








Executive Summary

This report provides a detailed climate action plan which focuses on the next five years to help Cheshire East progress to their carbon neutral borough 2045 target. The action plan covers the roles and responsibilities of the council and other stakeholders, prioritises carbon reduction activities, and provides a monitoring framework to track progress and impacts resulting from the actions.

Guiding Principles - The council has set out the following principles to promote climate action:

- 1) All strategies, plans and policies created or refreshed by the council to incorporate carbon reduction and climate change considerations as a key element of their outcomes.
- 2) A member of each team to have carbon reduction as an element of their key roles and responsibilities. These officers to then form together an ongoing Carbon Board chaired by the council's Carbon Manager.
- 3) The council to use its influence to encourage and enable carbon reduction activity to take place across the borough of Cheshire East and throughout the council's own supply chain.

Action Plan and Objectives - The action plan is underpinned by an evidence base and considers equity, local priorities and collaboration. The objectives overleaf are tailored to areas of impact and influence (identified in the table below). Green indicates greatest opportunity for council support.

 <p>Overarching Actions</p>	<p>The council can consider carbon in all decisions and policies to ensure it is facilitating climate action as far as possible. They can also build partnerships to work with others.</p>
 <p>Domestic Buildings</p>	<p>Delivering retrofit of homes is limited to central government schemes and working with registered housing providers. It is harder to influence privately owned homes, but guidance can be provided. There is some influence on new developments through planning and landlords through efficiency standards.</p>
 <p>Non-Domestic Buildings & Industry</p>	<p>The council can use its convening role with business parks and networks to encourage collaboration and guidance can be provided to SMEs. There is more opportunity to use relationships with the public sector to encourage action and to improve new developments via planning.</p>
 <p>Transport</p>	<p>Transport planning and the provision of services and infrastructure provide good opportunity to support more sustainable travel in the borough, but this still relies on individuals and organisations to opt for more sustainable modes and fuels. For decarbonising commercial vehicles, there are some opportunities through taxi licensing, business engagement and freight consolidation to explore.</p>
 <p>Agriculture & Land Use</p>	<p>The council can directly improve the land it owns but will have to work with other stakeholders on areas of land not under ownership, particularly peatland. Agriculture is a large focus so the council can use its existing networks to explore support for farmers. Planning can influence new developments.</p>
 <p>Waste</p>	<p>The council runs household waste collection so can support waste reduction via this service and can support behaviour change through campaigns. The design of products is important, but this would require intervention at a larger scale than Cheshire East.</p>
 <p>Energy Supply</p>	<p>The council can only install renewables on its own estate, but it can provide guidance to residents and organisations on renewables, particularly around planning requirements. There is an important role for the council in planning for future energy demand.</p>

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- Encourage and enable council staff to take climate action.
- Council policies and processes to prioritise reducing carbon and climate impact.
- Reduce the council's supply chain related emissions.
- Support a regionally co-ordinated climate action



- Support private rental market to improve energy efficiency of domestic properties.
- Enable and advise vulnerable households to improve home energy efficiency.
- Support homeowners and the able to pay market to improve energy efficiency of domestic properties.
- Support the development of net zero infrastructure.
- Planning supports net zero ambitions by increasing energy efficiency in new builds.



- Enable and encourage businesses to support the borough's net zero ambition.
- Provide tailored support to SMEs to monitor and reduce their footprint.
- Planning supports net zero ambitions by increasing energy efficiency in new builds.
- Provide guidance to owners of listed buildings on options for decarbonisation.
- Enable and encourage public sector and community groups to support the borough's net zero ambition.



- Raising awareness amongst residents of the waste hierarchy and supporting initiatives that enable reuse.
- Improving waste services to enable waste reduction and circular economy.
- Encouraging businesses to follow the waste hierarchy and promoting business with good waste practices.

approach.

- Develop partnerships with local organisations to deliver climate action.
- Enable Town and Parish councils to take climate action.
- Explore avenues for generating finance for local low carbon projects.



- Enable and support schools to reduce their emissions.
- Planning supports net zero ambitions by prioritising low carbon transport options.
- Support decarbonisation of freight.
- Encourage businesses to reduce business related journeys and prioritise lower carbon options.
- Support commercial vehicles to switch to EV.
- Support residents to use more EVs.
- Explore options to increase active travel and switch to lower carbon transport options.
- Enable communities to have more accessible and reliable low carbon transport options.
- Improve infrastructure for lower carbon transport options.



- Maximise carbon sequestration, support biodiversity and use sustainable land practices on council owned land.
- Planning supports net zero and biodiversity ambitions.
- Support the farming community to encourage regenerative and sustainable farming practices.
- Support local landowners to maximise carbon sequestration, support biodiversity and use sustainable land use practices.



- Provide advice to residents on increasing renewable energy generation.
- Increase local renewable generation through work with key local partners.
- Ensure new developments incorporate renewable energy technologies.

Summary - For Cheshire East to meet its 2045 target the council can use its influence and powers to accelerate action across the borough. Implementing the action plan will require significant resource, including collaborating with various groups so actions are implemented successfully and fairly. It is important to monitor the impact of actions to understand the progress towards the 2045 target.

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