

Appendix 1: Climate Change Action Plan 2024/25

The action plan below details climate change actions planned during the 2024/2025 period. Where actions are expected to overlap financial years, these are indicated in the 'Target date' section.

OVERARCHING ACTIVITY					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2024/2025	TARGET DATE	STATUS	SERVICE AREA	COMMENTS
Monitoring and Reporting	Further develop accounting for scope 3 emissions arising from procurement activities.	Ongoing		Climate Change Team	Emissions from district heat networks which serve Council homes; Home to School Transport; Bereavement Services; so-called 'well-to-tank' emissions from fuels' production, processing and supply chains; and other heating and electricity use, such as in pupil referral units and sheltered housing, are included within scope 3 emissions monitoring for the first time, to present a more complete estimate of services' carbon impact and to identify opportunities to influence local area emissions, to achieve the Council's Net Zero by 2040 climate change target.
	Continue to roll out a programme of climate change and single use plastics training and monitor completion.	Ongoing		Climate Change Team	The Climate Change team has delivered Carbon Literacy training to 41 members of staff to date during 24/25, bringing the total number of people trained to 131. Ten have gone on to apply to become Carbon Literate during 24/25. Following the training, 63%

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					of staff said they felt ‘very’ or ‘extremely’ motivated to take significant action about climate change. Bespoke training on climate change and sustainability events was delivered to 14 Children’s Capital of Culture trainees in October and November 2024. As of October 2024, 700 members of staff have completed an e-learning module on single use plastic, with 88% positive feedback.
	Improve carbon impact assessments to include climate change impacts.	March 2025		Climate Change Team	An updated impact assessment template has been created which asks officers to consider adapting to, as well as mitigating climate change through officer reports’ recommendations. For example, will adaptive measures be required in extreme heat scenarios and are buildings constructed in a resilient way.

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ENERGY					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2024/25	TARGET DATE	STATUS	SERVICE AREA	COMMENTS
Decarbonising Buildings	Continued delivery of schemes covering 5 buildings associated with the PSDS 3b funding	March 2025		Energy Team	This project has stalled due to delays in the delivery of a private sector Rotherham-based heat network. The Council has successfully undertaken works to replace LED lighting in all five buildings, but further action has not progressed. However, the Council has agreed with Salix that existing funds spent do not need to be paid back and future applications to PSDS are acceptable. Given the challenging nature of these town centre buildings, a heat network connection remains the primary viable option for heating decarbonisation of these sites. The project is therefore delayed until approximately 2027.
	If successful, progress year 1 plans for decarbonisation activity related to the recent PSDS 3c application.	October 2026		Energy Team	This action was contingent on a successful PSDS funding application for Council property enabling works, to support the business case: the application was unsuccessful, so the action has not been progressed. A new PSDS funding application was

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					submitted in November 2024, for further funding.
Net Zero Modelling	Undertake a full decarbonisation modelling on a selected building to fully demonstrate the process utilising current and emerging technologies. This will allow assessment of indicative impact on costs subject to market changes. This action is carried forward.	March 2026.		Energy Team	Timescales are to be identified as part of the modelling work. Suitable buildings have been surveyed and a site identified for delivery, to be completed in the 2025/26 municipal year. Proposed building: 115 Middle Lane South.
Community Energy Support Scheme	Continue to promote and support the Energy Company Obligation 4 (ECO4) scheme and support residents to reduce energy and cost.	Ongoing whilst funding lasts.		Energy Team	A total of 13 outreach events in the Borough with a further five planned throughout winter 24/25. 313 ECO Flex residential decarbonisation applications have been signed off for installation between April and end November 2024. On average, each installation saves residents £6,500 on retrofit costs, with a total of approximately £2 million invested in residents' homes during this period from these grants.
Renewable Energy	Continued delivery of the proof-of-concept self-generated green electricity scheme to the Rotherham portfolio to enable a reduction in grid supply reliance; installation and operation to be completed in the coming years.	March 2025		Energy Team.	The availability of suitable land within the Borough has meant that a wider site search has been required. Site review is therefore still being undertaken and this action is likely to be subject to delays.

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TRANSPORT					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2024/25	TARGET DATE	STATUS	SERVICE AREA	COMMENTS
Promote Electric Vehicle Charging	Continue delivery of LEVI Solar PV canopy and EV project at Drummond Street.	March 2026		Energy & Transport Teams	Market engagement for the installation of this project is underway and completion is estimated by the end of 2025.
	Continue roll out of EV charging infrastructure in line with the Rotherham Council Electric vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy. Sites will be selected, assessed for initial feasibility and presented for approval as and when funding allows.	Ongoing		Energy / Transport Teams	Funding secured for further public and residential charging infrastructure and orders placed for delivery of seven sites approved by Cabinet. These are estimated for installation by March 2025.
Fleet Transport	Evaluate the success of the HVO vehicle trials and develop the business case for roll out if successful.	March 2025		Fleet Transport	A Cabinet report is being prepared by Fleet Services to make the case for further deployment of HVO biodiesel. A seven-month trial of HVO in 10 vehicles delivered a carbon saving of 80 tCO ₂ e. Drivers reported vehicles' smoother running on HVO than on conventional diesel and fewer issues with cold starts. Vehicles involved in the trial have continued to run well on HVO, since the end of the trial period. A paper is currently being drafted for consideration by Cabinet.
	Continue to implement the fleet replacement programme as per timeline agreed in March 2023 Cabinet report.	March 2026		Fleet Transport	No new electric vehicles have yet been added to the Council's corporate fleet as the first contract

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					lots have been to procure specialist vehicles and road-going plant, for which electric models have not offered an economic alternative. To safeguard the Plan's intended environmental benefits, there may be a need for new policies or standard operating procedures, so that electric vehicles are deployed to Council services effectively. A paper will be presented to Cabinet in March 2025 with an update and proposals for next steps.
Transport Planning and Data	Funding options to be explored to facilitate a review of baseline model and allow further analysis and bridging of gaps in data. This action is carried over.	March 2025		Transport planning	This is now complete, and funding has been identified for delivery of this work. As such an action will be included in the 25/26 plan for delivery of this work.
	Delivery of Sheffield Road cycleways (phases 2 & 3) July 2024.	August 2024		Transport Planning	Complete.
	Completion of the Rotherham to Maltby bus priority scheme.	August 2024		Transport Planning	Complete.

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HOUSING					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2024/25	TARGET DATE	STATUS	SERVICE AREA	COMMENTS
Zero carbon housing	Delivery of 3 zero carbon new build properties in Thrybergh (2x 2 bed houses 1x 1 bed bungalow). This action is to be removed (reasons identified within the comments). This project objective was to help establish an energy efficiency specification for new Council homes to be carbon neutral. (This objective has been met through the East Herringthorpe project delivered)	March 2026		Housing	This will not be delivered due to site constraints resulting in excessive costs for a small scheme. For example, the site requires piling, which is uneconomical due to the small number of units to be delivered.
	Delivery of 10 net zero ready properties in East Herringthorpe.	March 2025		Housing	Officially completed in early April 2024. All homes are supplied with heating and hot water from Air Source Heat Pumps so have no natural gas supply and are 'zero carbon ready'. They also have additional energy efficiency measures in the form of integrated solar PV panels and mechanical ventilation and heat recovery (MVHR) - achieving an EPC band 'A' rating.
	Develop delivery plan for achieving Band C for all Council houses by 2030. (This action is carried forward).	March 2025		Housing	Project on track to have draft delivery plan ready for consultation by the end of March 2025.
	Undertake Review of District Heating Network using funding from HNES.	March 2025		Housing	Project on track for completion by the end of March 2025.

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WASTE					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2024/25	TARGET DATE	STATUS	SERVICE AREA	COMMENTS
Waste from Households	Contamination policies to be reviewed to assist in the reduction of contamination. This is a carried over action from 2023/24.	March 2025		Waste	Proposed changes to the Council's policy in respect of contaminated recycling were approved by Cabinet in December 2024.
	Delivery of a communication campaign to reduce contamination and encourage the reduction of waste including single use plastics. Encourage residents to reduce, repurpose and reuse before recycling in the first instance.	March 2025		Waste & Climate Team	Single use plastics were highlighted on the Council's social media channels during Plastic Free July and a new page has been developed on the Council's website, advising households and businesses how to reduce single use plastics. Customer engagement to increase recycling and decrease contamination are a key focus of a wider Environmental Services review: with an efficient and effective Waste Management service, the Council will leverage the greatest possible funding from packaging Extended Producer Responsibility payments.
Commercial waste	Commercial delivery of dry mixed recycling (DMR) through the Council's Business Waste Service and increasing paper and card recycling through the new service offer.	March 2025		Waste	Separate DMR and food waste collections will be offered to the Council's Rotherham Business Waste customers, to coincide with the commencement of Simpler

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					Recycling regulations. From 1 April 2025, all businesses with more than 10 employees must arrange for the separate collection of recycling and food waste from their premises, with similar provisions for schools, hospitals, and local authorities. Since the introduction of a new pricing schedule in April 2024, most Rotherham Business Waste customers have retained or increased their contracted paper and card recycling capacity, while cutting the size of their residual waste bins: boosting the recycling rate amongst local businesses.
Single Use Plastics	Continue to reduce or replace use of single use plastics as identified in the 2023 full Council single use plastic audits.	March 2025		Council-wide	The Council's procurement business case document has now been updated to contain guidance on minimising single use plastics as well as greater consideration of other potential climate change impacts. This is accompanied by the continued roll out of training on single use plastics; guidance on the staff intranet; screensavers reminding staff about single use plastics; and messages in the Monday Round-up staff

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					newsletter, particularly during Plastic Free July. There are challenges with monitoring single use plastics within the Council as monitoring is currently taking place via service audits, in which single use plastics are self-reported. However, there is evidence that staff are taking action to reduce single use plastics such as single use coffee sachets and plastic drinks bottles.
	Launch external campaign to encourage businesses to go single use plastic free	March 2025		Climate Team	Messages on single use plastic avoidance were shared with the Rotherham Growth Board during Plastic Free July. Vendors attending the Rotherham Show were issued with guidance on single use plastics. Guidance for businesses on single use plastic reduction has been published on the council's website. A leaflet on single use plastics for businesses has been developed to be promoted to town centre cafes.

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BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2024/25	TARGET DATE	STATUS	SERVICE AREA	COMMENTS
Planning	Partial update to the Local Plan Core Strategy including policies related to climate change. To be informed by the Council's October 2019 climate emergency declaration and May 2022 nature crisis declaration, and taking account of the critical friend review recommendations: • Refresh of the 2019 Core Strategy Review • Consultation on a draft revised Core Strategy This action is carried forward from 2023 to 2024	2025 Consultat'n March 2026 Adoption		Planning	A Core Strategy Partial Update was issued for consultation for six weeks from August to September 2024. The government's NPPF consultation is potentially due to significantly change the Borough's housing target and may mean the Local Plan needs to be further reviewed. This may result in delay past the March 2026 target date.
	Keep existing planning SPDs related to climate change under review and revise if necessary.	March 2025		Planning	Continuously reviewing SPDs in light of new Government guidance and best practice. Officers continue to liaise with the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission relating to policy matters.
Green spaces	Planting 10,000 new woodland trees and 500 new urban trees.	April 2025		Green spaces	As of October 2024, the current number of projected trees to be planted in by March 2025 is 11,830 woodland trees and 531 urban trees.

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Biodiversity	Develop and report upon the Council's response to the Biodiversity Duty	January 2026 then five yearly		Regeneration and Environment	An initial audit has been completed and reported to IPSC. A steering group has been created and an action plan for delivery has been developed. Resource requirements are being considered by services.
	Identify suitable sites for biodiversity net gain	March 2025		Green Spaces	Four potential sites have been identified for habitat banking. These sites' feasibility has been surveyed, with survey results now under review to determine the number of biodiversity credits each site could offer.
	Work regionally with SYMCA and the region's local authorities to develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	March 2025		Green Spaces	Officers within Planning policy and Green Spaces are working with SYMCA to produce this strategy. Between August and October 2024, SYMCA ran an initial public consultation, which was supported by Council officers. SYMCA are due to produce a draft strategy by January 2025 which will be subject to further consultation and will be taken to Cabinet for consultation. SYMCA are due to produce a second draft by May 2025 which will also be taken to Cabinet.

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					SYMCA are therefore due to produce the final strategy by August 2025 which is slightly outside of the original target date of March 2025.
INFLUENCE AND ENGAGEMENT					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2024/25	TARGET DATE	STATUS	SERVICE AREA	COMMENTS
Local & Regional engagement	Continue to engage with the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission, exploring ways in which the Council can contribute to the regional approach to climate change action.	Ongoing		Climate Change Team	The Council continues to work with the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission, engaging in policy and adaptation workshops throughout the year.
	Work with the Rotherham Together Partnership to engage locally with voluntary, business and health anchor organisations throughout Rotherham to share knowledge and resources relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives.	Ongoing		Climate Change Team	This is an ongoing action but the Rotherham Together Partnership climate and nature working group continues to meet bi-monthly and support is provided to members of the business growth board when needed. The Council also attended the Chamber of Commerce's business event and shared information about the climate and nature charter. RIDO also supports businesses through a UKSPF-funded grant scheme, through which SMEs can apply for a financial contribution towards eligible costs of one or more energy-saving interventions. To date, this has provided 47 SMEs

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					in Rotherham with energy surveys and 34 grants for measures to be installed, which are expected to cut emissions by 251 tCO ₂ e per annum.
Children and Young People's Participation	Continue to engage the Youth Cabinet to hear their thoughts on the Council's plan and works in 2024/2025. Involvement of Youth Cabinet in reviewing the climate change action plan. Feedback from cabinet on wider recommendations to be incorporated into workstream plan where feasible.	Ongoing		Climate Leads	The Climate Change team has shared the 2025/26 climate change action plan with Rotherham Youth Cabinet for feedback and comments. The Council has also engaged with the Youth Cabinet to promote education opportunities locally.
	Consider climate change and single use plastic issues in the Young Inspectors forward plan, with a specific audit and/or as part of every Inspection.	March 2025		Children & Young People's Service	Environment and climate change issues now form part of the template for Young Inspectors audits. This is evidenced as part of the recent audit at Clifton Park which recognised the work the museum has been doing to raise awareness on climate action and single use plastics. Children & Young People's Services have also supported the set-up of a climate change group specifically focussed on this topic.
Schools Carbon Assessments	Support schools to utilise Keep Britain Tidy's carbon calculator when launched.	Ongoing		Climate Change Team	The Count Your Carbon calculator has been promoted to schools via the schools' newsletter and further activities to support schools to use

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					the calculator are being developed for Spring 2025, as part of broader work to support schools to develop a Climate Action Plan by September 2025. The Council has also shared climate resources and events through the ROSIS newsletter such as Rewilding Rotherham, the Schools Climate Education South Yorkshire Conference, Children for Change and Green Footballs' Great Save.
Communication	Develop a set of key messages for sharing externally including both climate, single use plastics and nature recovery.	March 2025		Climate Change Team/ Communication Team	A number of key messages have been shared internally and externally throughout the year including: • Earth Day – this was marked with the launch of a Climate Change Champions staff network, for all staff who are interested in climate change to get involved; • Messages around cutting single use plastic, during Plastic Free July; • Inviting residents to contribute to the Council's Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Survey, to

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					understand demand for EVI; • Ongoing messages focused on available home energy efficiency grants; • Other messages around events such as Clean Air Day, sustainable summer holiday tips and the COP climate change conference.
	Involvement in the Rotherham Show to showcase progress made and increase climate and nature awareness.	October 2024		Climate Change Team/ Events	The Climate Change, Energy and Educational Psychology teams attended the Rotherham Show to highlight the work the Council is doing to tackle climate change; to offer mindfulness nature-themed colouring; answer questions and promote the Council's home energy efficiency schemes and grants. During the weekend the teams engaged with approximately 400 attendees visiting the tent. The tent was part of a wider Eco Village which was a new area of the Show for 2024, with stalls and performances focused on sustainability.

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ADAPTATION					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2024/25	TARGET DATE	STATUS	SERVICE AREA	COMMENTS
Flood risk	Further development of the 6 priority Flood Alleviation Schemes as per existing reported plan.	Various - as per project plan		Drainage & Flood Risk Teams	All six priority flood alleviation schemes (FAS) are aiming to be 'shovel-ready' by the end of March 2025. The majority of planning pre-applications have been submitted, most recently for a permanent pumping station at Catcliffe, to discharge surface water into the river Rother when water levels are high: removing the need for the Council's existing, temporary pumping operation. More advanced schemes will be submitted to full planning in 2025, with construction works on Whiston Brook expected to commence within the 2025/26 financial year.
Climate adaptation	Continue to develop the Council's response to climate change impact alongside other local authorities participating in the YHCC's Adaptation Work programme. Include a plan for monitoring and evaluating effectiveness.	As per project milestones		Climate Change Manager & Service Leads	This is a fluid programme of work which utilises UK-level scenario modelling to understand how climate change may affect the Council's services and its delivery. A plan for the roll out of training and risk identification has been created up to 2030 following a trial with Public Health throughout 24/25. Climate mitigation and adaptation have also been

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					reflected in the Council's service planning template for the first time. Input from Service managers will be required when incorporating service level risks, challenges and opportunities, to ensure effectiveness.
ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE					
PRIORITY AREA	KEY ACTIONS 2024/25	TARGET DATE	STATUS	SERVICE AREA	COMMENTS
Circular Economy	Encourage circular skills development through Makers spaces and other events e.g., sewing and DIY.	Ongoing		Libraries Service	This action supports a circular economy by reducing waste and keeping items in use for longer. A number of skills are being encouraged through various activities at libraries including: • Sewing skills: Swinton Library hosts a popular sewing group. The Libraries Service also has six sewing machines available to users which rotate around different libraries. • Electrical skills: Rawmarsh Library hosted a Makers Stories pilot delivered by Sheffield University. • Upcycling: the libraries team regularly uses biodegradable and recycled

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					materials in children's craft activities. A number of stalls in the Eco Village at the Rotherham Show also promoted the circular economy and the reuse of items.
Culture, Sport & Tourism	Include environmental themes in programming linking to Rotherham's natural heritage and landscape, environmental change and its people and artefacts. Consider climate change, single use plastic reduction and nature recovery as themes when developing future exhibitions, shows, engagement programmes and events.	Ongoing		Culture, Sport & Tourism	Environmental themes have been central to a number of cultural programmes this year including: • Roots Rotherham event – a town centre puppet parade themed on nature and the environment. • Clifton Park Museum's Our Habitats Our Home exhibition, which focuses on the natural history, wildlife and climate change in Rotherham. • The Eco Village at the Rotherham Show featured nature themed performances and workshops by Pif-Paf; Hope the Hedgehog and Reign puppets; Let's Circus; a sustainable fashion show organised by Achieve Your Goals CIC; and a share and repair workshop by Rivelin Co.

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					The Children's Capital of Culture programme's work within the 'World beneath our Feet' theme: see below.
Children's Capital of Culture	Develop options for events, performances and activities for climate change as part of Children's Capital of Culture.	Dec 2025		Children's Capital of Culture Team	A key theme of the Children's Capital of Culture Programme is the World Beneath Our Feet, which focuses on the environment. Activity to date has included a World Beneath Our Feet drama festival, with five performances taking place in venues around the Borough. The team also created a film for the Our Habitats Our Home exhibition at Clifton Park Museum, highlighting young, local people's activism on climate issues.
Events	Increase awareness of Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Emergency at Events including Rotherham Show	March 2025		Events Team	As above, events including Roots Rotherham and the Rotherham Show have focused on climate and nature awareness. This included working with local charities and stallholders sharing information and advice on the climate and biodiversity emergencies.

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	Capture the carbon footprint of events through tailored evaluation platforms and work towards off-setting once a baseline has been achieved.	March 2025		Events Team	The Events team are using the Trace carbon foot printing tool to capture the carbon footprint of the Rotherham Show. The results are currently being analysed, to build up a picture of the carbon footprint of the show from year to year compared with a robust baseline.
	Include sustainable transport information as standard when advertising events.	March 2025		Events Team	Information about sustainable travel options (public transport, walking and cycling) is being prioritised before information about car parking. The team is also surveying attendees regarding transport habits to events.