

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 12 February 2024

Report Title

Climate Emergency Annual Report 2023 - 2024

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Louise Preston, Climate Change Manager

Louise.preston@rotherham.gov.uk

Arthur King, Principal Climate Change Officer

Arthur.king@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

On 30th October 2019, the Council declared a Climate Emergency and set out its action plan covering the following seven policy themes of Monitoring and Measurement; Energy; Housing; Transport; Waste; Built and Natural Environment; and Influence and Engagement.

At its meeting on 23rd March 2020, Cabinet resolved to establish the targets of:

- The Council's carbon emissions to be at net zero by 2030 (NZ30)
- Borough-wide carbon emissions to be at net zero by 2040 (NZ40)

A Climate Emergency Action Plan was established, and this report outlines progress towards the updated Climate Emergency Action Plan reported for the 2023/2024 period. Also included is a summary of climate change data, for greenhouse gas emissions from Council operations April 2020 – March 2023 and across the Borough of Rotherham, 2005 – 2021. Local area emissions data are published two years in arrears by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

This report covers the seven policy themes detailed above and in addition includes a summary of the Council's progress on nature recovery and adaptation action. A forward plan for 2024/25 is presented and expands upon the previously included

Influence and Engagement section to include the Arts, Culture and Heritage sector for the first time.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet approves the Climate Change Action Plan in Appendix 2, noting the key achievements and opportunities summarised in Appendix 1 and section 2 of this report.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1	Climate Change Progress Report
Appendix 2	Climate Change Action Plan 2024/2025
Appendix 3	Carbon Emissions Data Summary
Appendix 4	Single Use Plastic Action Plan 23/24
Appendix 5	Equalities Impact Assessment
Appendix 6	Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

[Rotherham Council \(2020\). Responding to the Climate Emergency. Cabinet 23 March 2020:](#)

[Rotherham Council \(2021\). Climate Emergency Annual Report. Cabinet 22nd March 2021:](#)

[Rotherham Council \(2022\). Climate Emergency Annual Report. Cabinet 25th April 2022:](#)

[Rotherham Council \(2022\) Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022/23. Cabinet 17th October 2022.](#)

[Flood Alleviation Update. Improving Places Select Commission 25th October 2022.](#)

[Rotherham Council \(2023\) Climate Emergency Annual Report 20th March 2023](#)

[Flood Alleviation Update. Improving Places Select Commission on Tuesday 19 September 2023, 1.30 p.m. - Rotherham Council](#)

[Rotherham Council \(2023\) Council Building Decarbonisation Programme Cabinet Report - Monday 18 September 2023](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Climate Emergency Annual Report

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council declared a Climate Emergency on 30th October 2019 and since then has committed to driving down carbon emissions with a view to achieving the following targets:
- The Council's carbon emissions to be at net zero by 2030 (NZ30)
 - Borough-wide carbon emissions to be at net zero by 2040 (NZ40)
- 1.2 The Council also declared a Nature Crisis for Rotherham on 25th May 2022. It is recognised that the decline in nature is intrinsically linked with the climate emergency, and this is reflected within the action plan detailed in Appendix 2.
- 1.3 This report details progress to date and presents a proposed Action Plan for 2024/25.
- 1.4 An update on the Council's action plan to reduce Single Use Plastics (SUP) is also included with this report. Single Use Plastics are of public interest and contribute to the Council's carbon emissions (Scope 3). It is therefore important that the Council continues to remove SUP from its operations and to encourage good practice locally.

2. The Climate Change Action Plan Update

- 2.1 A full progress report and action plan for 2024/2025 is detailed within Appendix 1 and 2. Key progress is highlighted below with respect to the specific themes of:
- Monitoring and measurement
 - Energy decarbonisation
 - Transport
 - Housing
 - Waste
 - Built & Natural Environment
 - Influence & Engagement
 - Adaptation
- 2.2 An eighth theme 'Adaptation' was added in the 2022/23 annual report to reflect scientific evidence that some degree of climate impacts are already being experienced and will continue to be felt in the future irrespective of widespread collective carbon reduction.
- 2.3 **Monitoring and measurement**
- 2.4 Greenhouse gas emissions within scope of the Council's NZ30 climate change target ('NZ30 emissions') have decreased year on year, over the last three reporting years. Total NZ30 emissions decreased 1.9% from 8,121

tCO₂e in 2020/21, to 7,970 tCO₂e in 2021/22. Emissions decreased by another 1.4% the following year, to 7,862 tCO₂e.

- 2.5 NZ30 emissions are comprised of 'scope 1' and 'scope 2' greenhouse gas emissions, plus emissions from 'grey fleet' mileage and other business travel, as per the scope boundary for central government departments' mandatory emissions reporting. Scope 1 emissions are from sources directly owned or controlled by the Council; scope 2 emissions are from purchased electricity, heat, steam or cooling; whereas emissions from business travel are an example of scope 3 emissions.
- 2.6 Since the Climate Change Annual Report 2023, the Council has increased its understanding of scope 3 emissions sources which are outside its direct influence or control. Scope 3 emissions have been estimated for staff commuting and home working; water supply and treatment; transmission and distribution of electricity; waste disposal and recycling; and official business travel and accommodation.
- 2.7 A full climate change data summary, which includes NZ30 emissions and compares historic, local area emissions with recommended carbon budgets, is available in Appendix 3.
- 2.8 **Energy Decarbonisation**
- 2.9 A number of projects are currently ongoing which aim to decarbonise the Council's operational estate. A scheme to decarbonise five Council buildings, including the Town Hall, Riverside House, Clifton Park Museum, the Civic Theatre and the Orchard Centre was presented to Cabinet and approved in September 2023. The works involve the connection of these buildings to a heat network which would then have wider benefits for other decarbonisation schemes across the town centre. This work is still underway, with procurement activity ongoing. This is supported by grant funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) and match funded by the Council. A further paper following procurement activity and a proposal for implementation is planned for submission to Cabinet in June 2024. The overall scheme is estimated to save the Council approximately 482 tCO₂e.
- 2.10 An additional bid to the PSDS has been submitted covering the decarbonisation of eight further Council buildings and officers are now awaiting the outcome. This scheme was approved by Cabinet on 22nd January 2024 in advance to enable prompt progression of the project if the funding is awarded. Should this bid be successful, it is estimated that 301.5 tCO₂e will be saved per annum.
- 2.11 Both schemes will reduce the carbon footprint of the Council's corporate estate, through the removal of gas heating systems, installation of energy efficiency measures such as LED lighting, insulation and solar PV where appropriate.

2.12 Residential decarbonisation

2.13 The Council continues to administer the successful ECO4-Flex scheme, through which people living in fuel poverty may access energy performance upgrades to their homes. Between April 2023 and January 2024, the Council approved 452 ECO4-Flex projects, while 134 Households were supported by its Community Energy Support Scheme. The average funding received by each retrofitted property currently stands at £6,745.

2.14 Transport

2.15 The Council's Fleet Replacement Programme was approved by Cabinet in March 2023. Consultations and specifications are in progress for the first phase of procurement.

2.16 In addition, Fleet Transport has recently begun a trial of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil, or 'HVO biodiesel'. HVO is a "drop in" alternative to regular diesel and which can be used in existing, diesel-fuelled vehicles with relatively few alterations. Fleet Transport is trialling HVO biodiesel with ten vehicles, to understand its costs and implications as an alternative, low carbon fuel. Replacement of diesel with HVO could result in a substantial reduction in the Council's carbon footprint and may provide a solution for heavier vehicle classes such as refuse collection vehicles, for which electric vehicle alternatives are not currently feasible due to operational and financial constraints. A report on the outcome of the HVO trial is expected in Spring 2024.

2.17 In order to improve access to safe active travel throughout the Borough as part of the Council's NZ40 target, three cycleway schemes are in progress. The Wath to Manvers cycleway scheme has been completed; delivery of Sheffield Road cycleway (phases 2 and 3) is ongoing, with expected completion by August 2024; while the Broom Road Cycleway is expected to be completed by the end of February 2024.

2.18 Improving cycleways and public transport infrastructure will allow for the uptake of more sustainable transportation measures and are important step towards a net zero borough.

2.19 Housing

2.20 The Council secured £1.357 million investment from the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF); matched by £2.93 million of its own capital investment, this has funded an energy efficiency and external works programme, delivered to 130 Council-owned homes in Maltby. Works included external wall insulation, loft and cavity insulation, and the installation of A-rated windows and doors.

2.21 As a result of this work, the average annual household energy bill should be approximately £400 less (based on current energy prices) than it would have been if the works had not been completed. Over the 130 properties this should create combined savings of over £50,000 per year.

2.22 **Built and Natural Environment**

2.23 **Planning**

- 2.24 Three additional supplementary planning documents (SPDs) were adopted by Cabinet in July 2023, covering areas such as Biodiversity Net Gain, Trees and Preparing a soils strategy. These SPDs elaborate on local planning policy and give developers additional technical guidance which results in better quality developments.
- 2.25 Due to the uncertainty around governmental reform of the planning system the action to review and update the Local Plan Core Strategy is carried forward to 2024/25.

2.26 **Green Spaces and Tree planting**

- 2.27 Trees provide a number of ecosystem services for the Borough, including providing excellent habitat for wildlife and capturing carbon from the atmosphere. As such, the Council has committed to planting 10,000 woodland trees and 500 urban trees by April 2024. At present, tree planting is on track for delivery, though the planting season has been noticeably delayed by a mild autumn, with trees remaining in leaf longer than usual. Climate change is likely to increase the likelihood of a delayed winter period pushing the start of the planting season back towards December, though it is not expected that this will impact on the Council's ability to meet its planting targets.

2.28 **Waste**

- 2.29 A high-level plan to deliver the new South Yorkshire Waste Strategy is on track for completion by April 2024. This considers the transitional arrangements in relation to delivery of household food waste recycling. DEFRA has confirmed that Rotherham, Doncaster and Barnsley can continue to process food waste as part of residual waste collections using the BDR Waste Partnership's existing anaerobic digestion facility at Manvers until 2040, after which a new process will need to be implemented.
- 2.30 Actions to review waste contamination policies and deliver behaviour change campaigns have been delayed and will be carried over. However, significant engagement activity has been undertaken to improve the information available to residents throughout the year, including working with schools to provide information and work with children to engage and deliver art-from-waste projects. The waste team attended the Rotherham Show and the Love Where You Live team has facilitated and been involved with a variety of waste-reduction activities across the Borough. The Love Where You Live team has also recently started sharing this good work on its dedicated social media page, to highlight the efforts of its volunteers and to encourage more action in the Borough.

- 2.31 The Love Where You Live campaign has engaged approximately 1,600 volunteers and has worked with a number of other partners such as the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, the Don Catchment Rivers Trust, and the Canals and Rivers Trust, undertaking activities such as river clean ups and litter picking activities Rotherham-wide.
- 2.32 Throughout the annual spring clean week in 2023, 120 litter picks were undertaken by volunteers supported by Council staff, with 3,738 bags picked over 3 weeks: estimated at 41 tonnes of waste in total. This waste can then be recovered for recycling, avoiding impacts on biodiversity and reducing the carbon impact from incorrect disposal. The next spring clean is scheduled for March 2024.
- 2.33 A trial is currently being undertaken of litter picking stencils, which inform residents that volunteers are litter picking their area and signposting the location of the nearest bin. It is hoped that this may reduce future littering in these areas.
- 2.34 The Rotherham Business Waste Service has now launched its paper and card recycling collections, free of charge to existing customers, who include the Council's corporate estate. Additional plans for dry mixed recycling collections are being considered and are included in the 2024/25 action plan.
- 2.35 **Single Use Plastics**
- 2.36 There have been a number of actions to address the problem of Single Use Plastic (SUP), which remains one of the Council's environmental priorities. The Council has since improved the information available on the Council's intranet and undertaken internal engagement to increase awareness of their hazards. An internal information campaign coinciding with the national Recycle Week campaign shared hints and tips for reducing single use plastic at home and in the office. Employees were also asked to identify SUP in their working environment and share ideas for alternatives.
- 2.37 To support future action, the Council has also developed a Single Use Plastic Protocol, which details how officers should commission goods and services with the reduction of single use plastics in mind. In line with this protocol, a new e-learning module has been developed and will shortly be available on the Council's virtual learning environment. The module raises awareness of the environmental impacts of single use plastics and guides officers to include suitable criteria when undertaking commissioning activity.
- 2.38 Specific examples of reductions of single use plastics include the replacement of tree sapling covers with biodegradable alternatives; working in conjunction with suppliers to phase out single use plastic bottles and replacing water bottles with cans or cartons and offering free water refills at Council cafés.
- 2.39 The Council is still working towards plastic free events whilst also improving waste management facilities on offer, to encourage better recycling. At the Rotherham Show, Events Officers worked closely with stall holders to gather

baseline information and to encourage their reduction, though the upcoming change in legislation affecting catering outlets at the time meant that many stalls were running down plastic catering equipment ahead of the October 2023 ban.

2.40 A progress report against the 2023/24 single use plastic action plan is in Appendix 4.

2.41 **Influence and Engagement**

2.42 In addition to the waste engagement ongoing throughout the Borough the Climate Change Team has undertaken multiple engagement activities, for internal and external audiences.

2.43 The Council continues to engage with regional and local partners, including the Rotherham Together Partnership, the Rotherham Growth Board, South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, South Yorkshire Sustainability Centre, the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Change Commission, the Local Government Association, and the Rotherham Youth Cabinet.

2.44 More focus on local community groups is being undertaken through the delivery of training to those involved in community work, through the Carbon Literacy Project's Community Leaders course. This is scheduled for quarter 4 2023/24, is funded by the Rotherham Together Partnership and will be delivered by the Climate Change Team.

2.45 Council Officers have also worked alongside anchor institutions such as Voluntary Action Rotherham, Rotherham and Barnsley Chamber of Commerce, RNN Group, South Yorkshire Police and the Rotherham NHS Trust to create a Climate and Nature Charter, designed to encourage action on climate and nature by organisations across the Borough. This was launched in September 2023 and is published on the Rotherham Together Partnership website.

2.46 The Climate Change Team, Energy Team and Greenspaces Woodland Engagement Officer also joined forces at the Rotherham Show to talk to residents, and to engage young people in tree planting and climate-art activities. Energy Officers also provided information to residents relating to energy efficiency and the ECO4-Flex scheme.

2.47 **Adaptation**

2.48 The impacts of climate change are already being felt in South Yorkshire, but this theme aims to consider how current and future projected climate change and the incidents such as extreme heat and flooding will affect the Borough of Rotherham and Council services, so that preparations can be made to adapt. Throughout 2023 the Climate Change Team has worked alongside local government colleagues across Yorkshire and the Humber, facilitated by the Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission, to learn from and share progress on adaptation plans in a 'Local Authority Adaptation Programme'.

- 2.49 The Climate Change Team has delivered three training sessions to colleagues and stakeholders across the Council, to raise awareness of Council services' need to adapt to climate change impacts. Climate Change officers have worked closely with colleagues in Adult Care and Integration, Commissioning and Public Health to trial the integration of adaptation measures with service planning. This has included the consideration of risks and potential mitigating actions. Key impacts on service delivery have been considered including impacts on infrastructure, business supply chains, resourcing, business continuity and an initial consideration of the impacts on external providers. To support this work, geospatial assessments have been undertaken which consider the location of current adult social care assets and their risk of flooding and extreme heat. Assessment of the impact of climate change is an ongoing process and this initial adaptation assessment will inform future service plans for the service.
- 2.50 The next stage of this project will be to identify how the integration of adaptation with service planning could be implemented across the Council, as an action for 2024/25.
- 2.51 **2024/25 Action Plan**
- 2.52 A 2024/25 action plan is included as Appendix 2.
- 2.53 The plan includes the new theme of culture, arts and heritage which reflects the expected increase in activity and public interest in these areas. Young people within the Borough have highlighted their concern for the environment and as such the Children's Capital of Culture team will work with young people to develop a suitable programme of events exploring climate change and the environment.
- 2.54 The culture sector presents an opportunity to raise awareness, increase engagement and explore Rotherham's past, present and future climate and biodiversity.
- 2.55 Arts and crafts can be used as media to develop 'circular skills,' or skills which develop repair and DIY skills, reducing waste and reducing the need for the manufacture of new products. The ability to 'make do and mend' also has cost saving benefits as well as enabling the development of creative opportunities throughout Rotherham. The Makers Spaces, a Libraries Service scheme, supports this and will help to develop a circular economy throughout the Borough. Climate change and nature will also be explored as part of the Council's events programming in 2024/25.
- 2.56 Other significant components of the 2024/25 climate change action plan include the following:
- Continued work to improve the energy efficiency of the Council's estate.
 - Continue to develop the Council's understanding of its impact on scope 3 emissions.

- Development of a plan for the roll out of a climate adaptation plan to cover all Council services.
- Delivery of the fleet replacement programme and trial HVO replacement for diesel vehicles.
- Continue to roll out EV charging infrastructure throughout the Borough
- Plant 10,000 new woodland trees and 500 urban trees throughout the Borough.

2.57 The Council has already incorporated biodiversity communication into its climate change communication plan and the Council's existing programme of biodiversity related events alongside its existing management of local nature sites. However, the Environment Act 2021 places additional duties on the Council. Guidance on complying with a new Biodiversity Duty was published by Government in May 2023. The Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP23), published in January 2023, sets out government plans for significantly improving the natural environment. It is now expected that the Council will:

- Consider what it can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on that consideration.
- Act to deliver the Council's policies and achieve these objectives.

2.58 The law also sets out specific additional reporting requirements, the first of which is due by March 2025, including the need for both a progress report and forward plan and as such these actions have been included within the climate change action plan. The scale of this report means that more detail will be required than can feasibly be included within future iterations of the Climate Emergency Annual Report. As such it is likely that future biodiversity reports will be prepared and submitted separately to the climate change annual report, though there may still be some overlaps. This is intended to allow for appropriate scrutiny by Members.

2.59 The Council is also required to collaborate with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) to create a Local Nature Recovery Strategy. SYMCA has been appointed by DEFRA as the responsible body for this piece of work, but it is important that Council Officers are involved to ensure that Rotherham's biodiversity and any local requirements are considered.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Approves the Climate Change Action Plan in Appendix 2, noting the key achievements and opportunities summarised in Appendix 1 and section 2 of this report.

3.2 No alternative options are recommended, as it has been agreed that an annual report will be produced to ensure effective monitoring of actions in

response to the Climate Emergency. Larger projects and procurements will be submitted for separate consideration.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 This report has been produced in conjunction with Officers from across the Council, representing each key theme of the action plan. Staff not involved with the programme have also been engaged through focus groups and awareness raising sessions. The Council has also shared the 2024/25 Action Plan with the Rotherham Youth Cabinet for their review and actions incorporated where feasible and engagement has taken place with partners via the Rotherham Together Partnership during 2023/24 as detailed in this report.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The report is an annual report and it is proposed that an update against the actions is provided towards the end of 2024/25 and reported to Cabinet. Accountability is via the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Climate Change and the Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising as a result of this update report. The work to be undertaken as outlined within the report will be funded within the Council's existing revenue and capital budgets. Where additional Council funding is required to deliver the objectives of the Climate Change workstream, this will need to be identified as part of the Council's annual budget setting process.

6.2 As projects are developed with an intention to engage third party organisations, it is imperative that Services give appropriate consideration in the development of the specification to climate change and the Council will need to ensure all procurement activity is undertaken in compliance with Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) and the Council's own Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 set a legally binding target on the UK to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 80%, compared to 1990 levels, by 2050. The 80% target was increased to a 100% target in 2019 (the net zero target). Although there are currently no net zero statutory targets for local authorities, many (including the Council as set out in this report), have adopted commitments to reduce Carbon emissions in line with the 2050 net zero target.

7.2 The Council's commitment to net zero and the actions towards this as set out in the report are consistent with the Governments Net Zero Strategy and are indicative of the important role local authorities play in achieving net zero.

7.3 In respect of single use plastics, the Environmental Protection (Plastic Plates etc. and Polystyrene Containers etc.) (England) Regulations 2023 as referred to above, banned the supply of single use plates, trays, bowls and cutlery. The Council must ensure it complies with the requirements of these Regulations in its operations and has an enforcement function set out in the Regulations in respect of businesses within the Borough.

7.4 The Council's obligations in respect of the Environment Act 2021 in relation to biodiversity are as set out in the body of the report.

7.5 Other than the above there are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations within the report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no specific human resources implications associated with this report. The Climate Change team have engaged with a Human Resources representative to ensure any human resources implications are captured early.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 There are no specific impacts of this report on Children, Young People or Vulnerable Adults, though climate change in general can have a disproportionate impact on these groups.

9.2 The actions relating to children and young people in Appendix 2 have been enhanced to encourage a wider young person engagement.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 As per the Equalities Impact Assessment in Appendix 5 there are no direct implications for equalities and human rights as part of this report due to its administrative nature. However, climate change impacts have the potential to adversely affect certain groups to a greater degree than others. For example, those benefitting from higher incomes will be able to recover from flooding events and increasing food and energy prices through the procurement of 'solutions' whereas those on low incomes will not be able to. Similarly, children and vulnerable adults may also be more susceptible to extreme heat.

10.2 Equality impacts may arise as the programme of works develops and as such consideration of equalities and human rights at the project level should continue throughout development, consultation, and engagement to understand the potential impacts. Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken before implementation of change or significant programmes of work particularly when planning adaptive measures for Council services or buildings in relation to climate change impacts.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 Climate change poses a significant threat to environments, individuals, communities, and economies on local, national, and international scales. In recognition of this the Council has aimed to be net zero as an organisation by 2030, and for Rotherham as a whole to achieve the same position by 2040. The intention of this document is to report upon progress towards these commitments and to provide a high-level plan for activities within 2024.
- 11.2 The report itself will have no impact on carbon emissions but the identified actions either have already or will result in a reduction of Rotherham Council's and the Rotherham Borough's carbon emissions. This includes actions designed to raise awareness of climate change and the personal actions that can be taken to reduce carbon emissions.
- 11.3 The associated Carbon Impact Assessment is available within Appendix 6.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 As part of its stakeholder analysis, the Climate Change Team has identified a number of partners in the delivery of its plans for 2024/25. This includes supply chain partners as well as local and regional partners working towards a decarbonised future. Where specific partners are critical to delivery of actions, these are named within the action plan.
- 12.2 In particular, the Council will continue to work with local stakeholders such as the Rotherham Together Partnership and its associated anchor institutions, climate and nature groups and young people. Regionally, the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, the South Yorkshire Sustainability Centre and the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission are also key partners.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Climate change and the loss of nature is one of the biggest challenges the world will face and there will be a need for deep change at pace to effectively reduce the carbon footprint of the borough and work alongside others trying to limit global warming to 1.5°C. The Council cannot achieve this alone and so to mitigate this risk, the Council must work with its partners, use its influence as buyers and as an anchor institution to transform the local area whilst ensuring a just transition for its most vulnerable residents.
- 13.2 Decarbonisation will have immediate financial implications, though with long terms gains, energy resilience and positive health outcomes. There are limited buildings remaining within the Council's corporate estate that are eligible for PSDS funding and the Council's allocated budget will not stretch to meet the anticipated costs of a full operational decarbonisation. Therefore, further work will be undertaken throughout 24/25 to identify the funding gap associated with this and to confirm whether there are other opportunities for funding.

- 13.3 The impacts of climate change remain a threat and are predicted to increase in severity as the earth warms. Changes in the prevalence of flooding, extreme heat events and storms may pose a risk to infrastructure and public health throughout the UK and globally. Mitigation for this risk will be in the form of application of learning taken from research and planning for extreme events. The Climate Change Manager will continue to take part in the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission's Adaptation Programme to learn best practice that can be applied to Rotherham in the future.

14. Accountable Officers

Louise Preston, Climate Change Manager

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	29/01/24
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	24/01/24
Assistant Director, Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	24/01/24

Report Author: Louise Preston, Climate Change Manager

louise.preston@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's [website](#).