

Cumberland Council
Climate and Nature Strategy
2024-2027

Consultation Document

For people, for nature, for climate

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DRAFT

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Have your say

This is your opportunity to shape a climate and nature strategy which reflects the priorities in our Council Plan (Link to Council Plan: <https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/your-council/council-documents/council-plan>).

In preparing this draft strategy 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.

We have also been busy creating the right operating model and delivering programmes and projects that will make a difference.

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

In addition, much work and strong support has been given to the Towns Fund of Cleator Moor and Millom which have important elements that improve the environment and health of people in the area.

To give an idea of the breadth and variety of activity here are some recent announcements:

- £250,000 of government funding has been secured for public swimming pools in Carlisle, Wigton and Workington.

<https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/news/2024/extra-splash-cash-cumberland>

- Substantial funding boost of £870,588 for Active Travel initiatives.
<https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/news/2024/cumberland-council-receives-funding-boost-active-travel>
- In collaboration with the Hadrian's Wall Trail Partnership, has developed a new ramped access to a popular riverside footpath in Carlisle.
<https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/news/2024/stepping-out-improved-footpath-access-river-eden>
- Advising residents to be careful when driving through Caldbeck as amphibians are currently crossing roads in the area.
<https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/news/2024/toad-traffic-takes-skip-and-jump-reach-caldbeck-pond>
- Community planting for pollinators day in Whitehaven
<https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/news/2024/community-planting-pollinators-day-whitehaven>
- Successful Completion of Ravenglass Flood Alleviation Project
<https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/news/2024/successful-completion-ravenglass-flood-alleviation-project>

The following pages will outline our overall approach and programmes of work for 2024-2027. We look forward to reading all of your responses.

Councillor Bob Kelly, Executive Portfolio Holder for Cumberland Policy and Regulatory Services

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)

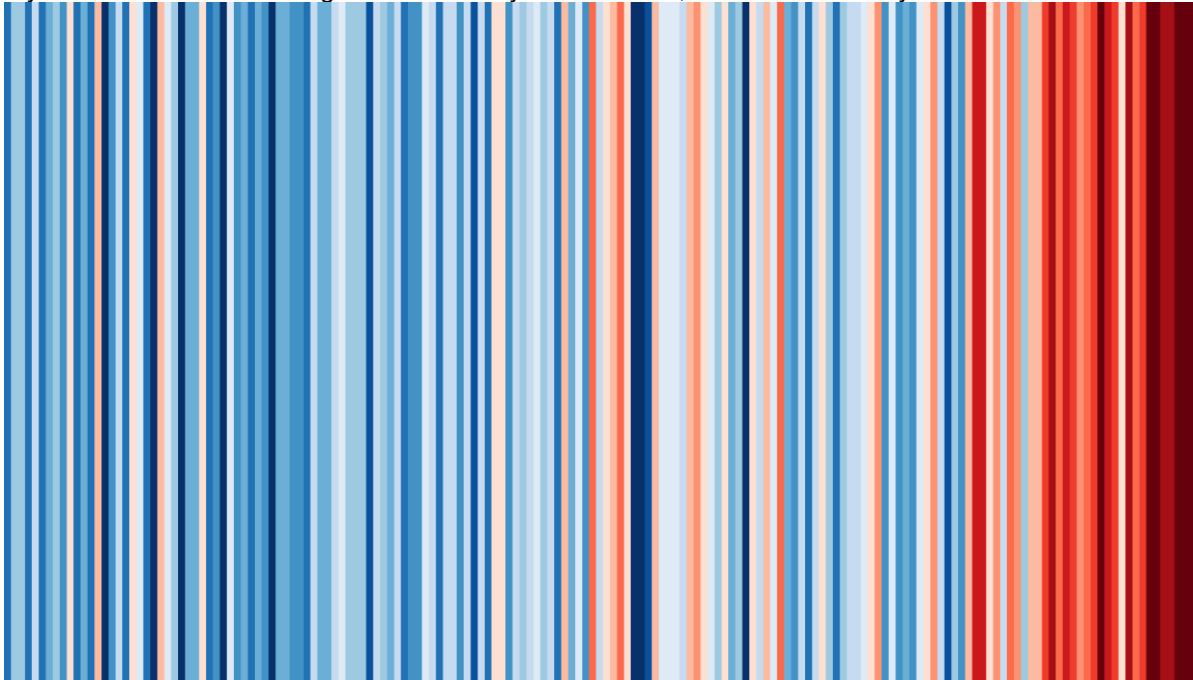
Nature Networks
Biodiversity and Council assets
Natural Capital and Council assets

Baselining and opportunities for improvement
(Nature Recovery Planning)

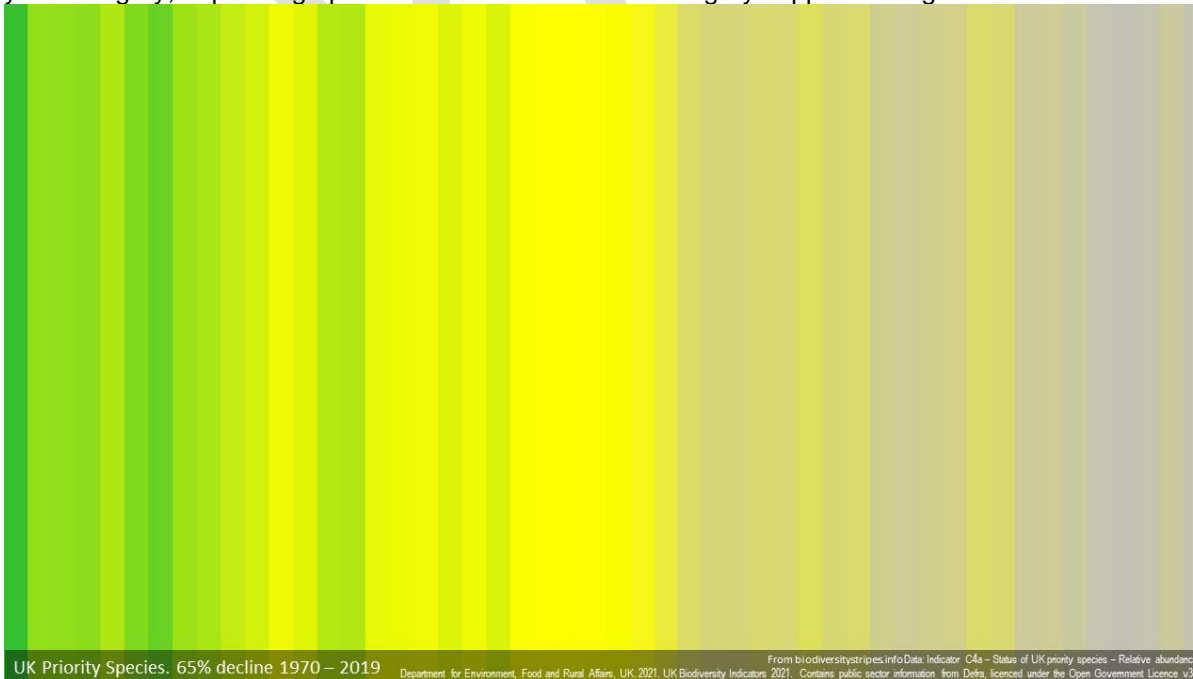
Over 50 linked plans and strategies

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>

Question 1

Is the climate and nature challenge clear?

Yes, it is clear

No, it is not clear

It is only partially clear

I am unsure

Question 1a

How could we make it clearer?

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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.

Question 2

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

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

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

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.

Question 3

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

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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 too 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)

Question 4

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

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 Management Plan focused on decarbonisation of 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

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

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.

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 adaption. 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 adaption, 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.

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

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

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:

- 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.

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

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 home 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.

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).

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.)

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

Long term: Progress will continue beyond 2027.

Question 5

Noting all the work underway (please see the programme section on pages 28 and 29), can you identify any gaps in our programmes that need further investigation? Can you tell us more about why you think this?

DRAFT

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](#)

Question 6

Overall, how clearly does the strategy explain our approach of the next 3 years (2024-2027)?

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.