plan. Promoting active travel and digital infrastructure as enablers of inclusive economic growth and supporting the health and wellbeing of our communities and the decarbonisation of transport networks.	Darren Crossley/Karl Melville	Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places	Internal	Long term
12	Deliver the Local Cycling and walking Infrastructure Plan (CWIP) and Local Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (LEVI) to decarbonise transport.	Darren Crossley/Karl Melville	Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places	Internal	Long term
Theme: Investment and policy					
13	Develop the evidence base and policies for the first Local Plan for Cumberland and its Sustainability Appraisal.	Nik Hardy/ Alex Fitzgerald	Cumberland Policy and Regulatory Services	Internal	Medium term
14	Support the delivery and adoption of the first Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and Nature Recovery Network for Cumbria, exploring the potential for nature recovery and natural capital investment.	Darren Crossley/Chloe Tringham	Cumberland Policy and Regulatory Services / Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places	LNRS Board / Local Nature Partnership / Solway Firth Partnership	Short term
Theme: Nature and natural capital					
14	Deliver the Local Investment in Natural Capital (LINCS) Project and the BIGD Natural Capital opportunity.	Darren Crossley/Chloe Tringham	Leader's	BIGD Partnership / Local Nature Partnership	Short term
15	Work in partnership to tackle the challenge of nutrient neutrality on the river Eden and upper parts of river Derwent and Bassenthwaite Lake (SAC) and realise the opportunities and benefits of a countywide approach to Biodiversity Net Gain.	Darren Crossley/Jane Meek/ Chloe Tringham	Cumberland Policy and Regulatory Services / Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places	Nutrient Neutrality Board / Natural England	Medium term

²⁰ Transitional arrangements through Joint Executive

No.	Programme	Lead Director/Assistant Director	Portfolio Holder	Partnership/Delivery Partner(s)	Timescales
16	Work in partnership to protect and grow more community trees, woodland, wildflowers, saltmarsh and seagrass for the benefit of local people and nature.	Darren Crossley/Chloe Tringham & Michael Barry	Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places / Cumberland Policy and Regulatory Services	Nature Partnership/RAISE (Cumbria Community Forest) & Forestry England / Cumbria Wildlife Trust /	Long term
17	Mitigate the impact of major developments through additional investment in biodiversity net gain, nature recovery and emission reduction plans.	Darren Crossley/Jane Meek	Cumberland Policy and Regulatory Services	Place Boards (internal)	Long term
18	Work in partnership to connect people to nature, through new access and volunteering opportunities, benefiting our health and wellbeing.	Darren Crossley/Chloe Tringham	Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places	Local Nature Partnership / Natural England/ Rivers Trust	Short term
19	Deliver our own Biodiversity Management Plan, focused on our own Council assets and services.	Darren Crossley/Chloe Tringham Darren Crossley/Michael Barry	Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places / Vibrant and Healthy Places	Internal	Long term

Theme: People, risk and resilience

20	Prepare for and adapt to the rising sea level, changing shoreline and future flood risk.	Darren Crossley/Chloe Tringham	Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places	North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee/ Cumbria Catchment Partnership	Long term
21	Prepare for and adapt to more frequent and more severe 'extreme weather' events.	Darren Crossley/Chloe Tringham	Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places	Cumbria Resilience Forum (CRF)	Long term
22	Work in partnership through the Cumbria Resilience Forum to create stronger more resilient communities and a more resilient local environment.	Colin Cox/Graeme Wilson	Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places	CRF	Short term
23	Work in partnership to focus on the most vulnerable communities, adapting and retrofitting homes to reduce fuel poverty and create warmer homes.	Chris Jones-King/Karen Bell	Children, Family Wellbeing and Housing	Strategic Housing Board	Long term

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

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

Long term: Progress will continue beyond 2027.



Report to Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Date 17 April 2024
Key Decision No
Public/Private Public

Portfolio
Directorate Thriving Place and Investment
Lead Officer Darren Crossley / Jane Meek

Title Tourism report for Place Scrutiny Committee

Summary: This report is to give an overview of the activity the council is engaged with to support tourism. To give members an understanding of the resources and tools that the council has to support tourism. To give information about opportunities, challenges and risks in developing tourism in Cumberland.

Recommendations: It is recommended that members consider the contents of the report and give any feedback or suggestions to officers in the Destination Management Team.

Tracking

Executive:	N/A
Scrutiny:	Date
Council:	N/A

1. Background

The Destination Management Team at Cumberland Council is a resourced combined from the former Allerdale Borough Council, Carlisle City Council and Copeland Borough Council. The team sits within Thriving Place and Investment and consists of:

- Destination Manager (former Carlisle City Council)
- Tourist Information Centre Team (former Carlisle City Council)
- Tourism and Culture Development Officer (former Copeland Borough Council)
- Tourism Specialist (former Allerdale Borough Council)

Prior to the creation of Cumberland Council, the former districts worked in partnership on a wide range of projects (e.g. Cumbria Residents Week, Strategic Visitor Management Group).

Carlisle Tourist Information Centre provides services including visitor information for the Cumberland area and beyond, content management of web sites and social media platforms, services for residents including event ticket sales, permits and licences and event support. The Tourist Information Centre is also home to the Assembly Room which is used by community groups.

Financial resource for the team and its functions comes from former Carlisle City Council and Allerdale Borough Council core budgets. Copeland tourism functions are externally funded through Sellafeld Ltd Social Impact Fund.

In 2023 tourism in Cumberland contributed £1593million to the economy with 17.93million visitors supporting 17072FTE people in employment.

2. Destination Promotion

- 2.1. The Destination Management Team is responsible for tourism and place promotion. This includes the production of promotional materials, marketing campaigns, trade and public shows and competitions (e.g. Perfect Days Out in Cumberland), public relations and social media activity.
- 2.2. Travel trade promotion is supported through activity including attendance at trade shows (British Tourism and Travel Show and Group Travel and Leisure Show) and through the work with England's Historic Cities. Seasonal campaigns include publications such as Coach Tours UK and Group Travel and Leisure magazines.

- 2.3. The Destination Management team supports wider place promotion including the UK Real Estate and Infrastructure Forum and various business expo and Ambassador events.

3. Sector Development

- 3.1. The Destination Management Team engage with businesses operating within the visitor economy and its supply chain. The team provides business support and networks such as Carlisle Ambassadors, Western Lake District and Coast Partnership as well as holding Tourism Breakfast Briefings.
- 3.2. Welcome Host training for tourism businesses is provided through the Tourist Information Centre and is open to all businesses operating within the visitor economy.
- 3.3. The team supports new product development including attractions such as The Edge in Whitehaven, Project Tullie, Weapons Hall at Muncaster Castle, Changing Places at Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway.

4. Strategic Visitor Management (SVMG)

- 4.1. The Destination Management Team provides resource for the land ranger patrols and Safer Lakes Team.
- 4.2. SVMG functions include monitoring visitor activity, promoting 'Adventure Smart' messaging and making sure that our communities are comfortable with the level of tourism in the area.
- 4.3. Ranger patrol carry out such duties as clearing camp fires and reporting/escalating issues with responsible agencies such as illegal off road parking and other challenges.
- 4.4. SVMG supports the provision of a walkers shuttle bus service to alleviate parking pressure in particular around Wasdale and Buttermere.
- 4.5. 'Adventure Smart' provides a toolkit for businesses to promote the key messages 'do I have the knowledge and skills for the day?', 'Do I know what the weather will be like?' and 'do I have the right gear?'

5. Destination and place making events programme

- 5.1. The Destination Management Team has oversight of signature / place making events including Light District, Taste Cumbria, Carlisle Christmas Market, Solway Cycling Festival and Cumbria Residents Week. These are all used as anchors for destination marketing and are designed to support the Cumbria Destination Management Plan.
- 5.2. In 2024 Light District Carlisle had an economic impact of £200,000 with 4500 tickets sold. In 2022 Carlisle Christmas Market had an economic impact of £3.8million with 91,000 visitors. In 2022 Taste Cumbria Cockermouth had an economic impact of £1.9million with 25000 visitors. In 2023 the Solway Cycle Festival in Silloth had an economic impact of £47500 with 900 visitors.

6. England's Historic Cities

- 6.1. Carlisle is part of the England's Historic Cities consortium. England's Heritage Cities is a partnership of destinations brought together by common product and interests. Its purpose is to exchange knowledge, find solutions to shared challenges, benchmark performance, raise the profile of England's heritage product and facilitate joint activity, all with the intention of maximising the potential of the cities' visitor economies.
- 6.2. Its geographical footprint spans the length and breadth of England and membership comprises 13 of the country's premiere heritage locations: Bath, Canterbury, Cambridge, Chester, Carlisle, Durham, Greenwich, Lancaster, Lincoln, Oxford, Salisbury, Stratford and York.
- 6.3. The consortium works closely with a set of strategic partners including UK Inbound, T-stats and VisitBritain. In recent years the group has developed projects and delivered them with investment secured from the UK GREAT Challenge Fund and the Discover England Fund. These projects have enabled the group to forge new relationships with London and Partners, English Heritage and the Historic Houses Association.

7. Cumberland Story

- 7.1. The Destination Management Team have facilitated the development of a new place narrative for Cumberland. Working with stakeholders both within and outside of Cumberland, the Cumberland Story will provide a clear compelling story that sums up key elements of places and people in Cumberland. The narrative will reference location, culture, history, future aspirations and community. It will focus on positive future direction while acknowledging any challenges and provide a toolkit and image library for future place promotion.

8. UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

- 8.1. A new Food and Drink project is being delivered under UKSPF to promote the hospitality industry in Cumberland and to provide business support and training linked to celebrity service, media training for chefs and sustainability. This supports the creation of a new food and drink guide. The marketing campaign will be called 'where food is always an event'.
- 8.2. The creation of destination themed itineraries Cumberland to enable attract and disperse within the county, deliver the actions of the Destination Management Plan and attract interest from the travel trade, consumer markets and encourage media visits.

9. Capital projects

- 9.1. The Destination Management Team are delivering the Town Deal Lighting Up Carlisle project and the lighting of Workington Hall which is part of the Levelling Up Fund Workington Gateway project.

10. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

10.1. The details of this report are designed to give members of the Scrutiny Committee a snapshot into the work that is being undertaken by the Destination Management Team in response to the new Destination Management Plan for Cumbria, and to ensure that all communities benefit from tourism and that our landscapes and places are protected and managed. A priority for the team is to promote Cumberland as the ideal place to live, work and visit.

Contact details:

Contact Officer:

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Appendices attached to report:

- None

Background papers:

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

- None

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Report to Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Date 17 April 2024
 Key Decision No
 Public/Private Public

Portfolio Cross Cutting
 Directorate Cross Cutting
 Lead Officer Nik Hardy, Assistant Chief Executive

Title **Committee Update Report and Work Programme**

Summary: To provide Members of Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) with an overview of matters related to the committee’s work. The report also sets out this year’s work programme for the committee.

Recommendations: It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee:

1. Note items on the most recent Forward Plan of Key Decisions.
2. Note progress on resolutions from previous meetings
3. Note the draft work programme for 2023/24.

Tracking

Executive:	N/A
Scrutiny:	Place OSC 17/04/2024
Council:	N/A

1. Background

1.1. The Cumberland Constitution (Part 3, Section 5 Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules) sets out that Overview and Scrutiny committees will consider the following items at their meetings:

16 PROCEDURE AT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

16.1 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee shall consider the following business:

- 16.1.1 minutes of the last meeting;
- 16.1.2 declarations of interest (including whipping declarations);
- 16.1.3 consideration of any matter referred to the Committee for a decision in relation to call in of a decision;
- 16.1.4 responses of the Executive to reports of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee;
- 16.1.5 Councillor's Call for Action; and
- 16.1.6 the business otherwise set out on the agenda for the meeting.

1.2. The minutes of the last meeting are considered as a separate agenda item and the Chair will seek declarations of interest at the start of each scrutiny meeting. This Scrutiny Update Report will provide detail on references to the Committee, responses of the Executive and any Councillors Call for Action.

2. References to Place Scrutiny Committee

2.1. None

3. Councillors Call for Action

3.1. None

4. Responses of Executive to Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

4.1. None

5. Progress on Resolutions from Previous Meetings

5.1. The following table sets out the meeting date and resolution that requires following up. The status is presented as either "closed", "pending" (date expected), or "outstanding". An item is considered outstanding if no update or progress has been made after three panel meetings. All the completed actions will be removed from the list following the meeting.

	Meeting date	Item	Resolution	Status
1	06/09/2023	PLOS.20/23 Housing Introduction – Overview of Responsibilities	2) That the Senior Manager Housing would liaise with Environmental Health to provide the Committee with further information on the timescales for dealing with complaints about damp and mould.	Complete

			4) That the Assistant Director Public Health and Protection would provide the Committee with more detailed information on the breakdown of the complaints received as detailed in the presentation.	Complete
2	06/09/2023	PLOS.21/23 Empty Properties	3) That the Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport provide the Committee with further information regarding empty commercial properties within town centres.	Complete
3	01/11/2023	PLOS.28/23 Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal	5) That the Committee conduct a Scrutiny Review on the topic of public transport.	Pending
4	03/01/2024	PLOS.37/23 Economic Development – Strategic Issues and Opportunities Overview	4) That the Policy and Scrutiny Officer arrange for some information on the reprofiling of HS2 funding within the Council area to be provided to the committee.	Complete (verbal update at Place OSC transport workshop 28/02/24)
5	28/02/2024	PLOS.43/23 iSH Enterprise Campus Development	3) That performance measures be for the project be developed for future reporting to the Committee. 4) That the Programme Manager circulate to the Panel the performance measures submitted with the two funding bids associated with the iSH project.	Pending Pending

6. Forward Plan of Key Decisions

6.1. The most recent Forward Plan of Key Decisions is published on the Cumberland Council website, covering the period 1 May 2024 to 31 August 2024:

[Browse plans - Executive, 2023 | Cumberland Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/council/plans-and-proposals/2023/11/23/2023-24-forward-plan-of-key-decisions)

6.2. The following decisions fall within the remit of Place Scrutiny Committee:

Issue	Decision Maker	Details
To award contracts or expend funding to subsidise or support bus services in Cumberland	Executive 23/04/24 – 04/06/24	Cumberland Council has been awarded £2.5m from the Department of Transport in relation to bus services to target actions that will deliver the best overall outcomes
Waste collections service review	Executive 04/06/24	To consider the options and agree a single operating model for Cumberland for each

		of the waste streams collected at the kerbside both domestic and commercial.
Tullie House Business Plan	Portfolio Holder-Vibrant and Healthy Places	To consider the Tullie House Business Plan
Draft Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Cumberland	Executive 13/02/2024 – 04/06/24	To agree to the commencement of a public consultation on a draft Public Space Protection Order for Cumberland.
Citadels Project - Cumberland Council (English Street/Victoria Viaduct) Compulsory Purchase Order 2023	Executive 04/06/24	Executive will be asked to give their approval to the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order to facilitate the delivery of the Citadels project
Climate and Nature Strategy	Executive 04/06/24	To adopt the Climate and Nature Strategy
Proposed Repairs to James Street and Turkish Baths – Award of construction contract	Director of Business Transformation and Change	
Award of Contract – 2 stage design and build – Cargo Cycleway	Director of Business Transformation and Change	To approve the award for a 2 stage design and build contract for Cargo Cycleway
Borderlands 5G Innovation Regions Programme Procurement	Joint Executive Committee 14/05/24	To seek delegated authority to award a contract valued up to £10m for the procurement of specialist advanced wireless services to support the Borderlands 5G Innovation Regions Programme.

7. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023-24

- 7.1. Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs have been working with Policy and Scrutiny Officers to develop the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report that is required to go to full Council each year.
- 7.2. Each Chair has provided comments on the work of their committee over the past year. The report also provides an introductory section on the purpose of overview and scrutiny, an update on overview and scrutiny activity in 2023-24, scrutiny development work and a forward look to Overview and Scrutiny priorities for 2024-25. The priorities for 2024-25 were highlighted as being: strong work planning, continued development of scrutiny skills and good practice and building the role of scrutiny in policy development.
- 7.3. Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs agreed the report at their informal Scrutiny Chairs meeting on 22 March. The report will go to Council on 30th April.

8. Work Planning

- 8.1. A robust work programme is important for scrutiny. Work planning activity will take place across the year to ensure that the work programme remains up to date.
- 8.2. Work planning meetings have taken place between relevant Directors and the Place Committee Chair and Vice Chair. The draft work programme is provided at Appendix A. Scrutiny Members are asked to consider this work programme in the context of key decisions that are on the Forward Plan and any references to scrutiny and comment on this.

9. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 9.1. This report provides an overview of matters related to the committee's remit. The report also sets out the draft work programme. Members are asked to consider the recommendations in order to ensure that scrutiny activity remains effective and focussed on Cumberland Council's strategic priorities.

Implications:

Contribution to the Cumberland Plan Priorities - Effective scrutiny plays an important part in the delivery of the Council Plan priorities.

Relevant Risks - None directly associated with this report.

Consultation / Engagement – n/a

Legal – Not required. Report for information only.

Finance – Not required. Report for information only.

Information Governance – Not required. Report for information only.

Impact Assessments – Not required. Report for information only.

Contact details:

Contact Officer: Rowan Jones, Policy and Scrutiny Officer

Email: Rowan.Jones@cumberland.gov.uk

Appendices attached to report:

- Appendix A – Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Background papers:

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

- None

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Appendix A: Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee Draft Work Programme 2023/24

Meeting	Report	Portfolio Holder	Directorate
17 May 23	Overview of Major Place Projects Call in - Maryport Wave Centre	Leader Leader	Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport
12 July 23	Climate and Nature Update Community Wealth Building	Cumberland Policy and Regulatory Services Governance and Thriving Communities	Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport
06 Sept 23	St Cuthberts Garden Village Update Levelling Up - Workington (Highways) Housing Introduction - overview of responsibilities Empty Properties - Approaches Food Cumberland Strategic Framework	Policy and Regulatory Services Sustainable, Resilient and Connected Places Childrens, family wellbeing and housing Childrens, family wellbeing and housing Governance and Thriving Communities	Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport Adult Wellbeing and Housing Adult Wellbeing and Housing Public Health and Communities
01 Nov 23	Borderlands - Cumberland Projects and Programmes Culture, Health and Wellbeing - developing ideas Overview of Major Place Projects	Leader Vibrant and Healthy Places Leader	Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport
19 Nov 23	Meet the Housing Provider (Place hosted all member briefing)	Childrens, family wellbeing and housing	Adult Wellbeing and Housing
03 Jan 23	Nuclear - relationship between council and nuclear sector Economic Development - strategic issues and opportunities overview	Leader Leader	Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport
	Workshop (post meeting): Tullie House – business planning and relationship development	Vibrant and Healthy Places	Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport
28 Feb 23	iSH Enterprise Campus development Community Power	Leader Governance and Thriving Communities	Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport Public Health and Communities
	Workshop (post meeting): Overview of transport opportunities – discussion and scoping for transport inquiry	Leader	Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport
17 Apr 24	Climate and Nature Strategy Tourism	Cumberland Policy and Regulatory Services Vibrant and Healthy Places	Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport

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