



# Northumberland County Council

Cabinet

11 June 2024

## Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26

**Report of Councillor(s)** Glen Sanderson, Leader of Council and portfolio holder for Climate Change

**Responsible Officer(s):** Simon Neilson, Executive Director - Place and Regeneration

### Link to Key Priorities of the Corporate Plan

Climate change mitigation, adaptation, and the natural environment, intersect with, and connect all three of NCCs corporate priorities and provide key pillars of support for their achievement.

The Council recently adopted an overarching Environment Policy Statement to clearly demonstrate the high priority being given to the environment by NCC and the development of a new Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26 was identified as a key commitment within the Policy Statement.

Projects associated with reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to climate change, and protecting the natural environment, offer value for money, reduce inequalities, improve population health and wellbeing, and help drive and maintain the economy.

### Purpose of report

The Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and has developed a Climate Change Strategy and implemented a Climate Change Action Plan covering the period 2021-2023. The existing action plan has now come to an end and this report seeks approval for the new Climate Change Action Plan 2024-2026 which has been developed following public consultation.

The new Climate Change Action Plan 2024-2026:

- Communicates the successes and challenges of the previous three years.
- Confirms the councils' commitments to achieving our 2025 and 2030 net zero targets for carbon dioxide emissions.

- Sets out the direction of travel for the next three years to support the achievement of longer term 2040 net zero targets for all greenhouse gas emissions.
- Highlights the international, national, and regional context within which this programme of work exists, and upon which its success is largely dependent.

## Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of the Climate Change Action Plan 2021-23
2. Acknowledge and consider the challenges encountered by the Climate Change Action Plan 2021-23
3. Approve the aims of the new Climate Change Action Plan 2024- 2026 - including the following six aims in particular:
  - Consideration of climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the protection and enhancement of the environment, will be built into an integrated impact assessment process from 2024 onwards. Integrated impact assessments will be required on all papers being considered at Cabinet.
  - All executive directors and cabinet members should complete carbon literacy training by the end of 2025. Additionally, by the end of 2025, senior staff in teams where climate change mitigation or adaptation is especially relevant, should have completed carbon literacy training.
  - £50,000 per year of revenue funding for the Climate Change and Environment Fund will continue to be allocated from within the existing climate change revenue base budget provision for engagement activity, to maintain support for direct community climate and environmental action.
  - The Council's 'free tree' initiative that aims to give away 150,000 free trees between 2020-2030, the equivalent of one tree per household in Northumberland, will continue during this action plan period.
  - In line with its aims to be a net zero organisation by 2030, commit to investing in renewable energy measures across the NCC estate when buildings are due for refurbishment and/or where invest to save business cases can be made.
  - The Council will produce its first Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Northumberland, including a specific climate change risk assessment for the county by the end of the 2024-25 financial year.

## 4. Forward plan date and reason for urgency if applicable

This report first appeared on the forward plan in October 2023. The majority of key decisions relating to the content of this plan, including confirmation of 2025, 2030 and 2040 climate change targets were made in the preceding paper *Setting the Scope and Targets for the Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26* approved by Cabinet in November 2023.

This paper provides detail on the progress of the climate change programme against the previous *Climate Change Action Plan 2021-23* and sets out the key aims, projects and ethos for the next three years to 2026.

## 5. Background

Northumberland County Council's (NCCs) vision is to make sure Northumberland is, and remains, a place of great opportunities for all our residents. Climate change mitigation, adaptation; and the protection, repair, and enhancement of ecological systems, is critical to the realization of this vision.

The Council wants Northumberland's residents and environment to thrive and flourish, now and into the future. The Climate Change Action Plan 2024-2026 is an integrated policy that supports this vision. Bringing together three strategic themes, Society, Emissions and Environment, to facilitate a holistic understanding of the interconnectivity of these issues, and their solutions, as shown in Figure 1.

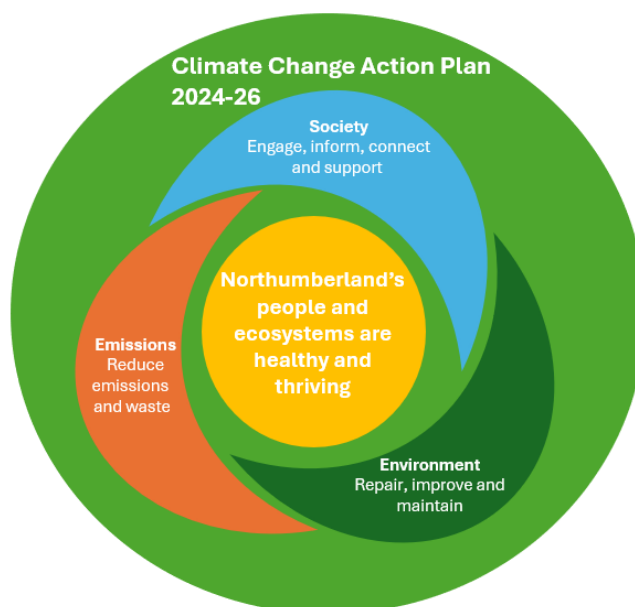


Figure 1 – Main strategic themes in Climate change action plan 2024-2026.

There are multiple areas of action within each of these three interconnected themes, as shown in Table 1. Some of these areas of action are headed by the climate change team, and others are led by other NCC teams and receive support from the climate change team.

Table 1 – summary of the key action areas within the three strategic themes of the climate change action plan 2024-2026.

Society - engage, inform, connect and support, for equitable change	Environment - repair, improve and maintain	Emissions - reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy waste
Policy and governance	Ecosystems and biodiversity	Northumberland county council's own emissions
Public Health & wellbeing	Agriculture	Renewable energy generation
Planning	Trees, woodlands & forests	Heating and powering buildings
Adaptation and resilience	Peatland restoration	Transport
Engagement & partnerships	Waste management	

The new Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26 builds upon on the Councils 2019 declaration of a climate change emergency, and the more recent cabinet paper *Setting the Scope and Targets for the Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26*.

Cabinet is requested to note the key successes and challenges of the previous climate change action plan 2021-23 and the key aims of the climate change action plan 2024-26, as set out below.

## 5.1 Key Successes and Challenges

### NCC policy and governance successes:

- The County Council has recruited and embedded a skilled team of project managers and business intelligence analysts to oversee the delivery of the climate change action plan.
- The climate change team has built upon and harnessed the policy decisions and resulting streams of grant funding set out by national government to support a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2021-23.
- The climate change team successfully secured more than £28 million of grant funding bids. To be used towards projects to decarbonise the county, reduce inequalities, and drive inward investment.
- The Council's planning functions take account of climate change through its inclusion throughout the Local Plan.

### Regional policy and governance successes:

- Net zero has been embedded within the new North East (Mayoral) Combined Authority (NECA) as a cross-cutting priority and will therefore receive regional support through each of the NECA portfolios.

- Northumberland County Council's climate change programme has benefited from the support of the North of Tyne Combined Authority since 2021. Many projects have been designed with aligned aims and benefited from funding or human resource from NoTCA.
- The climate change team collaborated with NoTCA and other local authorities to secure almost £2m of funding to develop two regional domestic energy advice projects. Providing support and advice for Northumberland residents seeking to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.
- The £1.1 million funding to develop and then deliver a Borderlands Energy Masterplan has been progressed and the delivery phase is due to begin from 2024 onwards.

**To enable energy efficiencies, energy production, and decarbonised heating, the climate change team have successfully:**

- Secured government funding for six domestic retrofit projects across 2021-2023. With funding guaranteed until 2025.
- Delivered retrofit measures (energy efficiency improvements, or decarbonised energy/heat production) in 323 homes in Northumberland and supported the delivery of measures in an additional 86 homes via housing association partners.
- Created the Warmer Homes Team. Generating fourteen skilled, full time, green sector jobs in Northumberland.
- Sourced the delivery of feasibility studies for low-carbon district heat networks in eight of Northumberland's main towns.
- Developed a strategy for the procurement of a heat delivery partner to take these heat networks forward to development.
- Secured government funding from Low Carbon Skills Fund. For the creation of heat decarbonisation plans for fifteen NCC buildings. These plans can be used to bid for future funding for identified capital works on these buildings.
- Secured government funding for phase 1 Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. Enabling property services to install ground source heat pumps in six of NCC's buildings. Resulting in carbon savings of 358 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e per annum.
- Supported the County Council to develop and built an 800KW solar car port at County Hall. With 400KW battery storage and 120 EV charging points.
- Across the whole NCC estate, during 2022-2023, NCC's solar PV portfolio generated 622,543 kwh of renewable energy.

**To facilitate the decarbonisation of transport, the climate change team successfully:**

- Developed and adopted an electric vehicle charging strategy in 2022. Identifying residents who park on-street as the Council's key priority group for provision of public charge points.

- Collaborated with other NCC teams to secure funding to purchase and install an additional 155 individual EV charge points across the County, bringing the total number of NCC EV charge points to 321 bays (160 machines).
- Supported the procurement of 42 electric vans and 3 electric cars, which are now operational in the NCC fleet.
- Delivered a low-carbon synthetic fuel pilot project in two NCC Refuse Collection Vehicles.

**Helping residents, and NCC staff, understand climate change and contribute towards NCCs net zero goals. The climate change team have successfully:**

- Established two routes to train NCC staff in climate change and sustainability. A mandatory online module has been developed and has been completed by 4745 employees (90.99%). Carbon Literacy Training (a more comprehensive and accredited course) has been delivered to 123 employees and 2 elected members.
- Developed and distributed a Town and Parish Council Climate Change Toolkit to all Town and Parish Councils in Northumberland.
- Attended more than 50 town and parish council meetings across the last 3 years to support local climate change action.
- Developed a new Community Leader's Carbon Literacy Toolkit together with the Carbon Literacy Trust for use both locally and nationally.
- Delivered the Council's free tree scheme. Which has now seen 51,691 small trees distributed to residents and community groups or planted by NCC.
- Delivered the 'Northumberland Climate and Environment Fund'. Which has, over two years of operation, distributed £103,000 of funding to local community groups. Facilitating and empowering local climate change and environmental initiatives.
- Established Northumberland County Council as the Northumberland coordinator of the tree warden network, for The Tree Council. NCC disseminate learning, information and engagement opportunities from The Tree Council to the 25 tree wardens across the county.
- Collaborated closely with the third sector to deliver climate change initiatives. Especially Community Action Northumberland (CAN) and Groundworks who represent the sector on the Climate Change Steering Group.
- Developed and launched a pioneering resource pack for Northumberland schools (alongside the ministry of Eco education). Making it easy for teachers to access relevant resources and to link international and national climate change trends covered in the curriculum with local impacts and solutions. This has garnered national attention from other local authorities and press.
- Established a Northumberland Schools Sustainability Network. Which is attended by 41 teachers and education professionals to support the development and delivery of environmental education.
- Delivered the 'Climate change youth voice event' at county hall in December 2023. Capturing the voice and views of students from five Northumberland schools.



- Issued 77 press releases (between 2022-2023) relating to the council's climate change and environment initiatives. All received publication in relevant local media outlets.
- Distributed a monthly Northumberland climate change newsletter to our 6969 subscribers.
- Produced social media posts that generated 180,000 engagements across the major platforms, between 2022-2023.

**To support NCC environment and waste aims, the climate change team successfully:**

- Secured funding to undertake a pilot project with Northumberland's farming community, to identify ways of supporting them to decarbonise and access sustainability funding.
- Joined the Northumberland Peat Partnership and supported the delivery of detailed surveys of 5000 hectares of vulnerable upland peat.
- Supported trials for new kerbside glass and food waste collection. In preparation for the implementation of the new collection requirements for the whole county in 2025/26 and 2026/27.
- Co-delivered an individual household solution for both food and garden waste in rural areas that are not currently served by NCC garden waste collections.
- Supported establishment of vape collection bins across Northumberland's household waste recovery centres.

**The council has supported the aims of the climate change action plan 2021-2023, and the targets to reach net zero through multiple projects, including:**

- The Council led a pilot Local Nature Recovery Strategy in 2021 and is now developing a full LNRS for the county and wider region.
- The Great Northumberland Forest project has led to 932 hectares of new woodland creation together with 2.9 million individual trees or hedgerow trees being planted through smaller schemes since the project's launch in 2019.
- The Northumberland Line is nearing completion and will offer significant benefits to the associated communities, including reducing emissions and improving air quality.
- Twelve Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans have been developed by the Strategic Transport team. Identifying key cycling and walking corridors in Northumberland's twelve main towns.
- Cycling and walking schemes have been taken forward to capital delivery stage in Ashington, Ponteland, Blyth, Bedlington, and Hexham to Corbridge.
- Northumberland County Council successfully bid for active travel capability funding through 2021 and 2022, using this fund to deliver bikes for schools and community use.

- Grant funding through the Bus Service Improvement Plan has led to improved frequency of bus services, a new rural service and low-fares as part of the national £2 fare cap making public transport more affordable and accessible.

## **5.2 Key challenges of the climate change action plan 2021-23**

### **National policy and governance challenges:**

- Central government legislation and policy has fluctuated in its support of climate change mitigation (and adaptation). In many cases it is not strong enough to facilitate a county-level shift to net zero emissions.
- Central government have changed the methodology, and scope, of emissions data for green house gasses in the UK. This means we have a more accurate understanding of Northumberland's contributions to climate change. It also means the challenge of reaching net zero has increased significantly.
- The supply chain both locally and nationally continues to be a constraint on the delivery of low-carbon infrastructure and measures.
- Emissions from transport have risen back to almost pre-covid levels, reducing emissions in this area is a particular challenge, despite the increase in electric vehicles.

### **NCC policy and governance challenges:**

- Within NCC the adoption of carbon impact assessments was only achieved in part with many reports reaching Cabinet without carbon impact assessments being completed.
- The targets set out for Carbon Literacy training in the previous climate change action plan 2021-23 and subsequent cabinet papers have not been met. Although this was during a period of significant change in the Council's Executive Management team.
- Balancing the Council's climate change targets and priorities against other priorities within planning has in some cases created conflicting messages for residents and stakeholders.
- Whilst the County Council's own emissions have continued to fall and the 2025 decarbonisation target will be met, reaching net zero emissions as a council will be more of a challenge and will require robust policy measures to ensure fossil-fuels are eliminated wherever possible in Council operations by 2030.

### **Energy efficiency, energy production, and decarbonised heating challenges:**

- The number of homes and buildings the Council can directly retrofit and decarbonise with the available funding and resources is significantly lower than the number required to meet net zero.
- Community energy projects in Northumberland have struggled to reach capital delivery, due to resource and financial constraints, and a lack of available external funding support.
- The delivery of low-carbon power to off-electricity grid households, either through expansion of the national grid or provision of local renewable energy generation, continues to be a significant challenge.



- The reliability of projections for the decarbonisation of the national electricity grid, upon which the realisation of many of the targets set out in this action plan rests, is uncertain.
- National infrastructure constraints, especially the electricity grid, have slowed the provision of low-carbon energy generation and other infrastructure.
- Mobilising and ‘scaling up’ the delivery of domestic retrofit programmes has been challenging, due to availability of skilled staff, knowledge, supply chain issues, rising costs, and the short-term nature of government funding schemes.

#### **Environment and waste challenges:**

- The Council’s role in addressing emissions from agriculture is still at an early stage of development, as are the solutions available to this sector of emissions.
- Whilst the Council has put in place successful pilot schemes for both glass and food waste recycling collection services the delay from Government in confirming secondary legislation and funding arrangements is delaying the roll-out of these enhanced recycling services.

#### **Engagement challenges:**

- In terms of engagement, it has been challenging to reach beyond the ‘already interested’ groups of people to engage more widely.

### **5.3 Key aims of the Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26**

The following section outlines the key aims and projects being delivered by the climate change team, it is not an exhaustive list, and is expected to be added to during the period of the action plan. In line with future opportunities afforded by national policy or grant defunding schemes.

#### **NCC policy and governance aims (strategic theme - society):**

- Northumberland County Council will continue to work with government to deliver schemes to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change in Northumberland. The Council will also continue to respond to consultations and lobby for strong policy and funding to deliver on our climate change ambitions.
- Consideration of climate change mitigation, adaptation, and the environment will be built into an integrated impact assessment process from 2024 onwards. Integrated impact assessments will be required on all papers being considered at Cabinet. The climate change team will be involved in the development of this impact assessment.
- Improve internal understanding of climate change, particularly at executive and cabinet level. All executive directors and cabinet members should complete carbon literacy training by the end of 2025. Additionally, by the end of 2025, senior staff teams, where climate change mitigation or adaptation is especially relevant, should have completed carbon literacy training.
- The £50,000 of revenue funding for the Climate Change and Environment Fund will continue in financial year 2024-25. Offering more support for community climate and environmental action. Projects funded will showcase their successes through

events organised by Northumberland County Council and through the Council's new Net Zero Northumberland website.

- In line with its aims to be a net zero organisation by 2030, Northumberland County Council commits to investing in renewable energy measures across its estate when buildings are due for refurbishment and/or where invest to save business cases can be made.
- The Council will produce its first Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Northumberland, including a specific climate change risk assessment for the county by the end of the 2024-25 financial year.
- The climate change team will be more closely involved in BEST, the Council's new ways of working, to ensure the resulting recommendations align with NCC climate change mitigation, adaptation, and environmental priorities.
- Northumberland County Council will continue to ensure that the climate change programme is aligned with public health initiatives and that the impact of climate change is considered as a public health priority.
- The new Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26 will be introduced to the Health and Wellbeing Board once approved.
- Northumberland County Council commits to contributing to the decarbonisation and resilience of the electricity supply across the period covered by this action plan
- The projects and policies developed and delivered as part of the climate change action plan will align with and support those developed through the environmental policy statement to preserve and enhance the county's natural environment.

**Engagement aims (strategic theme - society):**

- The online climate change training module for all NCC staff will be updated during 2024 to reflect the contents of this climate change action plan and the Council's new Environment Policy Statement.
- Progress made by the County Council towards its own internal emissions targets will be reported annually via the new climate change website.
- Visualisations of county level emissions data will be made available publicly on our new website so that stakeholders can see more easily the progress the County is making towards net zero emissions.
- Northumberland County Council will work with community groups and local stakeholders to support the delivery of carbon literacy training for community leaders across the county and to facilitate a 'train the trainer' model so that it can be more widely cascaded making the best use of available capacity.
- The Town and Parish Council Climate Change Toolkit will be reviewed and updated in 2024.
- The schools climate change resource pack will continue to be updated and new information included. A review will be conducted after one year with feedback sought from users to help improve the pack.
- The Council will host a workshop or event relating to climate change, sustainability or the environment at County Hall for students on an annual basis.

- The Council will set up a student branch of the Northumberland Schools Sustainability Network (NSSN).
- An approach will be developed and piloted to support whole school sustainability and climate action strategies with Northumberland Schools.
- Northumberland County Council will continue both to encourage and educate residents, businesses, and communities to reduce their energy use and also to facilitate where possible, the development of additional renewable energy generation capacity within the county.

#### **Environment Aims (strategic theme - Environment):**

- Following a report commissioned in 2023, which assessed the condition of NCC woodlands and the potential for management plans, a strategy is being developed to propose appropriate management and quantify the impacts. This will be published in 2024.
- The County Council will work with farmers and other stakeholders in the agriculture sector to develop an approach to support the decarbonisation of agriculture in Northumberland, whilst ensuring that the county's rural economy and landscapes are not detrimentally impacted and food security is not compromised.
- NCC is now required to develop an Air Quality Strategy, that sets out how Northumberland's air quality will continue to be monitored and improved into the future. This strategy will tie together the work being done across the council to keep track and maintain the region's excellent air quality. The intention is for this to be developed through 2024.
- The Council's 'free tree' initiative that aims to give away 150,000 free trees between 2020-2030, the equivalent of one tree per household in Northumberland, will continue during this action plan period.
- The Climate change Team will continue to collaborate with and support other internal and external teams to protect, repair and enhance the environment of Northumberland. For example, the Northumberland Peat Partnership, the Great Northumberland Forest, and Planning teams.

#### **Heating and power generation (strategic theme – Emissions)**

- Northumberland County Council will continue to apply for and access grant funding opportunities and distribute these to eligible properties (as part of a fabric first retrofit process) increasing domestic renewable energy generation and decarbonisation across the County.
- Northumberland County Council will demonstrate, through successful retrofit schemes that we have delivered, how the technology works and how savings can be made on household energy usage. We will continue to promote low-carbon heating measures to residents and support access to the Boiler Upgrade Scheme. Continue to hire and develop staff in the new and emerging PAS 2035 retrofit requirements and be a leader in best practice for PAS2035 compliant retrofit.
- Heat decarbonisation plans will be completed by April 2024 and a pipeline of works will be developed and appropriate funding sought. Capital funding has been allocated in the NCC Medium Term Financial Plan to match potential Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme grant funding for these works.

- An options appraisal will be undertaken in 2024 to assess the viability of future solar-car ports on selected NCC operated car parks. If viable, detailed business cases will be developed and proposed to Cabinet.
- NCC will commit to supporting communities with local energy projects to prepare bids for the Community Energy Fund which will run until 2025.
- Northumberland County Council will continue to play a proactive role in the off-grid taskforce and to seek and allocate funding where possible and appropriate to both reduce energy costs for these properties and decarbonise their electricity supply.
- Northumberland County Council is committed to realising the potential of heat networks in our towns, in partnership with a selected heat delivery partner, as set out in the dedicated strategy for heat networks approved by Cabinet. We will undertake the procurement process to secure a delivery partner during 2024.

### **Transport (strategic theme – Emissions):**

- Northumberland County Council will undertake an audit of carbon emissions from the first year of operation of the Northumberland Line in order to assess the impact made.
- Northumberland County Council will continue to install electric vehicle infrastructure, accessing available funding streams to provide the best value for money. The Council will select locations in collaboration with local communities, which remove barriers to EV ownership and make zero emissions vehicles an easy and accessible choice for private car transport.
- A strategy for development of the fleet decarbonisation programme will come forward in 2024 and will set out the detail for increased electrification of NCC's vehicles.
- We will continue to seek funding support for the delivery of active travel infrastructure to encourage greater levels of walking and cycling particularly for short journeys.
- We will work with partners across the region to secure improvements to public transport services and fares to encourage greater patronage of public transport services.

### **Options open to the Council and reasons for the recommendations**

The Council has set out ambitious climate change targets, both for its own operations and for the wider county. In order to progress towards these, Cabinet should approve the recommendations set out in this paper. Cabinet should also acknowledge the challenges the Council faces in reaching its climate change ambitions, notably the fact that the Council cannot achieve its county targets in isolation and must be supported both top-down by government and bottom-up by societal level behavioural change.

### **Implications**

<b>Policy</b>	This paper sets out policy developments to ensure that climate change and the environment continues to be considered in the
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	Council's decision-making processes as part of a holistic approach to assessing impact.
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	This paper seeks to confirm the allocation of £50,000 revenue funding from within the existing climate change team base budget to ensure support is maintained for the Climate and Environment Community Fund. The paper does not seek additional NCC capital funding at this stage and sets out the intention to continue seeking grant funding to deliver the climate change action plan 2024-26 alongside existing NCC capital provision already identified in the MTFP.
<b>Legal</b>	The delivery of Council climate change targets is not a statutory obligation but there are increasing examples of local authorities being threatened with legal action over the delivery of climate change targets aligned to the UK government's legal climate change obligations.
<b>Procurement</b>	None at this stage - procurement arrangements will be discussed and resolved with the Procurement team as projects and programmes are developed through the action plan.
<b>Human resources</b>	This plan sets out the intention to review and update the climate change learning module and train more staff to be carbon literate.
<b>Property</b>	Details are included in this paper for the provision of Heat Decarbonisation Plans for key buildings identified in collaboration with Property Services. All resulting capital works will be the subject of individual business cases, developed in collaboration for consideration by Cabinet in due course.
<b>The Equalities Act: is a full impact assessment required and attached?</b>	Yes ( <a href="#">Climate change action plan 24-26 Equality Impact Assessment - final April 2024.docx</a> )  Click to explain reasons if EIA not required before making the decisions recommended in the report, or to add a summary of and/or reference to the EIA (e.g. an appendix number).
<b>Risk assessment</b>	Risks are identified and assessed throughout the climate change action plan 2023-26 and detailed risk assessments are carried out at project level. Climate change is included on the corporate risk register and as such is assessed regularly.
<b>Crime and disorder</b>	None identified
<b>Customer considerations</b>	The Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26 will benefit residents, businesses and visitors to the county. This will be through the provision of low-carbon infrastructure such as district heating and electric vehicle charging. All projects within the plan are aligned to the Council's corporate priorities of reducing inequalities, value for money and economic growth.

<b>Carbon reduction</b>	This paper identifies the Council's over-arching approach to carbon reduction.
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	Elements of the climate change action plan 2024-26 aim to improve health and wellbeing for instance through provision of more active travel opportunities and better air quality.
<b>Wards</b>	(All Wards);

## Background papers

Climate Change Action Plan 2024 to 2026

## Links to other key reports already published

Responding to Climate Change, Cabinet 11.06.2019  
[42500\\_M9487.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Climate Change Action Plan 2021-23, Cabinet 9.2.21 -  
<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/About-the-Council/Climate%20change/Climate-change-action-plan-2021-23.pdf>

Setting the Scope and Targets for the Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26, Cabinet 7.11.23  
[08. Corporate Report Template August 2019.doc \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Environmental Policy Statement, Cabinet 10.10.23  
<https://northumberland.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s16884/03%20Environment%20Policy%20Statement.pdf>

### **Report sign off.**

***Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:***

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	
Relevant Executive Director	
Chief Executive	
Portfolio Holder(s)	

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## **Glossary of Terms**

**Mitigation** - Climate change 'mitigation' refers to the reduction of the greenhouse gas emissions that are causing climate change. The climate change action plan 2024-206 sets out a plan to reduce, or mitigate, the territorial emissions of greenhouse gasses in Northumberland. This action will also mitigate against the future severity of climate and ecosystem (and thus societal) collapse.

**Adaptation** - the action of changing things to make them suitable for a new situation. Climate adaptation will help Northumberland's residents, and natural systems, gain resilience against the negative effects of both the climate change and ecosystem crises. To successfully adapt to an uncertain future, it is important to understand possible future risks, and make decisions that will provide long term benefits.

Without taking action to adapt to climate change (the changes we are already feeling, as well as future changes) Northumberland, and the UK, faces; health risks, damage to houses and infrastructure, harm to the natural environment and disruption to international supply chains.

An example of adaptation is making sure that new and existing buildings can withstand climate impacts such as extreme heat or flooding. Or planning for more green spaces in built up areas to help keep them cool. Both these examples also have co-benefits for human health and wellbeing.

### More Information

- <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/the-big-picture/introduction>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/third-national-adaptation-programme-nap3/understanding-climate-adaptation-and-the-third-national-adaptation-programme-nap3>
- <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/climate-change/climate-change-in-the-uk>
- <https://www.ukclimaterisk.org/publications/type/briefings/> (this site has climate risk briefings for different sectors e.g. agriculture and food, Business, Transport sector etc)
- <https://www.theccc.org.uk/2024/03/13/planning-for-climate-impacts-falls-short-once-again/>

**Maladaptation** – Actions taken that may increase negative climate change risks, often maladaptation occurs as an unintended or unforeseen consequence. Maladaptation may happen when an action:

- accidentally increases vulnerability to climate change
- shifts vulnerability somewhere else.
- increases GHG emissions.

**Resilience** - The ability (or capacity) of interconnected systems (social, ecological, economic etc.) to cope with hazardous events. Resilience is shown when a system can adapt to and recover from the effects of a hazard in an efficient and timely manner, while retaining essential functions, structures, and identity.