



Doncaster Council

Agenda

To all Members of the

CABINET

Notice is given that a Meeting of the Cabinet is to be held as follows:

Venue: Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Date: Tuesday, 12th January, 2021

Time: 10.00 am

The meeting will be held remotely via Microsoft Teams. Members and Officers will be advised on the process to follow to attend the Cabinet meeting. Any members of the public or Press wishing to attend the meeting by teleconference should contact Governance Services on 01302 736716/ 737462/ 736712/ 736723 for further details.

BROADCASTING NOTICE

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Damian Allen
Chief Executive

Issued on: Monday, 4 January 2021

Governance Services Officer for this meeting:

Andrea Hedges
01302 736716

Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council

www.doncaster.gov.uk

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. To consider the extent, if any, to which the public and press are to be excluded from the meeting.
3. Public Questions and Statements.

(A period not exceeding 20 minutes for questions and statements from members of the public and Elected Members to the Mayor of Doncaster, Ros Jones. Questions/Statements should relate specifically to an item of business on the agenda and be limited to a maximum of 100 words. As stated within Executive Procedure Rule 3.3 each person will be allowed to submit one question/statement per meeting. A question may only be asked if notice has been given by delivering it by e-mail to the Governance Team no later than 5.00 p.m. on Thursday, 7th January, 2021. Each question or statement must give the name and address of the person submitting it. Questions/Statements should be sent to the Governance Team, Floor 2, Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU, or by email to Democratic.Services@doncaster.gov.uk).

4. Declarations of Interest, if any.
5. Decision Record Forms from the meeting held on 1st December 2020 for noting (previously circulated).

A. Reports where the public and press may not be excluded

Key Decisions

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| 6. | Calculation and Approval of the Council Tax Base for 2021/2022. | 1 - 12 |
| 7. | Environment and Sustainability Strategy. | 13 - 100 |
| 8. | Housing Strategy Update 2020 – 2025. | 101 - 176 |
| 9. | Doncaster's Housing Delivery Programme 2020 – 2025. | 177 - 206 |

Cabinet Members

Cabinet Responsibility For:

**Chair – Ros Jones, Mayor of
Doncaster**

Budget and Policy Framework

**Vice-Chair – Deputy Mayor
Councillor Glyn Jones**

Housing and Equalities

Councillor Nigel Ball
Councillor Joe Blackham

Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Leisure and Culture
Portfolio Holder for Highways, Street Scene and
Trading Services

Councillor Rachael Blake
Councillor Nuala Fennelly

Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care
Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and
Schools.

Councillor Chris McGuinness

Portfolio Holder for Communities, Voluntary Sector
and the Environment.

Councillor Bill Mordue

Portfolio Holder for Business, Skills and Economic
Development

Councillor Jane Nightingale

Portfolio Holder for Customer and Corporate
Services.

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Doncaster Council

Report

12 January 2021

To the Chair and Members of the Cabinet

Calculation and Approval of the Council Tax Base for 2021/2022

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Mayor Ros Jones	All	Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report seeks approval of the Council Tax Base for Doncaster for 2021/2022.
2. The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 make arrangements for the setting of the Council Tax. These arrangements include the determination of the Council Tax Base and the regulations prescribe how this calculation should be carried out.
3. The Council Tax Base is used to determine the level of Council Tax for individual properties. It represents the number of properties that will be subject to Council Tax, and which are expressed in terms of their Band D equivalents using a prescribed formula after allowing for the effect of exemptions, discounts, premiums and reliefs.
4. The agreed Tax Base for Doncaster Council for 2021/2022 will be used in the 2021/2022 Budget and Council Tax setting calculation. The Tax Base is also used by the major precepting bodies (South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue and South Yorkshire Police) and the local parish councils to determine their precept requirements and must be set before the end of January in order to meet their requirements.
5. The proposed Council Tax Base for Doncaster for 2021/2022 is **82,810** band D equivalent dwellings. This represents a decrease of 1,331 band D equivalent dwellings compared to the current year's Tax Base of 84,141.

EXEMPT REPORT

6. The report is not exempt.

RECOMMENDATIONS

7. It is recommended that Cabinet:
 - i. Approve the calculation of Doncaster Council's Tax Base for the 2021/2022 year as **82,810** band D equivalent dwellings as detailed at **Appendix 1** of this report; and
 - ii. Approve the calculation of Doncaster Council's Tax Base for the 2021/2022 year for each part of its area at parish level as detailed in **Appendix 2** of this report.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

8. The Council Tax Base is used to determine the level of Council Tax payable by all citizens who are liable to pay Council Tax for the forthcoming year. Council Tax helps to meet the cost of the services provided by Doncaster Council to all its citizens, as well as contributing towards the cost of fire and police services.

BACKGROUND

9. The Council Tax Base is an annual statutory calculation which is used to determine the level of Council Tax for individual properties.

Summary basis of the calculation

10. The Council Tax Base calculation is based on the number of properties in the area falling within each Council Tax property valuation band shown in the Valuation List which is compiled by the Valuation Office Agency. These property totals are then adjusted for the following:-

A reduction for the full year equivalent of:-

- the estimated number of properties that are exempt from Council Tax
- an adjustment for the number of properties which will effectively change band because they have been adapted for a severely disabled person
- an adjustment for possible banding appeals
- the estimated number of discounts multiplied by the appropriate discount percentage
- the estimated amount of Council Tax Support to be awarded
- the estimated number of properties that will be deleted and removed from the Valuation List

An addition for the full year equivalent of:-

- the empty property premiums

- the estimated number of new properties that will be added to the Valuation List.
11. The resulting figure for each band is then multiplied by its proportion relative to Band D (from 6/9 for Band A to 18/9 for Band H) using formulae laid down in The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, and the total across all eight bands is calculated.
 12. A final adjustment is required to allow for the estimated loss on collection due to non-collection.
 13. The following paragraphs provide more detail of the Tax Base calculation and the actual figures used to determine the proposed Council Tax Base for Doncaster for 2021/2022 for the various elements of the calculation.

Chargeable Dwellings

14. Properties in England are put into one of eight bands (A-H), depending on the price they would have sold for in April 1991 when Council Tax proposals were first issued by the Government. At that time, the average property value in England was around £80,000 and such a property would be in Band D. For this reason, many of the calculations for the Tax Base are carried out by reference to Band D.
15. The following table shows the number and percentage of dwellings in each Council Tax Band shown in the Valuation List for Doncaster as at 30 November 2020. The charges for the different Council Tax bands have fixed ratios to each other expressed as fractions of the charge for Band D. The table also shows the ratio to Band D as set out in the legislation.

Council Tax Band	Ratio to Band D	Number of properties	Percentage of properties
Band A Adaptations Reduction	5/9 (55.6%)		
Band A	6/9 (66.7%)	81,359	58.25%
Band B	7/9 (77.8%)	25,559	18.30%
Band C	8/9 (88.9%)	15,301	10.95%
Band D	9/9 (100%)	9,541	6.83%
Band E	11/9 (122.2%)	4,672	3.35%
Band F	13/9 (144.4%)	2,172	1.56%
Band G	15/9 (166.7%)	939	0.67%
Band H	18/9 (200%)	131	0.09%
TOTAL		139,674	100.00%

16. Because such a high percentage of dwellings in Doncaster are in the lower bands (87.50% are banded below the average Band of D), this has the effect of considerably reducing the Council's Tax Base.

Exemptions

17. Some properties are exempt from Council Tax because they meet qualifying criteria for prescribed classes of exemption. Taking into account the likely increase in the overall number of properties, it is estimated that there will be a full-year equivalent of **1,898** dwellings exempt from Council Tax next year.

Reductions for adapted properties

18. Where a property has certain specific facilities which are required to meet the needs of a person who is disabled, Council Tax will be charged at one band lower than the actual valuation band of the property. Properties in Band A that meet the qualifying criteria will receive a reduction equivalent to 1/9th of Band D. It is estimated that there will be **725** properties in Doncaster that qualify for a reduction.

Banding Appeals

19. There is no information currently available from the Valuation Office Agency for outstanding banding appeals. From past year information, the number of banding appeals is very low and has no material impact on the Tax Base.

Discounts

20. A discount of 25% is granted if there is only one adult living in a property. Two discounts (i.e. 50%) are granted where all the residents are 'disregarded' persons due to their circumstances and not taken into account for Council Tax purposes. There are 48,508 properties which are likely to receive one discount next year and a further 541 properties where two discounts will be granted. This equates to **12,398** properties for Tax Base purposes.

Locally Defined Discounts

21. There are 175 properties that qualify for a locally defined discount for either having a family annexe, being a care leaver or still being affected by the November 2019 floods. In total, their discount relief equates to **152** properties for the Tax Base calculation.

Empty Homes Premium

22. The Tax Base calculation for 2021/2022 takes into account the increase in the empty homes premium for properties that have been empty for more than 2 years from 50% to 100%; and for properties that have been empty for more than 5 years from 50% to 200%. The calculation also takes into account the new premium of 300% for properties that have been empty for more than ten years that will be effective from the 1st April 2021. These increases were approved by Cabinet on 15 October 2019. It is estimated that there will be **402** properties that will have been empty between 2 and 5 years and a further **106** that will have been empty between 5 years but less than 10 years and finally **93** that will have been empty more than 10 years.

Reductions and Additions to the Property Totals

23. The effective number of properties must be adjusted to take into account any properties that may be removed or added to the Valuation List. An analysis of properties expected to be removed or built in the next 15 months to 31 March 2022 has been carried out, having regard to the estimated date of removal or completion and property band. The analysis includes information from Planning, Building Control, street naming and numbering departments and site visits. It is estimated that there will be a net increase of **1,152** additional properties in 2021/2022.

Local Council Tax Support

24. Since the localisation of Council Tax Support in 2013, Council Tax Support has taken the form of a reduction within the Council Tax system. Making reductions part of the Council Tax system reduces a billing authority's Council Tax Base.
25. An estimate of the effect of Doncaster's Local Council Tax Support Scheme on the Council Tax Base has been determined. It is estimated that the Council Tax Support Scheme will reduce the Council Tax Base by **20,006** properties.
26. The 2021/2022 Council Tax Base proposals set out within this report assume there are no changes to Doncaster Council's Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2021/2022.

Collection Rate

27. For the financial year 2020/21, the Council assumed 98.6% of council Tax would eventually be collected. This has been reviewed and in the current climate, it is considered prudent to make an adjustment and the collection rate for 2021/2022 has been revised to 97.5%

Proposed Tax Base for 2021/2022

28. Based on the assumptions detailed in the preceding paragraphs of this report, the proposed Council Tax Base for 2021/2022 is **82,810**. This represents a decrease of 1,331 from the 2020/2021 tax base. The detailed Council Tax Base calculation for Doncaster Council for 2021/2022 is shown at **Appendix 1** to this report.
29. Similar calculations are required for each parish in order to calculate the proportion of the tax base which relates to its area. A schedule of the proposed tax base for each Parish is set out in **Appendix 2**.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

30. The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 prescribe how the calculation of the Council Tax Base must be carried out. There are no other options.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

31. These are detailed in the table below:-

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>Doncaster Working: Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access to good fulfilling work • Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish • Inward Investment 	<p>The calculation of the Council Tax Base is a legal requirement and an essential part of the tax setting process which helps to achieve all the Council's corporate objectives.</p>
	<p>Doncaster Living: Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	
	<p>Doncaster Learning: Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school • Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better • Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work 	
	<p>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have the best start in life • Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust • Older people can live well and independently in their own homes 	
	<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern, efficient and flexible workforce • Modern, accessible customer interactions • Operating within our resources and delivering value for money • A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents • Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

32. Failure to set the Council Tax Base would result in the Council being unable to meet the statutory requirement to notify precepting authorities of the Council Tax Base by 31 January 2021. It may also delay the calculation of the Council Tax charge and the billing and collection processes for 2021/2022.
33. Over estimation of the council tax base would result in a deficit in the tax collected which would need to be made good in full from the council tax in subsequent years. Under estimation would result in a council tax higher than necessary.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS Officer Initials: SRF Date: 16/12/20

34. Each financial year the Council must calculate a Council Tax Base by strictly following the formula specified by the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012. The Council Tax Base is required by law to be set by the Council before the end of January each year. A Council Tax base is required for a local authority to calculate its basic amount of tax under Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS Officer Initials: CC Date: 15/12/20

35. The Council Tax Base is used as part of the Council Tax setting process in order to calculate the level of Council Tax once the budgetary requirements of the Authority have been determined for the forthcoming financial year. This will be brought back to Council in March 2021.

The difference between the collection rate assumed/estimated in these figures and the collection rate actually achieved will determine any surplus or deficit generated on the collection fund and therefore impacts on the amount available to be distributed to the precepting authorities in future years, including to the Council's General Fund.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS Officer Initials: KG Date: 21/12/20

36. There are no HR implications associated with this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: PW Date: 16/12/20

37. There are no technology implications associated with this report.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS Officer Initials: RS Date: 15/12/20

38. Council Tax is a universal charge, however, the choices the council makes in raising revenue will impact on the health of the population. Decision makers should balance the requirement to raise resource as part of the overall funding of council activities and the health benefits that may arise though the use of council tax across a range of service areas (bearing in mind in general 20% of what contributes to health and wellbeing is due to clinical care, 30% due to behavioural factors, 40% due to socio-economic factors and 10% due

to the built environment) with the health benefits that directly arise from improving the standard of living for Doncaster residents through ensuring the local council tax burden is fairly distributed.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS Officer Initials: AS Date: 15/12/20

39. There are no equality implications associated with this report. Council Tax is a universal charge on those people who are liable to pay and therefore does not impact adversely on those with protected characteristics.

CONSULTATION

40. N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS

41. There are no background papers to this report.

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

42. There are no acronyms or abbreviations in this report.

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

Alan Stoves
Head of Revenues and Benefits
01302 735585
Alan.Stoves@doncaster.gov.uk

Mark West
Senior Revenues and Benefits Officer
01302 735419
Mark.West@doncaster.gov.uk

Debbie Hogg
Director of Corporate Services

Calculation of Doncaster Council Tax Base 2021/2022

Band Summary

Band	No. of Dwellings	Less Exemptions	Less Disablement Reductions	Less Appeals	Less Discounts	Less Locally Defined Discounts	Plus Empty Property Premium	Plus Adjustment for Net property Additions/Reductions	Less Local Council Tax Support	Total Effective Number of Dwellings	Total Number of Band D equivalent dwellings	Tax Base after Adjustment for Loss on collection @ 97.5%
A(-)			-276		20.50				65.57	189.9	105.5	102.9
A	81,359	1,235.66	142	0	8,293.93	103.00	655	564	17,298.10	55,505.3	37,003.5	36,078.5
B	25,559	305.37	30	0	2,127.87	11.50	99	237	1,675.98	21,744.3	16,912.2	16,489.4
C	15,301	184.04	19	0	1,085.02	17.50	61	104	668.92	13,491.5	11,992.5	11,692.7
D	9,541	99.52	32	0	505.29	9.25	28	152	180.92	8,894.0	8894.0	8,671.7
E	4,672	36.43	31	0	214.08	7.75	23	43	80.22	4,368.5	5,339.3	5,205.8
F	2,172	15.26	1	0	90.07	2.00	1	26	28.07	2,062.6	2979.3	2,904.8
G	939	16.25	-9	0	49.98	1.00	7	25	7.79	905.0	1,508.3	1,470.6
H	131	5.01	30	0	10.84	0.00	13	1	0.00	99.2	198.3	193.3
Total	139,674	1,897.54	0	0	12,397.57	152.00	887	1152	20,005.57	107,260.3	84933.0	82,810

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Calculation of Doncaster Council Tax Base 2021/2022

<u>Part of the Council's Area</u>	<u>No. of Dwellings</u>	<u>Tax Base</u>
Adwick Le Street	8,376	4,300
Adwick On Dearne	142	113
Armthorpe	6,512	3812
Askern	2,808	1384
Auckley	2,013	1,562
Austerfield	256	212
Barnburgh & Harlington	870	643
Barnby Dun & Kirk Sandall	3,985	2,685
Bawtry	1,740	1,355
Bentley	10,141	5,224
Blaxton	573	455
Braithwell	510	443
Brodsworth	1,381	742
Burghwallis	143	145
Cadeby	89	83
Cantley with Branton	1,649	1,485
Clayton with Frickley	102	93
Conisbrough Parks	133	124
Conisbrough	7,196	3,542
Denaby	140	131
Doncaster	38,823	22,688
Edenthorpe	2,203	1,476
Edlington	3,846	1,911
Finningley	792	711

<u>Part of the Council`s area</u>	<u>No. of Dwellings</u>	<u>Tax Base</u>
Fishlake	291	226
Hampole with Skelbrooke	87	84
Hatfield	6,795	4,180
Hickleton	115	113
High Melton	130	145
Hooton Pagnell	92	94
Loversall	59	56
Marr	69	70
Mexborough	7,607	3,875
Moss and District	356	322
Norton	2,032	1,361
Owston	69	64
Rossington	6,078	3,598
Sprotbrough & Cusworth	5,247	3,830
Stainforth	2,881	1,235
Stainton	115	116
Sykehouse	207	191
Thorne	8,122	4,300
Thorpe In Balne	70	76
Tickhill	2,538	2,058
Wadworth	552	384
Warmsworth	1,737	1,123
Authority Totals	139674	82810



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 12 January 2020

**To the Chair and Members of
CABINET**

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Chris McGuinness	All	Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. An Environment and Sustainability strategy has been developed in response to the climate change and biodiversity emergency declaration made by Full Council in 2019. The strategy is derived from the latest research, data, opinion and insight gathered from residents, elected representatives, and a range of partner organisations, some via the Climate and Biodiversity Commission.
2. The strategy is presented alongside an evidence base, which together form part of a package of documents that include the climate and biodiversity commission report and numerous partner-specific strategies and plans.
3. The Strategy will be submitted for approval by Full Council on 21 January 2021.

EXEMPT REPORT

4. N/A

RECOMMENDATIONS

5. Approve the Environment and Sustainability strategy.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

6. The Strategy sets out how residents, elected representatives, public and private sector organisations and community groups need to respond to the climate change and biodiversity crisis. It identifies a range of interventions of various scales from simple individual behaviour changes to significant borough-wide investment requirements.

BACKGROUND

7. Full Council declared a climate change and biodiversity emergency in 2019, and a Local Commission, led by Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP, drew upon the insight and expertise of various public and private sector organisations, government agencies and resident representatives to discuss a range of environmental priority areas. A series of recommendations were presented in their final report in December 2020.
8. Alongside the work of the Commission, numerous 'Doncaster Talks' engagement exercises were held to directly gather the opinions and views of residents, as well as multiple series of elected member workshops and officer working groups representing public and private sector partners.
9. The strategy is an amalgamation of the views of multiple stakeholders and includes both new activity and a continuation or expansion of existing commitments and initiatives already included in individual partner strategies and action plans.
10. The strategy considers the drivers and impacts of issues and interventions from both a global and local perspective. It aims to provide a clear and transparent understanding of the challenges we face, as well as the numerous opportunities that environment-focused interventions will bring across other strategic priorities (e.g. economy, health and wellbeing).
11. The strategy is consistent with and complimentary to individual partner environment/sustainability strategies, as well as other partnership strategies that are either in place or currently in development e.g. Borough Strategy, Housing Strategy.
12. The Strategy (Appendix A) is presented as part of a package of documents which includes an Evidence Base (Appendix B) as well as the Climate and Biodiversity Commission report and individual partner environment strategies and plans.
13. There are a couple of key matters in particular that are included in the strategy document that decision-makers might want to be aware of:

Funding

14. This is a key issue across numerous strategy priority areas and interventions. Significant deprivation remains across several areas within Doncaster, and recent flooding and the Covid-19 pandemic have severely affected the financial stability of many businesses. As such, not everyone will have the money to make the necessary investments required to achieve strategy objectives.

15. The strategy is clear that there are some things that we can do now with no investment required – it's simply about changing our behaviours. There are also some things that some organisations will be able to do now with minimal investment. However, there are some things that businesses and households will be unable to do without funding support, especially given the levels of household deprivation and large proportion of businesses struggling as a result of Covid-19.
16. The strategy has identified the need for Team Doncaster to put in place a means of supporting stakeholders to obtain funding from Government or private investment funding streams (e.g. from organisations needing to offset their unavoidable emissions). Doing so would mean that those that are unable to make the necessary investments themselves don't miss out on having the same impact as others, and achieving the associated health, wellbeing and financial benefits that accompany the interventions.
17. There is a strong message, from both a financial and environmental point of view, about the longer-term benefits of the proposed investments, as well as a significantly higher cost of not acting.
18. The strategy is also clear on the value of Team Doncaster partners identifying and co-procuring responses to various environment issues, so that economies of scale bring unit prices down. This could be public sector partners working together, public and private sector partnerships, and even using street or community-level procurement to make individual interventions more affordable.

Monitoring and Governance

19. Due to the strategy identifying what needs to be done over the longer term, there is need for a clear process of monitoring progress towards those goals and holding partners to account for delivering their required contribution to the collective effort.
20. The Team Doncaster partnership board will have ultimate responsibility for delivery of the strategy and will assign responsibility for implementation of the Strategy to an appropriate delivery group. This group will be established in early 2021 with representatives from all stakeholder groups. Stakeholders will be required to contribute to the delivery of the strategy, and will have ultimate responsibility for monitoring and governance. There is also a role for Scrutiny Panels to challenge Team Doncaster on progress at appropriate stages throughout the year/strategy period.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

21. Option 1: Approve the strategy. (Recommended)
22. Option 2: Do not approve the strategy.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

23. International, regional and local leaders have all acknowledged the climate change and biodiversity emergency. This is a global issue, but also a local issue. Doncaster needs to set out how we intend to play our part in the national

effort to combat this emergency, as well as respond to the local environmental issues that Doncaster is currently faced with and will likely face in the future. The strategy is the first step in identifying and communicating the scale and breadth of the challenge we face and encouraging a partnership approach to our collective response.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

24.

Outcomes	Implications
<p>Doncaster Working: Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access to good fulfilling work • Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish • Inward Investment 	<p>Environment-focused interventions represent significant economic recovery and growth opportunities. They can create jobs, support new enterprises, and encourage better partnership working amongst businesses.</p>
<p>Doncaster Living: Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	<p>Various environment-friendly initiatives (e.g. improving energy efficiency of homes; access to a greener, cleaner environment; or increasing active travel) can provide financial benefits to residents and businesses (e.g. through reduced running costs), but also contribute to improving mental and physical health and reducing inequalities across the Borough.</p>
<p>Doncaster Learning: Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school • Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better • Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work 	<p>Knowledge and awareness of environmental issues will help residents and businesses make the right choices for our natural environment, but also the best choices for their households or businesses. New skills developed for new green industries will contribute to the Education and Skills ambition to upskill our labour force and support workers to obtain higher wage employment.</p>
<p>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have the best start in life • Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust • Older people can live well and independently in their own homes 	<p>All residents can benefit from numerous interventions included in the strategy that will provide direct and indirect health benefits. This could prevent or postpone the need for care as more people will live healthier and more active lifestyles. This will be more possible from the right environment and infrastructure improvements (e.g. better quality homes, reduced fuel poverty, active travel, more leisure options, improved physical and mental health.)</p>

	Engaging with nature and environment-friendly initiatives can also help with childhood development and provides opportunities for children to be exposed to different, enriching experiences.
<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern, efficient and flexible workforce • Modern, accessible customer interactions • Operating within our resources and delivering value for money • A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents • Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	<p>Interventions that benefit the environment also benefit businesses and organisations through improved energy efficiency/reduced running costs; contributing to their corporate social responsibility; and a healthier workforce. Taking action towards addressing climate change can also help businesses and residents feel like they are part of the solution in the Borough and can provide a sense of community and connectedness through doing things together to make a difference for Doncaster.</p> <p>Planning for and mitigating risks associated with environmental emergencies such as flooding can help the Council and partners in their response if/when these events occur again.</p>

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

25. Many of the interventions included in the strategy can be delivered to some level within current partnership resources, but likely cannot be delivered to the extent/scale required to achieve the objectives. Significant investment is required by households, businesses and other organisations who may not have access to the money to do so. Additional funding sources (e.g. Government, SCR, private investors) will need to be identified and exploited to deliver the scale of intervention required.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [SRF Date 23/11/20]

26. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a general power of competence to do anything that individuals may generally do. S111 Local Government Act 1972 further provides that a local authority shall have power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions. The Government has issued a series of Environmental targets and this strategy should take account of any Central Government requirements and be sufficiently flexible to adapt to any changes in those targets and strategies.
27. Any monies spent in pursuant of this strategy should be spent in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules and any decisions taken pursuant to this strategy should be taken within the legal framework within which local government sits. Further specific legal advice will be required as to the implementation and operation of the strategy and how it sits alongside other Council policies and procedures.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [OB Date 23/11/2020]

28. The implementation of the strategy is subject to the availability of both capital and revenue budgets. Although it is anticipated that some of the interventions included in the strategy could be delivered using existing partnership resources, additional sources of funding such as income from government grants and private investors will need to be identified and maximised to deliver the scale of intervention required. Any budget pressures arising from the implementation of the strategy should be considered as part of the annual budget setting process.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [DK Date 20/11/2020]

29. There are no direct HR imps in relation to this report, but if in future staff are affected or additional specialist resources are required then further consultation will need to take place with HR.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [PW Date 20/11/2020]

30. There are no specific technology implications relating to the recommendations in this report. Any technology requirements to support the delivery of the Environment and Sustainability Strategy would need to be discussed with Digital & ICT and where applicable would need to be considered and prioritised by the Technology Governance Board (TGB).

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [CT Date 24/11/2020]

31. Public Health supports the approval of the Strategy, which will enable the transformation needed to improve lives and well-being sustainably through the provision of healthy environments for the residents of Doncaster. Public Health has worked closely with the authors, providing input to the evidence base that sits alongside this Strategy.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [AB Date 23/11/2020]

32. Data and information collated as part of developing this strategy has not focused on any one specific group, area or characteristic, but instead has collected data which applies to all of Doncaster Borough and its population. The information collected has covered different aspects of the environment, both in terms of the current situation and options for interventions to respond to the issues faced.
33. Evidence gathering and consultation/engagement has sought input and feedback from as diverse an audience as possible in order to understand the needs and experiences of all members of Doncaster's population, including those in protected groups. A range of specific consultation exercises have taken place including partner workshops, elected member seminars and public engagement through various Doncaster Talks engagement events.
34. The Strategy is a high-level document setting out our strategic intent. The impact of many projects that stem from this Environment and Sustainability Strategy will require more in-depth consideration to understand the needs of each protected group. As we develop and propose individual projects/ activities

to implement the Strategy, project/locality-specific Due Regard Statements will be considered to ensure that specific cohorts with protected characteristics are adequately considered, included, engaged in the activity/opportunities and supported to contribute to the activity required.

CONSULTATION

35. Consultation has been a huge part of the development process for this strategy. This strategy is a borough-wide, multi-partner strategy that requires the contribution of various stakeholders. It has been critical to gather their opinions and insight on what is happening or not happening now, and what needs to happen in the future. It has also acted as a communication tool to prepare residents, businesses and organisations for the activities and required contributions that will come during the implementation of the strategy. Due regard has been given to ensure various stakeholders have been included in the development of the strategy; a Due Regard Statement is included as Appendix C.

36. A summary of the engagement is provided below:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer 2019 - Doncaster Talks • Oct 2019 - Ward Member seminars • Nov 2019 - Doncaster Talks (Climate & Biodiversity Commission Evidence Gathering) • Jan 2020 - Parish Councils (PCJCC) • Jan 2020 - Overview & Scrutiny Panel • Jul 2020 - Ward Member seminars • Jul 2020 - Overview & Scrutiny Panel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct 2020 - Doncaster Talks (Environment) • Oct 2020 - Parish Councils (PCJCC) • Sep 2020 - Members of Parliament • Nov 2020 - Overview & Scrutiny Panel • Partner officer representatives (throughout 2019 and 2020) • Elected leadership (throughout 2020)
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37. This research has given us a clear picture that tackling climate change is a priority for many people, and that many are already acting in response to it. The key factor in achieving our strategic aims will be to help more people to take similar action, and to encourage people, businesses or organisation to do more wherever they can – and where they cannot, we need to find ways to support them to do so.

38. As part of the latter stages of the strategy development, The Community and Environment Scrutiny panel and Team Doncaster Partnership Board have both reviewed the Strategy and given it their endorsement.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

39. None.

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

40. N/A.

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

Andy Brown, Senior Policy, Insight & Change Manager
01302 736075 andy.brown@doncaster.gov.uk

Dan Swaine

Director of Economy and Environment

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2020-2030

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FOREWORD FROM THE MAYOR OF DONCASTER

Welcome to Doncaster's Environment and Sustainability strategy.

Global, national, regional and local leaders all agree on the need to protect the environment and limit global temperature change to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Failure to do so may cause irreversible damage to the planet causing detrimental impact to all life on earth.

This threat does not exist merely in the future; Doncaster is experiencing major environmental issues now. The recent devastation caused by flooding and moor fires are just two examples that show the need for us all to act now to protect communities from the impact of climate change both now and in the future, and to ensure there is still a habitable planet for future generations.

This environment emergency is broad and interrelated to many other policy areas. Our economic, housing, health, transport, education and environment strategies must all be consistent with and complimentary to each other and with our new borough strategy, ensuring that the challenges and opportunities identified in each are considered and tackled together to support the achievement of our strategic wellbeing goals.

This strategy draws upon the opinion, insight, feedback and recommendations collected from residents, elected representatives and partners – much of which came from the Climate and Biodiversity Commission and Doncaster Talks public engagement exercises.

As we continue to rebuild and grow our economy post Covid-19, we must take advantage of the growth in both existing and new green technology sectors, as well as benefiting financially from energy efficiency improvements and the re-use, removal or reduction of waste. We can tailor today's homes to the standards of tomorrow, removing the need for costly retrofitting in the future, and potentially saving residents considerable money via reduced energy bills. As transport changes to introduce new technologies, we must position ourselves to take advantage of new, cleaner options, both individually and commercially; and continue our transition to cleaner sources of electricity, bringing clean and renewable energy into our homes and industry.

The scale of the challenge should not be underestimated. We must overcome the environmental impact of decades of industrialisation and change what could be a lifetime of habits and behaviours. We all need to make our own contributions – individuals, families, businesses, community groups and public sector organisations, which collectively will make a difference to the future of our borough and help with the collective effort to combat climate change.

Some changes and interventions are easier than others, and for some, the impact will be greater and seen quicker than others. Some however, will be significant, could take longer to achieve and see the benefit from, and could be quite costly. However, the cost of not acting will be greater – both to individual and organisational finances, our health, safety and our overall way of life.

We are the generation that will need to take the difficult decisions, to take the 'short-term pain', in order to achieve the longer-term gain that results from our actions today.

Although we face a significant challenge, this agenda also brings massive opportunities for Doncaster – be it in the form of economic gain for existing and new businesses, increased jobs and better paid jobs for our local workforce; cleaner, safer and more pleasant neighbourhoods for locals and visitors to enjoy, and improved public health and well-being for our residents.

I call on all Doncaster residents, businesses and organisations to put the environment at the forefront of their thinking in the way they live their lives and manage their organisations. If we all work together, then we can continue to enjoy the improvements we have seen over recent years, and we can continue to enjoy a borough that is a pleasant place to live, work and visit for everyone.

If Doncaster is going to make its contribution to this national and international effort, then we need to act now.

Ros Jones, Elected Mayor of Doncaster

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This strategy set outs how we will play our part in the national effort to reduce carbon emissions and help limit global average temperature increases. It also identifies how we will respond to Doncaster-specific issues like litter, fly tipping, and flooding. The strategy is derived from the input and expertise of numerous stakeholders such as businesses and organisations (including the Climate and Biodiversity Commission) as well as from residents and elected members (via Doncaster Talks public engagement exercises and member seminars).

OUR VISION FOR DONCASTER

Doncaster businesses, organisations and residents will deliver their contribution to the regional, national and international effort to tackle the climate change emergency; and in doing so will improve and maintain a pleasant and sustainable natural and built environment for everyone to enjoy.

We will have clean air and water, thriving plants and animals, and a sustainable economy that protects and enhances our natural and built environment.

Our homes and other buildings will be energy efficient; our transport network will have minimal impact on nature, and people will have access to attractive green spaces both for leisure and to live and work in.

Future generations will look back and realise we made the right choices in prioritising the environment in order to sustain and enhance quality of life in Doncaster.

OUR AMBITION

Become carbon neutral by 2040, recognising that this equates to a uniform 13-14% year-on-year reduction of emissions and an 85% reduction by 2030 (compared to a baseline of 2005 levels), and increase the proportion of land given over to woodland, wood pasture, wildflower grassland and thus support greater biodiversity.

PRIORITIES

Over a dozen priority areas/sub-topics have been identified within the strategy, each of which have a series of key aims and delivery actions (details in later sections of the strategy).

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- Protect and enhance **WOODLAND** and **GREEN SPACES**, plant more **TREES**.
- Protect and enhance **BIODIVERSITY** to support resilient ecosystems.
- Improve **WATER QUALITY** in rivers and lakes, maintain & enhance **DRAINAGE**, and protect from **FLOODING**.
- Protect, enhance, and promote the conservation of our internationally important **PEATLAND**.
- Manage **CONTAMINATED LAND** appropriately.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- Improve the **ENERGY EFFICIENCY** of homes and other buildings.
- Increase the **ENERGY** production from **SUSTAINABLE** sources.
- Proactively and reactively tackle **NOISE**, **LIGHT**, and **ODOUR NUISANCES**.
- Improve **air quality** by reducing **TRANSPORT** emissions.

ECONOMY

- Exploit opportunities in **GREEN TECHNOLOGY** industry sectors.
- Encourage and support **EXISTING BUSINESSES** to improve energy efficiency and waste/recycling practices.
- Exploit blue and green **NATURE TOURISM** opportunities, whilst ensuring their protection and supporting their enhancement.
- Support the local **FARMING** sector to supply locally and operate efficiently using environmentally friendly operations.

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION & BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

- Reduce avoidable **FOOD** waste. Encourage and support food sourcing from local, sustainable providers.
- Focus on the reduction, re-use, repair, recycling and recovery of household and commercial **WASTE**.
- Reduce **FLY TIPPING** and **LITTERING**; and optimise the response to incidences when they do occur.
- Raise awareness, share best practice, support and **EDUCATE** partners, businesses and residents on how their own **BEHAVIOUR CHANGES** can contribute to environmental improvements, whilst also achieving economic, health and social benefits.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES

No single organisation or group can tackle this challenge alone. All businesses, public sector organisations, community groups and individual households must play their part. An indication of the contributions different groups can make are listed below:

Businesses and Public Sector Organisations

- Identify and share advice, guidance and good practice.
- Work collaboratively on investment, procurement and operational activity.
- Identify and share awareness of opportunities associated with private finance options.
- Invest in electrification of fleet vehicles.
- Include environmental factors in procurement policies.
- Decarbonisation of energy supplies through demand reduction and low carbon energy generating technology.
- Identify opportunities for local partnerships – supply chains and customer base.
- Take advantage of funding opportunities for environmental improvements.
- Consider, and where possible, prioritise longer-term benefits and savings against short-term costs.
- Ensure appropriate policies are in place to encourage, enable, and support residents and employees to deliver on their role.
- Invest in higher energy efficiency features for new and existing buildings.

Residents

- Reduce waste; maximise re-use and recycling.
- Dispose of unavoidable waste considerately - don't drop litter and choose legitimate waste disposal companies/facilities.
- Invest in home energy efficiency improvements.
- Consider the environment when making transport choices: cycling, walking, using public transport, car sharing, and investing in Ultra Low Emission Vehicles where possible.
- Consider the environmental impact of the products you buy, how sustainable the materials used are, where it will be shipped from, and whether natural resources such as peat are being exploited.
- Shop locally wherever you can and consider the impact of buying from further afield.
- Make space for nature in your garden and support naturalisation in community areas.
- Support community initiatives e.g. litter picking.

Elected members (Ward Councillors, Members of Parliament, Parish Councils)

- Lobby Government (local, regional and national) for funding opportunities to support the implementation of the interventions required, to the scale required.
- Lobby Government (local, regional and national) for legislative changes that make environmental priorities mandatory.
- Give the environment due consideration in any local lobbying activity on behalf of residents and businesses.

DEVELOPING THE STRATEGY

This strategy was developed in partnership with numerous Team Doncaster partners. The views of residents, elected members, public and private sector organisations, and Government agencies have been considered and collated to form a compromise and consensus on the ambition, the type and scale of interventions, and individual or collective contributions needed in order to address these critical issues.

Doncaster's Commission on the climate and biodiversity crisis has spent the last year discussing specific issues and potential solutions, informed by the latest data and expert insight from a range of partners across different environmental disciplines. They have made numerous recommendations which can be found in the published report.

Residents have voiced their concerns and opinions via numerous 'Doncaster Talks' engagement exercises in summer 2019, autumn 2019, spring 2020, and summer 2020. Elected members and Team Doncaster partners have contributed to the strategy development process across the year via member workshops and working groups, with Government agencies providing insight and support throughout.

Partners involved in the development of this strategy, many via the Climate Commission, include but are not limited to the list below. Delivery of the strategy and achievement of the vision for Doncaster will require an equally collective and collaborative effort from these partners and others.

- Residents
- Elected ward members
- Parish Councils
- Members of Parliament
- Doncaster Youth Parliament
- Doncaster Green Party
- Doncaster Mayor and Cabinet
- South Yorkshire Police
- Doncaster Council
- St Leger Homes of Doncaster
- Doncaster Bassetlaw Teaching Hospital
- Doncaster Chamber of Commerce
- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
- Engie UK
- Go Green Ltd
- Doncopolitan Magazine
- Bentley Urban Farm
- Peel Land and Property Group
- University of Leeds
- Environment Agency
- National Farmers' Union

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DRIVERS FOR CHANGE

- The International Paris Agreement on Climate Change is an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) dealing with greenhouse-gas-emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance, signed in 2016. Around 200 countries, including the UK, have signed the agreement signifying their intention to help limit global temperature increases.
- The UK Climate Change Act has been enacted in 2019 and the UK Government set out its 10-point plan in 2020 for achieving carbon neutrality:
 - Increase offshore wind energy capacity sufficient to power every home by 2030.
 - Invest £500m in hydrogen-based energy production.
 - Invest in large- and small-scale nuclear power with advanced modular reactors.
 - Invest more than £2.8bn in electric vehicles and charging infrastructure; ending the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans in 2030 (Some hybrids will be allowed until 2035).
 - Cleaner public transport, thousands of green buses and hundreds of miles of cycle lanes.
 - Aim to achieve the first non-stop transatlantic journey with a zero emissions plane and ship.
 - Invest £1bn in 2021 to make homes, schools and hospitals greener, and energy bills lower.
 - Establish a new world-leading industry in carbon capture and storage, backed by £1bn of government investment for clusters across the North, Wales and Scotland.
 - Absorb carbon by planting 30,000 hectares of trees a year by 2025 and rewilding 30,000 football pitches' worth of countryside.
 - Help commercialise new low-carbon technologies via a £1bn energy innovation fund.

LOCAL STRATEGIC CONTEXT

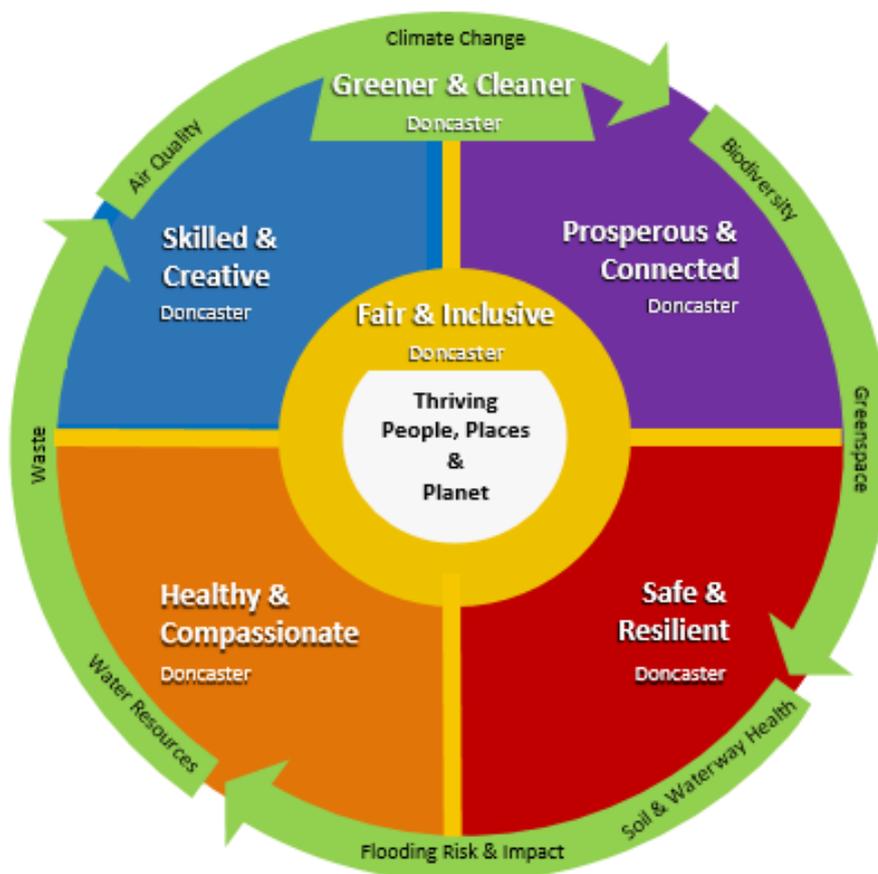
Borough Strategy and Wellbeing Goals

A revised Doncaster Borough Strategy will be launched in 2021. It will build upon the successes of the Doncaster Growing Together Plan to deliver a transformation in the well-being of Doncaster people and places over the next 10 years.

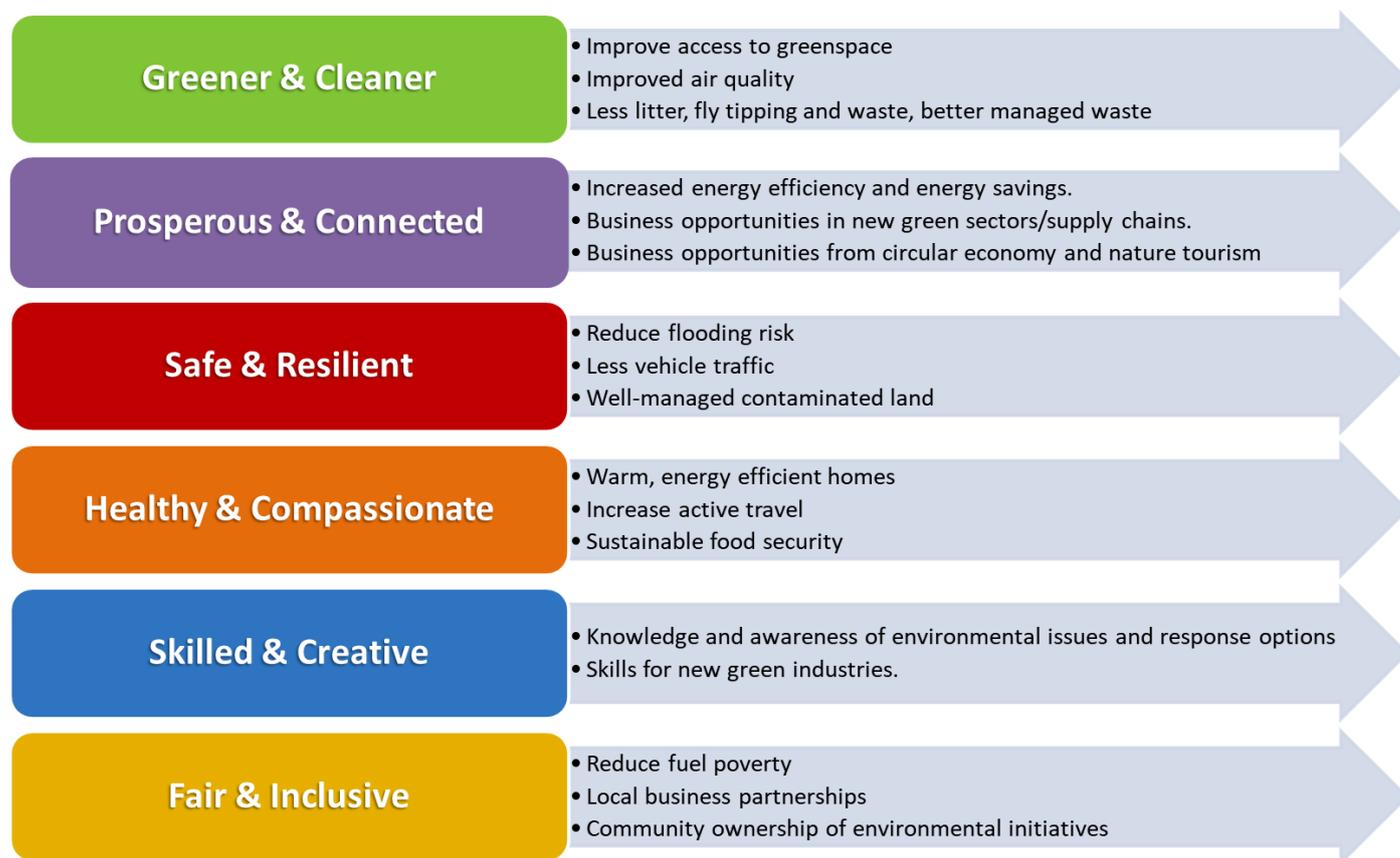
The Strategy will focus on the local quality of life issues residents have identified through 'Doncaster Talks' and global shared challenges like the climate change and biodiversity crisis.

Six emerging well-being goals include creating a greener and cleaner borough, improving the safety and resilience of places to challenges like flooding and developing a more compassionate Doncaster. Alongside these will be creating quality jobs, improving education and skills, tackling inequalities and supporting culture and creativity.

Delivering the Borough Strategy will require closer working with communities, shared responsibilities and a more regenerative approach to development.



The Environment and Sustainability strategy will have a significant impact on the following emerging Borough Strategy well-being goals:



KEY STRATEGIES

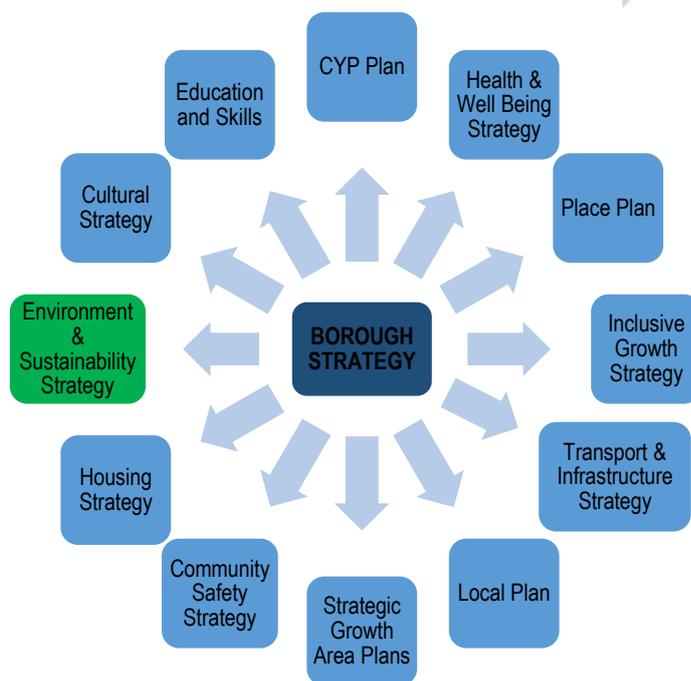
The Environment and Sustainability Strategy is just one of a number of key strategies that will support the delivery of the Borough Strategy and achievement of our wellbeing goals.

Each tier 2 strategy is consistent and complementary to the borough strategy and to each other.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

This Strategy is part of a package of documents. The reader can access the data, research and insight upon which it has been derived via the *Evidence Base* and the *Climate and Biodiversity Commission* report.

Further details on individual partners' commitments and plans to address the environment and sustainability can be found in their own individual strategies and plans, which are summarised and referenced in the *Evidence Base* document.



The Environment and Sustainability strategy has several sub-strategies and plans that address specific topics; some of which are listed below. More detail and web links can be found in the Evidence Base document.

- Green Infrastructure Strategy, Tree Risk Management Plan.
- Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance, Local Nature Recovery Strategy, Moors Site management plans.
- Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, Water Level Management Plans
- Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy, UK Peatland Strategy
- Housing Delivery Plan, Doncaster Energy Masterplan, SCR Energy Strategy
- Air Quality Action Plan, Doncaster Walking Strategy, Doncaster Cycling Strategy, Get Doncaster Moving Strategy
- Doncaster Visitor Economy Strategy, SCR Strategic Economic Plan.
- NFU Net zero Strategy, National Food Strategy.
- Resource and Waste Strategy, South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy.

OUR VISION FOR DONCASTER

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We will have clean air and water, thriving plants and animals, and a sustainable economy that protects and enhances our natural and built environment.

Our homes and other buildings will be energy efficient; our transport network will have minimal impact on nature, and people will have access to attractive green spaces both for leisure and to live and work in.

Future generations will look back and realise we made the right choices in prioritising the environment in order to sustain and enhance quality of life in Doncaster.

OUR AMBITION

The UK Government and Sheffield City Region Combined Authority have adopted targets to become carbon neutral by 2050 and 2040, respectively. Locally, Full Council took the decision to declare a climate emergency and biodiversity crisis; in doing so, challenging Doncaster to become carbon neutral, protect and enhance our natural environment, and move towards an innovative, inclusive economy, built on clean growth, decent wages, and a sustainable health and care system. Different organisations are aiming to become carbon neutral in different timeframes, but overall, this Strategy adopts the ambition recommended by the Climate and Biodiversity Commission:

Become carbon neutral by 2040, recognising that this equates to a uniform 13-14% year-on-year reduction of emissions and an 85% reduction by 2030 (compared to a baseline of 2005 levels), and increase the proportion of land given over to woodland, wood pasture, wildflower grassland and thus support greater biodiversity.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY AND BIODIVERSITY CRISIS

CLIMATE CHANGE

When certain gases produced from human activity build up in the atmosphere, they prevent energy that would ordinarily escape into space from doing so. This creates a 'greenhouse' or warming effect on the planet, which in turn increases average temperatures across the globe. Humans have already caused global warming of around 1°C above pre-industrial levels and if this trend continues then this will reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052. This is the point after which the sorts of climate change impacts we are already seeing worldwide will become more severe and more regular; and natural systems may undergo lasting changes that subsequently effect our way of life.

The United Nations-led international treaty known as the 'Paris Agreement' on Climate Change (2016) agreed that all signatory nations would commit to measures intending to keep global warming 'well below' 2°C, and to 'make efforts' to keep it below 1.5°C. Keeping within the global carbon budget for greenhouse gases would give us a 66% of achieving this.

The threat to use all is clear: 'Failure to act will see a marked increase in sea levels and flooding, extreme and abrupt changes to weather patterns, crop failures, extinctions of plant, insect and animal species, and global economic disruption and crisis'.

BIODIVERSITY CRISIS

Biodiversity is the variety of plant and animal life within a particular area, habitat or ecosystem (a community or group of living organisms that live in and interact with each. Human survival depends on healthy ecosystems providing us with benefits, environmental goods and services such as:

- Production of food, clean water, medical and other resources.
- Nutrient cycling, oxygen production, soil formation, habitat provision, pollination of food crops, and carbon capture and sequestration.
- Climate regulation, waste decomposition, control of animal populations, pests and diseases.
- Cultural, recreational and mental health benefits.

Our reliance on the natural processes of carbon sequestration by plants and trees, along with other ecosystem services, means that the climate crisis and biodiversity are inextricably linked. It is vital therefore, that measures to mitigate against the threat of global warming also promote the recovery of nature and its role in supporting resilient ecosystems. Agricultural land management, deforestation, climate change, hydrological change, pollution urbanisation, woodland management and invasive non-native species are amongst the most significant of pressures. One million species already face extinction unless action is taken to reduce the intensity of the drivers of biodiversity loss.

THE SCALE OF THE CHALLENGE

The global carbon budget can be divided using population sizes to give national, regional and local carbon budgets. Doing so gives Doncaster a total carbon budget of around 12 million tonnes of CO₂e. Once this has been spent, we need to be 'carbon neutral'. This means reducing our emissions such that any remaining emissions can be cancelled out by carbon capture or offsetting. Forecasts suggest that, at current rates, Doncaster will use up its carbon budget in by 2027.

Doncaster clearly needs to reduce its rate of emissions such that our limited carbon budget lasts longer during which we can make the necessary investments and behavioural changes to transition to a lower carbon economy and way of living.

The Government's most recent biodiversity assessment indicates that the UK will not meet the Global 2020 targets it has committed to. Rapid changes in species abundance continues, with more species decreasing than increasing and with the rate of decline not letting-up and in some cases accelerating. Species distribution is falling, and 15% (1,188) of conservation-status species, are currently assessed as being threatened with extinction.

There are difficult investment and prioritisation decisions to be made: longer-term cost savings and benefits to the environment and the cost of not acting now versus the short and immediate term costs of changing behaviours, technology, and working practices. This is a difficult balancing act under normal circumstances but becomes more complicated during the current economic recovery period following major incidents such as the recent flooding and Covid-19 pandemic.

THE CURRENT SITUATION IN DONCASTER

Doncaster Talks

- 90% of respondents said that tackling climate change is extremely or somewhat important to them, with 87% agreeing or strongly agreeing with the need for big changes to address climate change.
- When asked about the way they do things (e.g. use of utilities in the home, how they travel, waste and recycling) majority of respondents said that they are already doing a lot or some changes to the way they do things in order to address climate change.
- Similarly, a large proportion of respondents (61%) said that they have already made changes to improve the insulation of their homes. Similar proportions of respondents said they have already made changes to their homes heating system (35%) and that they are willing but not able to (39%). Majority of respondents said that they are willing but not able to spend money on solar panels, an electric vehicle or other measures in response to climate change.
- 88% of respondents agree or strongly agree with the new naturalisation approach being trialled in different areas across the Borough.
- Respondents were asked to rank policy areas in order of importance to them. This resulted in Health and Wellbeing, Education and Skills and Economy being ranked as the top three, Arts and culture was ranked last, and Environment and climate change ranked in the middle (5 out of 8 policy areas).
- 63% of people choosing the options which focused on improving energy efficiency of existing homes and building new homes to high environmental standards, as well as saying no to building developments that are not at the highest environmental standards, even if this results in those developments not going ahead. Only 9% of respondents said that the council should focus on building many new homes, complying only with minimum legal building standards.
- When asked to place a marker on a continuum indicating where Doncaster should focus resources (from targeting resources on a few specific areas to spreading resources evenly across all areas), respondents put the marker near the middle, but slightly more towards spreading resources evenly across all areas.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Woodlands, Trees and Green Space

- Approximate 6% of Doncaster is woodland, a smaller proportion than South Yorkshire (7%) and UK (8%).
- Tree canopy cover is 13% (ranging from 7% (Stainforth/Barnby Dun) to 24% (Edlington/Warmsworth)); a smaller proportion than the South Yorkshire (16%) and UK (16%) averages.
- Standard of Doncaster parks varies; some are high standard (Fields in Trust status), others are poor/declining standard.

Biodiversity

- We lack Doncaster-specific data evidence on local biodiversity gains and losses upon which to base targeted initiatives.

Water Quality, Flood Management and Drainage

- Large proportions of the east of the borough have low-lying agricultural land that is intensively pump-drained and subject to Water Level Management Plans.
- Doncaster has large areas that are at risk from river and/or surface water flooding. Much of the northern half of the borough is designated as flood zone 3.

Peatland and Soil

- Doncaster has one of the largest areas of lowland raised bog (peatland) in the UK's (Thorne and Hatfield Moors covers 3,318 hectares, supporting 5000+species of plants and animals).

Contaminated Land

- Currently 43 sites in Doncaster on the public Contaminated Land Register.
- Existing policies in place to ensure developments take account of any contaminated land.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Energy Efficiency of Buildings & Sustainable Energy

- Most of Doncaster's 135,000 homes are energy rating D (43%) and C (24%). 23% are E/F/G, 10% are A/B. National average is D. Around 62% of Council stock is energy rating C, and 35% energy rating D. A small proportion are rating B.
- No data available on energy efficiency of commercial or community buildings.
- Doncaster has the 9th highest number of renewable energy installations in the UK, with 7,053 homes and 191 businesses generating their own electricity (as of March 2019).

Statutory Nuisances

- 2000+ noise complaints received per year, mostly from residential sources (music, pets, neighbours). Only 80 odour complaints (mainly agricultural, in rural areas) and 25 light complaints respectively.

Transport

- Air quality is largely okay, but 8 Air Quality Management areas have been declared – all near busy roads, due to nitrogen dioxide levels.
- Doncaster has consistently had the highest vehicle use in South Yorkshire 1993-2019. Motor vehicle traffic has increased 67% over this period.
- Bus use in Sheffield City Region has fallen by 18% in 10 years.
- Overall downward trend across 2015-2018 of cycling for travel from 12% down to 9% (similar to England and S. Yorks).
- Overall upward trend across 2015-2019 of walking for travel from 24% up to 27% (similar to England and S. Yorks).
- 9 rail stations across Doncaster. Doncaster and Conisbrough have seen increases in travellers across 2016-2018 (2% and 29% respectively), but all others (Adwick, Bentley, Hatfield/Stainforth, Kirk Sandall, Mexborough and Thorne North and Thorne South) have seen reductions (ranging from 6% to 14%).

ECONOMY & GREEN TECHNOLOGY

Nature Tourism

- Between 2017-2019 there was an average 7.1 million day visitors, 760,000 overnight stays, and total visitor spend of around £253m per year. Several parks and nature reserves have achieved Green Flag awards and/or are protected heritage sites and form key aspects of Doncaster's visitor economy.

Green and Innovative Economy

- Across all the low-carbon and renewable energy economy, 3,649 jobs will be required by 2030, and 5,565 will be required by 2050. These will include sectors such as alternative fuels, low-carbon heat, energy efficiency and low emission vehicles and infrastructure.

Existing Business Operations and Growth

- GVA increased 37% to £5.9bn between 2012-2018. Business base grew 44% to around 9,400 across 2010-2020 (90% are micro businesses employing up to 9 people). Private sector jobs increased 17% to 95,000 (2009-2019). This included professional, scientific and technical jobs (+2,500), transport and storage (+2,000), construction (+2,000), manufacturing (+1,000), business administration and support services (+1,000). Reductions were seen in retail (-1,000) and mining, quarrying and utilities (-700). Public sector jobs also reduced by approximately 5,000.
- House building rates were on a par with the national average and we've seen over 1,000 net new homes per year for the last 4 years.
- Covid 19 has had an unprecedented impact on our economy in terms of job losses and business closures. As at May 2020, the number of claimants searching for work reached 14,560 (8% of working age population) – double the amount the same time in the previous year. The proportion of 16-24 year olds searching for work was 11% - the second highest in the country.
- Doncaster has long-standing post-industrial challenges relating to: relatively low skills levels (e.g. ranked 62 out of 63 in Great Britain for NVQ4+ skills); an above average proportion of residents with no formal qualifications (ranked 43 out of 63); relatively low productivity levels (ranked 55 out of 63); relatively low levels and exports per job (ranked 59 out of 63); and relatively high unemployment levels (7.2% compared to a rate of 3.9% for England).
- Doncaster has distinctive industry strengths it can exploit to create quality jobs and tackle climate change at the same time. Doncaster is linking its competitive advantages and wider low-carbon growth opportunities to investment in education, skills and training. This includes developing new Centres of Excellence as part of Doncaster's University City ambitions – including Green Tech.

Farming

- Farming is a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions but can also play a significant role in climate adaptation and mitigation. Agricultural emissions are mainly methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O); not CO₂ like for electricity generation, transport and manufacturing. Cutting CH₄ and N₂O emissions is difficult because they result from complex natural soil and animal microbial processes.
- Doncaster's commercial agricultural sector has around 36,000 hectares; almost ¾ of which are cereals and other arable crops including biofuels – likely therefore to include significant contract farming as well as locally owned farms. Roughly 6000 hectares is used for grassland for livestock and almost 300 hectares is used for fruit and vegetables.
- Direct employment in Doncaster's agriculture is modest – around 865 individuals.
- Turbulent weather has a huge impact on farm businesses. 2020's harvest is expected to be the lowest in 40 years.
- Farms are often dissimilar to each other with unique characteristics and circumstances in place – any opportunities/solutions/support mechanisms will need to be flexible enough to be accessible to a range of different businesses.

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION

Food

- Love Food Hate Waste (LFHW) is a national campaign to tackle the 8 million tonnes of food waste thrown away each year in the UK at a cost of £12 billion to households. Since its launch, millions of people have responded saving around £1.5 billion worth of food.
- Better education around health and skills development is required around fresh food preparation due to the large amount of avoidable waste, transport and energy use, generated from convenience foods, that could be tackled if families could be encouraged to cook from scratch.
- The Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham (BDR) Waste Partnership, Love Food Hate Waste Campaign centres around 5 themes: Perfect Portions, Love Your leftovers, Savvy Storage, Know your dates, Planning Perfection
- In BDR, 34% of household residual waste consists of food waste. Doncaster households are estimated to be wasting an average 2.4kg of food waste per week; of which 60% is classed as avoidable waste that could have been consumed at some point prior to disposal.

Fly tipping and litter

- Monthly fly tipping incidents range from 441 (Oct 2017) to 122 (May 2019). This is aligned with other similar authorities and slightly below the national average. Monthly fly-tipping incidents have further reduced with 109 reported in July 2020.
- This data significantly under-states the true number of incidents because they do not include fly-tipping in hotspot areas which are dealt with separately on a scheduled basis. Hotspots include many areas of the Borough where residential streets have back alleys.

Waste & Recycling

- Detailed information about the exact amount of total waste generated in Doncaster is not available as there are several sources of waste and a standard system for waste reporting does not exist for commercial operators.
- 63% of waste is Construction, Demolition and Excavation; 18% is Commercial and industrial; and 12% is household waste.
- The amount of waste collected by the Council that is recycled increased from 41% to 46% (2014-2018) and the percentage going to landfill has reduced from 55% to less than 5%.
- Fortnightly black, green and blue bin and green box collections occur, and household waste is processed at a BDR facility for recycling and solid recovered fuel production.

STRATEGIC CHALLENGES

As important as the environment is, we cannot tackle issues in isolation without due consideration for other strategic priorities. Acknowledgement of the synergies and conflicts that exist between the Environment and Sustainability Strategy and other key strategic priorities is critical; as is working together amongst partners to find appropriate connections and compromises to ensure everyone remains supportive of the interventions we seek to deliver.

Interventions that bring benefits to the environment may be directly or indirectly beneficial or detrimental to certain partners' priorities/operations. Where required, a supported transition will be necessary to ensure the right changes happen in the timescales needed.

Some business sectors that are currently thriving in Doncaster rely heavily on fossil fuels and are high in emissions and so by their very nature are detrimental to the environment e.g. logistics, manufacturing, aviation. It will be important to identify opportunities for these sectors to 'green' their processes in order to reduce and mitigate their impact on the environment.

Making changes to operations and investment requirements to become 'greener' may be unaffordable for some businesses within the current economic climate. Being voluntary 'early-movers' to greener ways of operating will likely be good for businesses' reputations, but may make some businesses less competitive with competitors that continue with current ways of working, particularly if 'greening' has led to higher costs for goods and services. Potential opportunities for collaboration and support to those businesses need to be exploited.

Embracing new green technology sectors will likely bring more and higher paid job opportunities to the borough, but may also be out of reach for the significant number of low-skilled workers in Doncaster. These new technologies may also be detrimental to existing industries as the new, greener technologies become more popular. Our education and skills strategy must be shaped by businesses, focusing on the new knowledge and skills required for future job opportunities.

High levels of deprivation remain across significant proportions of our borough, rendering many households unable to make significant investments in environment-improving interventions and unable to realise the associated benefits. Opportunities for support, financial and informative, need to be identified and promoted to ensure nobody is left behind.

Deep-rooted habits and behaviours exist both at individual and organisational levels that can be difficult to change voluntarily. Clear information and policy direction will need to be provided to encourage and support individuals and organisations to change their behaviour where needed to contribute towards achievement of the Borough's targets and ambitions. Similarly, our elected members have a role to play in lobbying Government to introduce legislation to support environmental protection and improvement, giving local progress and the environment due consideration in any local lobbying activity on behalf of residents and businesses.

The way we recover from the economic impact of the CV19 pandemic will have a significant impact on our climate-related ambitions. Supporting people that have become unemployed to get back into work may involve continuing short-term encouragement and support for enterprises in industry sectors that we will ultimately transition away from in favour of greener job sectors. We must recognise the need for a transition from certain industry sectors to cleaner, greener alternatives; but recognise that this transition needs to be managed and supported carefully.

Infrastructure developments and certain industry sector expansions, e.g. major road developments, potential airport expansion; will have negative environmental impacts. Such economically important developments need to take the environment into consideration and evidence mitigation measures to reduce environmental impact, particularly in line with the Government's Environment Bill, which introduced a mandatory requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) in the planning system. Development on brownfield sites should be prioritised over greenfield sites.

The financial resources available from private households, businesses, and local and national government is insufficient to implement the interventions needed. We must look for and exploit alternative funding sources to help our residents and businesses to make the required investments to reduce their own carbon footprint; e.g. exploiting the carbon offsetting activity of private companies from outside Doncaster.

Some biodiversity-focused interventions could provide environmental benefits alongside savings to tax-payer funded services, but could be in conflict with the generally accepted standard and 'look and feel' of the borough e.g. regularly cut grass verges vs a 'naturalisation' approach of letting the grass grow and encouraging wildflowers/plants.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CROSS-CUTTING BENEFITS

Although this strategy focuses on the environment, there are broader benefits to tackling climate change. These factors, along with the cost and challenges faced if we do not act, must be at the forefront of policy and investment decisions.

BENEFITS TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING

A healthy environment is vital for human health and wellbeing. Poorly planned and managed communities with unsustainable transport systems and a lack of access to public and green areas increase air pollution, noise and heat islands, reduce opportunities for physical activity and have a negative impact on community life and people's physical and mental health (WHO, 2020).

Improving access to a healthier environment (e.g. better air quality) will help improve health and wellbeing outcomes for Doncaster residents such as reduced risk of chronic conditions and better mental health.

Addressing climate change will decrease the frequency and intensity of heatwaves, droughts and extreme rainfall and reduce the transmission of food-borne, water-borne and zoonotic infectious diseases. Those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations are at higher risk and strategic actions are required to support those disproportionately affected.

Team Doncaster and local communities should work collectively to mitigate the negative effects of increasing demands for energy, transport and technological innovation in order to protect and promote health. Health needs to be central to decisions affecting these trends, identifying opportunities for health protection and promotion.

BENEFITS TO THE ECONOMY

Ensuring that businesses become more environment-conscious regarding their infrastructure and processes will help to reduce emissions but will also provide a financial benefit. For example, using less energy to heat buildings means lower running costs; and natural environment solutions can be lower cost compared to engineered solutions.

A crucial activity for this strategy is to connect businesses with funding opportunities to help make the changes required to reduce their environmental impact – both in terms of awareness and support. It must also help to connect businesses with investment opportunities – for example, those identified by the Natural Capital Assessment.

Resource efficiency is another opportunity for savings. The 'circular economy' approach ensures that waste from one business or sector is re-used as a raw material/resource for another. This can generate savings for businesses both in purchasing and disposal costs. We must maximise awareness of the businesses operating in our area and support the development of supply/demand partnerships between our local businesses.

New markets will open up, stimulated by the increased demand for existing and new technologies and services. These will include opportunities for higher skilled and higher paid jobs for local residents. There will also be opportunities for existing and new businesses operating in the supply chains of these new enterprises. Doncaster businesses need to position themselves with the right knowledge and skills to take advantage of these opportunities.

BENEFITS TO HOUSEHOLDS, NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITIES

Changing the way we do things could help households save considerable sums e.g. lower utility bills through better insulation, lower energy costs and carbon footprints through local energy production, lower transport costs through using active travel options for shorter journeys. Money saved from environment-conscious decisions gives us more money to spend in our community and leads to further investment and jobs growth in our local economy.

Protecting and enhancing our natural environment creates more pleasant places to live, work, and spend leisure time, which is as good for rest, relaxation and mental health as it is for activity and physical health. Neighbourhood pride will increase, encouraging residents and visitors to take responsibility and maintain those high standards.

More specifically, appropriate protection against extreme climate-related events gives residents and business owners the confidence to invest in their homes, businesses and neighbourhoods, leading to broader place-based and economic improvements.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

1. WOODLAND, TREES & GREEN SPACES

Green infrastructure contributes significantly to local climate regulation. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, converting it to oxygen through natural processes. Tree canopies create shade and shelter, and they help prevent or reduce the risk of flooding by absorbing water, intercepting it and slowing down the rate that it flows into rivers. Trees also help protect soil erosion and surface run off and provide a pleasant, natural landscape and cover for/contrast within the built environment. Our parks, green spaces, and woodland enhance our settlements, providing places for us to relax and exercise, while at the same time providing areas where nature can flourish. Through diversification of grassland management, we can support ecosystems and reduce our carbon footprint.

Aims

- Protect and enhance existing woodland and green spaces.
- Increase overall tree cover and woodland cover.
- Maximise prevalence of appropriate green space in new developments.
- Achievement & maintenance of 'Quality Parks' benchmark standards for open space provision.
- Enhance the biodiversity value of all public open spaces, as key connecting components of ecological networks and sites supporting access to nature.

Outcome

Improved green space provision and increased tree coverage.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Through active engagement, interpretation and education, ensure that the value of woodland, wood pasture, trees, and parks is understood and considered by policy makers, residents and businesses.	X	X	X
Manage public open spaces for biodiversity through appropriate management practices, informed by expert advice and local knowledge, e.g. naturalisation of appropriate greenspace.	X	X	X
Use the Future Parks Programme to develop, implement and share best practice; and integrate new technologies into parks provision through the Smart Parks project.		X	
Maintain and improve current and future green infrastructure assets.	X	X	X
Support the continued development of the Doncaster Green Space Network – enhancing social & community capacity, developing local knowledge share/best practice.	X	X	X
Ensure that open space, woodland, trees and hedgerows are adequately considered in new developments, with a presumption against developments that result in loss or deterioration of woodland/trees.	X	X	
Develop and implement a tree-planting programme, to include various sized sites from individual trees in gardens to strategic woodland creation where feasible.	X	X	X
Procurement of companies with appropriate growing procedures and controls to ensure that all nursery stock planted is free from pest and disease.	X	X	X

Key Strategies and Plans

- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (2021) (in development)
- South Yorkshire Natural Capital Assessment (including woodland creation opportunity map) (2021) (in development)
- Future Parks management plans (2019)
- [Doncaster Green Infrastructure strategy \(2014\)](#)
- [Tree Policy and Tree Risk Management plan \(2019\)](#)
- Doncaster Council Environment Services Improvement plan (2021) (in development)

2. BIODIVERSITY

Mirroring global trends, the UK's biodiversity is undergoing significant declines due to agricultural practices, detrimental land management, climate change, urban expansion, pollution, and invasive non-native species. The impact on nature includes loss of habitat and degradation of its quality, character, distinctiveness and connectivity; in-turn resulting in a loss of species diversity – our biological communities are becoming more similar to each other and in turn less resilient.

We must adopt a step-change in how we value and use the natural environment in order to protect and enhance biodiversity and ensure that ecosystems are resilient, continue to function and thrive and provide us with goods and services like food, clean water and oxygen production. We must work to a principle of 'bigger, better and more joined-up' areas of nature. This means thinking about ecosystem functions at a landscape-scale.

Doncaster has a varied landscape with many green and blue infrastructure assets, such as its parks, woodlands, allotments, playing fields, cemeteries, rivers and canals. It has conservation sites of international importance (Thorne & Hatfield Moors), two Nature Improvement Areas (The Dearne Valley and Humberhead Levels), and 15 Sites of Special Scientific Interest. We have a long history of natural history recording and conservation successes in partnership working, but much more needs to be done. Many people also recognise the intrinsic value of biodiversity and are calling for and taking action for the environment for nature's sake.

Aims	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embed South Yorkshire Natural Capital Assessment outcomes & principles in decision-making. Continued partnership work to deliver strategic, landscape-scale biodiversity projects. Develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy to identify and communicate where and how the most strategic and beneficial interventions should be targeted. Facilitate informed local, community action to complement strategic biodiversity projects. Connect more people with the natural environment and improve access to nature. Adopt a Biodiversity Net Gain approach for Doncaster. Protect Doncaster's environment from invasive non-native species. 	Bigger areas for nature, and better quality habitats, that are more joined up at all scales.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Work with and support strategic partners to share and apply the Natural Capital Assessment evidence and insights and highlight the continued need for high-quality environmental data.	X	X	
Develop and implement a Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	X	X	X
Maintain and improve the condition of the borough's statutory nature conservation sites (Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Areas for Conservation and Special Protection Areas).	X	X	
Increase the proportion of non-statutory Local Wildlife Sites in positive management.	X	X	X
Support the designation/extension of a Dearne Valley Site of Special Scientific Interest.		X	
Support a review of the Humberhead Levels Site of Special Scientific Interest re-notification.		X	
Research, develop and implement a Biodiversity Net Gain approach for Doncaster.	X	X	
Review existing DMBC land management regimes and the potential for public open spaces and connecting areas of green and blue infrastructure to deliver biodiversity enhancements, e.g. 'naturalisation' of appropriate greenspace e.g. grass verges, areas within parks.	X	X	X
'Greening' of the public realm and 'art and ecology' collaborations.	X	X	X
Engage with communities to ensure that changes to land management are well informed and communicated, and promote opportunities for local stewardship and adoption of good practice.	X	X	X
Work in partnership to engage with landowners and managers, particularly (but not exclusively) in the farming sector, to understand the challenges and opportunities for biodiversity, and explore where better outcomes can be supported for farming and wildlife.	X	X	
Support environmental research and innovative approaches to sustainable land and water management, including through changes in agricultural land-use and practice, to help inform policy change, environmental subsidy and a diversified green economy.	X	X	X
Promote and support biodiversity recording and monitoring to ensure that decisions are well informed by sound environmental information.	X	X	

Key Strategies and Plans

- South Yorkshire Natural Capital Assessment (including woodland creation opportunity map) (2021) (in development)
- Biodiversity Net Gain guidance (2020) (in development)
- [Doncaster Green Infrastructure strategy \(2014\)](#)
- Doncaster Council Environment Services Improvement Plan (2021)
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (in development)

3. WATER QUALITY, FLOOD MANAGEMENT & DRAINAGE

Safe, well-managed and good quality water resources are essential to the health, wellbeing and sustainability of the population. Our lakes and rivers form part of our biodiversity ecosystem as well as providing economic and health benefits in the form of blue tourism and pleasant places at which physical activity is encouraged.

A well-maintained drainage network leads to multiple benefits including reduced risk of flooding which affects local homes and the ability of local people to travel to work. Doncaster has suffered from severe flooding on multiple occasions recently so we must do all we can to reactively and proactively protect homes and businesses from the devastating effect it has on our communities.

Appropriate road drainage also reduces potholes and helps reduce delays to transport – reducing emissions and improving the reliability of public, private and commercial transport.

Aims

- Develop robust asset intelligence, identify key flood risk areas and map drainage assets.
- Develop and implement Water Level Management Plans that include the long-term sustainability of drainage networks and consider how current practices can support biodiversity and catchment flood management more effectively.
- Develop and implement a borough-wide pump management policy.
- Design, promote, manage and monitor Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS).
- Develop and implement an appropriate de-culverting programme.
- Support the work of Catchment Partnerships in identifying issues and solutions, sharing information, expertise and advice and seeking funding for the delivery of targeted priorities.
- Explore opportunities to reconnect rivers with their floodplain and associated habitat types.
- Increase resident/business engagement in river stewardship organisations, through opportunities, education, awareness and empowerment.
- Reduce diffuse pollution inputs to the borough’s waterbodies.
- Ensure appropriate monitoring, management and regulation of controlled waters (aquifers).

Outcome

Better water quality and better protection from flooding.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Closer, joined up working between Doncaster Drainage Boards and review of Water Level Management Plans.	X	X	
Support the work of Catchment Partnerships in identifying issues and solutions, sharing information, expertise and advice and seeking funding for delivery of targeted priorities.	X	X	
Implement Catchment Plans for the River Don and the River Torne.	X	X	
Implement Local Plan policies requiring due consideration and measures to deal with drainage and flood risk.	X	X	
Raise awareness of the impact of (& reduce the use of) using chemicals such as pesticides (in particular when there is a possibility of run-off to watercourses).	X	X	X
Planned works completed on a cyclical basis that includes cleansing all road gullies, linear drainage, soakaways, trash screens, pumping stations, ponds and flow controls.	X	X	
Adequate maintenance of drainage assets that support flood risk mitigation.	X	X	

Key Strategies and Plans

- [Our Plan for the River Don \(2020\)](#)
- [Don](#), [Dearne](#), [Torne](#) and Rother Catchment Plan (various, under review)
- South Yorkshire Natural Capital Assessment (including woodland creation opportunity map) (2021) (in development)
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (2021) (in development)
- [Local Flood Risk Management Strategy \(2014\)](#)
- Water level management plans (IDB) for Thorne, Crowle and Goole Moors ([Part 1 \(2008\)](#) and [Part 2 \(2018\)](#)) and [Hatfield Chase \(1995\)](#)
- Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) Adoption Policy (2020) (in development)
- [Humber River Basin District Management Plan \(2015\)](#)

4. PEATLAND AND SOIL

Peatlands are highly significant to global efforts to combat climate change and the achievement of wider sustainable development goals because when they are in a healthy condition they act as large land-based carbon sinks and water stores. They form part of a diverse natural environment that contributes to biodiversity but also provide a natural landscape that promotes health and wellbeing. In their healthy, natural, wet state peatlands are an internationally important habitat for a diverse range of plant and animal species but they also provide vital ecosystem services. These include storing and capturing carbon from our atmosphere, helping to minimise the risk of flooding by storing and regulating water flows and they sequester carbon.

Lowland peat is one of the most carbon rich habitats in the UK and Doncaster has the largest extent of lowland raised bog in England – Hatfield, Thorne, Goole and Crowle Moors covers over 3,300 hectares. The mixture of habitats, including peatland, marsh, woodland and gravel pits, means the area is incredibly rich in wildlife – the reserve supports over 5,000 species of plants and animals, of which more than 4,000 are insects. Large parts of Potteric Carr are on peat soils and it has pockets of conservation managed fens as well as tall reedbed communities; there are significant areas of agricultural peatland and some ex-floodplain fens located along the River Torne too.

Unfortunately, a significant proportion of Doncaster’s lowland peat was damaged by commercial peat extraction in the second half of the 20th Century. These areas have been drained and degraded which has lowered the natural water table and has reduced the land’s ability to provide many of the ecosystem services mentioned above, converting them from carbon sinks to significant sources of carbon release. Conservation-managed lowland fens under high water table management are among the most effective carbon sinks per unit area in England and Wales, whereas agriculturally drained lowland peats are amongst the UK’s largest land-use derived source of carbon dioxide emissions. There is a clear correlation between CO2 balance and mean water table depth and so restoring or raising water level in agriculturally drained lowland peatlands could deliver nationally significant climate mitigation benefits

Restoration of floodplain fens must therefore be a priority particularly where they are not in intensive management and can be relatively easily restored, and we need to give careful consideration to intensively managed agricultural land. Work is underway to remediate the numerous sites, but it will be years before the bog is fully functional again, which is key to maximising its potential as a carbon store.

Soil loss and its environmental impact is not limited to the peatlands. Watercourses in agricultural land throughout the Doncaster area are impacted by sediments from soil loss – reducing biodiversity, contributing to flood risk, and increasing release of carbon and soil fertility.

Aims

- Restoration and conservation of peatland sites to retain suitable conditions for the development of raised bog and its vegetation.
- Appropriate management of agricultural peatlands.
- Improve understanding of the location of existing peat soils, in particular degraded peatland to inform a restoration programme.
- Encourage, support and promote composting schemes, both home and commercial, as an alternative to peat-based compost purchases.

Outcome

Peatland is recognised, protected, enhanced and extended for biodiversity, water storage, carbon sequestration, and essential climate mitigation.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Enforce Local Plan policies protecting from significant loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land; and require development proposals to demonstrate that all practicable steps have been taken for soil resources to be conserved and managed in a sustainable way.	X	X	
Work in partnership with Natural England, Humberhead Peatlands National Nature Reserve, Environment Agency, River Torne Catchment partnership and YWT.	X	X	
Insist on low/no peat content in soils/compost in horticultural works.	X	X	X

Key Strategies and Plans

- [UK Peatland Strategy \(2018\)](#)
- [Site Management Plans for the individual Moors](#) (under review)
- Wildfire plans relating to response and recovery (in development)
- South Yorkshire Natural Capital Assessment (including woodland creation opportunity map) (2021) (in development)
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (2021) (in development)

5. CONTAMINATED LAND

Doncaster has a rich industrial past and thus has a legacy of historic land contamination involving a very wide range of substances. Although there is little conclusive evidence of serious acute health effects from the types and levels of land contamination found in England, given the known toxicology of contaminants at certain sites and their potential health risks associated with long-term exposure, it is prudent to ensure areas potentially affected from contamination are managed appropriately.

Aims

- Identify, risk assess and appropriately manage contaminated land.
- Consider and mitigate the potential impact of flooding on contaminated land sites.
- Review and update the Contaminated Land strategy and register.
- Maintain a GIS database which links planning developments and land quality databases, enabling the more efficient processing of planning applications.

Outcome

Potential risk from contaminated land sites is appropriately mitigated.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Continue to map, review & ratify potential contaminated land sites; with appropriate sharing of intelligence amongst partners/stakeholders.	X	X	
Local plan policies to ensure development sites mitigate contamination or unstable land.		X	
Partnership working amongst The Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Pollution Advisory Group to promote best practice, training and guidance documents for partners/stakeholders.	X	X	
Prioritise potential sites for inspection – as per the Inspection Strategy 2017, ensuring potential high-risk sites are identified, risk assessed, recorded and remediated in accordance with the Contaminated Land Regulations.		X	

Key Strategies and Plans

- [Contaminated Land Inspection strategy \(2017\)](#)

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

6. ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF BUILDINGS & SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Buildings, be they housing, commercial or community units, are amongst the biggest sources of CO2 emissions, due in part to their requirement for heat and power, but also their low levels of energy efficiency. A key requisite for health is that people can afford energy and can heat and run their homes efficiently.

Embedding sustainability into current and future housing and other developments is essential for a cleaner and greener borough. Supporting interventions and developments that improve the energy efficiency of buildings can also contribute to an inclusive economy that benefits the health and wellbeing of everyone in Doncaster.

Despite Doncaster's significant housing growth over the last half a decade, most of our housing stock is relatively old – developed during times when build standards were significantly lower than today's requirements. We need to not only build to high standards, but also retrofit new, higher standards to existing buildings. Consideration will be given to re-purposing existing buildings as it can be more sustainable than demolishing and replacing with new builds. Consideration of the heritage and listed status of historical buildings will need to be given.

Renewable sources of energy offer several potential advantages. They do not irreversibly deplete finite resources, and most have a lower climate footprint than fossil fuels. If managed well, they can pose minimal health risks and can yield social and economic co-benefits. Such energy sources can serve individual buildings or could be at a community scale.

Aims	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise the energy efficiency of new and existing homes and buildings. Maximise the large-scale and small-scale renewable energy generation. Maximise the use of energy produced from renewable resources. 	Reduced carbon footprint from homes & buildings and reduced running costs for residents and businesses.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Ensure new build developments are built to the highest level of energy efficiency that is practicably and financially viable, utilising new energy technology and design.	X	X	
Lobby Government for better build standards and earlier introduction of these changes.	X	X	X
Undertake a retrofitting of insulation, space heating, and hot water facilities in domestic homes.	X	X	X
Increase the proportion of domestic and commercial heating supplied from fuel cell µCHP.	X	X	X
Reduce demand for domestic hot water and commercial heating, hot water and cooling.	X	X	X
Provide advice and guidance on energy saving measures to residents, landlords, schools, businesses, community groups.	X	X	
Ensure tenant awareness of and landlord adherence to building standards legal requirements.	X	X	
Promote and support access to energy saving grants/loans for households and businesses.	X	X	
Promote micro-renewable energy technologies and decentralised heat/power systems.	X	X	
Maximise opportunities to purchase and consume renewable electricity and heat generated within the borough. Encourage the use of energy providers that use renewable energy sources.	X	X	
Commission a private sector housing stock condition study and commercial buildings energy efficiency standards study; identify options for improvement.	X	X	
Development of appropriate renewable energy infrastructure throughout the borough.	X	X	X
Referrals to Council enforcement service from health care providers for anyone presenting with cold-related health issues (housing conditions assessment).	X	X	X
Promote the roll out of residential smart metering.	X	X	

Key Strategies and Plans

- Housing Strategy (2020) (in development)
- Housing Delivery Plan (2020)
- DMBC Enforcement Policies (various)
- Energy Masterplan (2020) (in development)
- [SCR Energy Strategy \(2020\)](#)
- [Heritage Strategy \(2015\)](#), under review)

7. STATUTORY NUISANCES INCLUDING NOISE, ODOUR AND LIGHT POLLUTION

Noise stands second to poor air quality in terms of the burden of ill health caused by a single pollutant and is increasingly high on the international agenda.

Odour nuisance is subjective and difficult to define and measure. They can also arise from a wide variety of sources. Although most odours are not harmful to health, they can be a common cause of distress and complaint for individuals.

Appropriate lighting contributes to a sense of identity and place, and makes for a safer and friendlier environment, however, inappropriate lighting can cause light pollution. There are health implications related to using inappropriate lighting in public spaces, including risks relating to glare, light pollution, harm to local ecologies and inappropriate light spectrums. Although artificial light can provide many benefits to society, it is important that the right lighting is in the right place, at the right time.

Aims	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reduce the creation of and optimise the response to nuisances such as noise, light, odour, dust and smoke issues.	Reduced noise, light and odour nuisances.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Make appropriate planning decisions based on best practice to mitigate adverse impacts of new developments.	X	X	
Develop and strengthen reporting and monitoring protocols amongst partners.	X	X	
Robust and fair enforcement in accordance with Enforcement Policies where necessary and appropriate.		X	
Enable easy and effective ways for residents and businesses to report nuisances affecting them.		X	

Key Strategies and Plans

- Doncaster Council Enforcement Policies (various)

8. TRANSPORT

Air quality has a demonstrable effect on health, with children and older people being more susceptible to the effects of air pollution. It is heavily affected by emissions from transport and industry, with traffic emissions being the major factor. These pollutants do not just affect the areas with greater traffic, given certain conditions, pollutants could be transported, great distances to affect areas far from the pollution source. Secondary pollutants such as ozone, created by reactions between sunlight and traffic emissions are also a problem across both urban and rural areas.

The use of cars, buses, lorries, and trains are an established part of our everyday lives, both for leisure and industry use; and a significant proportion of our economy is reliant on our fantastic transport links within Doncaster, regionally, national and internationally. We must minimise the environmental impact vehicular transport has and offset against any unavoidable damage it causes.

Aims	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove the 'Air Quality Management Area' status of the eight Doncaster areas with high nitrogen dioxide levels. Reduce vehicular emissions, by reducing the emissions from the vehicles using our roads and reducing the number of vehicles on the road. 	Improved air quality across the borough.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Increase prevalence of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles – both for personal and fleet; improving infrastructure, awareness and understanding of options, and increased prioritisation in investment decisions.	X	X	X
Increase average vehicle occupancies.	X	X	X
Improve provision of affordable, high quality, low emission public transport, and increased integration between bus and rail services.	X		
Decrease the average total distance travelled per individual per year.	X	X	X
Promote greater use of rail and waterborne freight options, with reduced use of and increased efficiency in road freight.	X		
Include sustainable, clean transport options in the design of all new developments – including active travel and public transport options; and ensure comprehensive health impact assessments are completed for all proposed major infrastructure developments to identify the impact on residents' health and identify mitigation where the development is deemed necessary.	X	X	
Provide safe, attractive environments to walk and cycle; focusing on reducing the 55% of journeys that are less than 1km made by car.		X	
Naturalisation of appropriate areas through appropriate measures such as changes in grass cutting frequency, planting more greenery or reducing public access.		X	
Implementation of the interventions identified in the Air Quality Action Plan		X	

Key Strategies and Plans

- [Air Quality Action Plan \(2018\)](#)
- [Walking Strategy \(2018\)](#)
- [Cycling Strategy \(2019\)](#)
- [Get Doncaster Moving Strategy \(2016\)](#)
- [Doncaster Green Infrastructure Strategy \(2014\)](#)
- [Local Plan \(2015\)](#) (approval underway, publication expected late 2020)

ECONOMY & GREEN TECHNOLOGY

9. NATURE TOURISM

Nature tourism (sometimes referred to as green and blue tourism), can be categorised into three groups: incidental natural settings/experiences; activities dependent on nature and where nature provides a focus; and activities enhanced by nature. The success of nature tourism is predicated on a few key factors: the presence of charismatic (or 'iconic') species, a supporting infrastructure of well managed sites capable of handling individuals and groups of visitors, and a network of supportive businesses including accommodation providers, catering services, and where relevant, locally based services such as boat trip operators and/or wildlife guides.

Between 2013 and 2015 Doncaster had 6.8million visitors (6.5m day visitors, 0.3m overnight visitors), and an overall visitor spend of £173m. There are 14,000 jobs in our visitor economy sector.

Aims	Outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue promotion of the borough's green/blue infrastructure including nature reserves and historic parks and gardens of national significance e.g. Potteric Carr, Thorne and Hatfield Moors, and Cusworth Hall & Brodsworth Hall and their parklands. Improve local transport links between tourism locations and key transport nodes such as Doncaster Transport Interchange and Robin Hood Airport. Protect, maintain and enhance our natural areas, and access to and within them. Encourage Green Tourism through investment and development. 	Nature tourism sites are protected, improved and well-used by residents and visitors.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Support appropriate non-residential development in the countryside that can support rural economies.	X	X	X
Local Plan policies to support the preservation/enhancement of key sites such as Thorne & Hatfield Moors.		X	
Achievement and maintenance of Green Flag status for the borough's parks.		X	
Promote nature tourism opportunities via Visit Doncaster, through both investment and development.	X	X	X
Continue to promote the markets to encourage local purchasing and reduce food miles.	X	X	

Key Strategies and Plans

- [Visitor Economy Strategy \(2019\)](#)
- [Heritage Strategy and Policies \(2015\)](#), under review)

10. GREEN AND INNOVATIVE ECONOMY

A recent LGA report ('Local green jobs – accelerating sustainable economic recovery' (2020)) estimates that across the low-carbon and renewable energy economy, around 3,600 jobs will be required by 2030 and 5,600 by 2050. These will mostly be within the alternative fuels, low-carbon heat and energy efficiency sectors; but will also include low emission vehicles & infrastructure, low-carbon services and low-carbon electricity.

To fully exploit the benefits of a low carbon economy, it is necessary to develop an overall circular economy – to keep finite resources in a loop of use and reuse for as long as possible using renewable energy sources. A circular economy aims to redefine growth, focusing on positive society-wide benefits. It entails gradually decoupling economic activity from the consumption of finite resources, and designing waste out of the system. This needs to be underpinned by a transition to renewable energy sources. The circular model builds economic, natural, and social capital and is based on three principles:

- Design out waste and pollution
- Keep products and materials in use
- Regenerate natural systems

Aims

- Prioritise investment in a low carbon economy – to improve the well-being of residents through cleaner air, environmental security, improved health, improved public transport, and a resilient economy with more quality jobs.
- Developing a framework for delivering green growth that will balance the improvement of local well-being with the respect for planetary environmental boundaries.
- Support the development of skills needed for low carbon jobs.
- Support the development of a Green Technology Centre of Excellence as part of the University City work.

Outcome

Opportunities in the green economy are accessible and exploited.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Prioritise low-carbon investments that will deliver jobs at scale and deliver productive and sustainable assets for the future.	X	X	
Take advantage of public, industry and Government pressure for a more sustainable borough including development of new buildings, machinery and retro-fitting/upgrading of existing technology to newer, cleaner standards.	X	X	
Invest in 'green' buildings – improving energy efficiency in residential and commercial buildings.	X	X	X
Invest in low-carbon energy infrastructure and usage.	X	X	X
Invest in Doncaster's natural capital and green infrastructure – for ecosystem resilience, job creation and regeneration.	X	X	
Support the low-carbon transition – to ensure the benefits of acting on climate change are shared widely and the costs of a sustainable transition do not fall on those least able to pay, or whose livelihoods are most at risk as the economy changes.	X	X	X
Re-skilling communities to support and take advantage of green and innovative economic growth.	X	X	X
Encourage and support businesses to upgrade their business premises.	X	X	X
Increase the take-up of energy suppliers using 100% renewable sources amongst Doncaster businesses.	X	X	X
Harness local, regional and national funding to support the transition.	X	X	X
Adherence to Local Plan policies requiring developments to contribute to Green Infrastructure, meet high BREEAM standards and have at least 10% of regulated energy from renewables.	X	X	

Key Strategies and Plans

- Borough Strategy (2020) (in development)
- [Inclusive Growth Strategy \(2018\)](#)
- Housing Strategy (2020) (in development)
- [SCR Strategic Economic Plan \(2020\)](#)
- [SCR Energy Strategy \(2020\)](#)
- Education and Skills Strategy (2020) (in development)

11. EXISTING BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND GROWTH

Doncaster has over 9,000 businesses of which 90% are micro businesses employing 0-9 people. The top five employing sectors are Health, Retail, Manufacturing, Transport & Storage, and Education; and our economy is in a transition from an economy dominated by heavy industry to a more diverse, knowledge-driven economy. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a major impact locally – both in term of job losses and business closures.

Doncaster already has distinctive industry strengths it can exploit to create quality jobs and tackle climate change at the same time. We must continue to invest and support our competitive advantage in areas such as Future Mobility and industry specialisms such as rail engineering and logistics.

Doncaster and the Sheffield City Region economic recovery plans are focused on the imperatives of getting people back into work, through employment and skills support, supporting as many businesses as possible to bounce back and exploiting new markets and opportunities – such as the need for environmental improvements and the development of new technologies. At the same time, the objective of ‘building-back better’ for the longer-term underpins the work – to improve the well-being of residents within a zero-carbon future.

Aims

- Minimise the carbon footprint of Doncaster businesses.
- Develop Doncaster’s Future Mobility competitive advantages.
- Develop environmentally friendly supply chains.
- Support local innovative businesses in the circular economy to grow.
- Create a development zone for net carbon neutral manufacturing and innovation.
- Develop a Sustainability Centre on the Waterfront site.

Outcome

Local businesses are supported to be more environmentally sustainable and to access opportunities associated with the green economy.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Undertake a local business audit to understand the scale and scope of ‘green ‘activity completed or underway.	X		
Development of appropriate support for small and medium enterprises to be more sustainable.	X	X	
Promoting ‘low carbon’ business practices through supply chains, promoting accredited sustainability standards through purchasing, employee travel plans.	X		

Key Strategies and Plans

- Borough Strategy (2020) (in development)
- [Inclusive Growth Strategy \(2018\)](#)
- Housing Strategy (2020) (in development)
- [SCR Strategic Economic Plan \(2020\)](#)
- [SCR Energy Strategy \(2020\)](#)
- Education and Skills Strategy (2020) (in development)

12. FARMING

Agriculture is uniquely placed to tackle climate change as it is both an emissions source and a sink. Farmers have the ability to protect carbon reserves stored in soils and vegetation through sustainable farming practice that focuses on soil health. Healthy soil is fundamental to safe and affordable food production. It also locks in greenhouse gases and can help reduce the risk of flooding. The principal GHG emitted by most industries is CO₂ from fossil fuel combustion, whereas for agricultural systems its methane and nitrous oxide (N₂O). Reducing these emissions is more difficult than cutting CO₂, because they result from complex and imperfectly understood natural soil and animal microbial processes. A supply of nitrogen from organic or inorganic sources is necessary for the growth of crops and pasture (food), and it is an unavoidable consequence of soil processes that a small amount of nitrogen in an agricultural system will be emitted as nitrous oxide.

There are no ‘silver bullet’ answers to tackling climate change, but improving farming’s productive efficiency will enable farmers to produce the same quantity of food, or more, with less inputs, in smarter ways. This, in turn, will enable the sector to further reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. A variety of measures can include loosening compacted soils and preventing soil compaction in cropland and pasture, reducing the need for cultivation and minimising N₂O emissions. Enhancing carbon storage in soils and vegetation will require collaborative working with multiple parties. There also needs to be recognition by all parties of the multiple environmental benefits that could be layered together with carbon storage in response to a realistic carbon reward price.

Doncaster’s commercial agricultural sector has around 36,000 hectares, almost three quarters of which are cereals and other arable crops including biofuels. Doncaster’s farms include significant contract farming as well as locally owned farms. Approximately 6000 hectares is grassland for livestock and around 300 hectares are used for fruit and vegetables. Following the UK’s exit from the EU, farms face the challenge of changing subsidies and changing commercial challenges from new trade deals. We need to understand and support our farmers to be both viable and successful businesses that can contribute to our local economy; but also support them to farm in a way that supports biodiversity and contributes to reducing climate change and supporting local health and wellbeing.

Aims

- Gain a better understanding of the farming industry within Doncaster.
- Support local food producers to adapt to climate change and challenging weather events.
- Enable local farming businesses to play a role in sustainable local food security.
- Engage local farmers and landowners in the development of nature recovery networks and biodiversity protection and enhancement.
- Support regenerative farming and local food production approaches, including improving access to land for smallholdings, agroecological land trusts or county farms.

Outcome

Local farms are resilient and adaptable to changing conditions, and actively support the reduction of impacts of climate change.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Improve intelligence on local farms – for example, which farms are signed up to carbon cutting schemes, ELMS or other biodiversity initiatives, tree planting and commercial off-setting, selling produce locally, renewable energy generation, etc.	X	X	
Support local farms to make the best use of opportunities such as ELM funding, woodland creation funding, commercial carbon offsetting option, and renewable energy production.	X	X	
Identify and promote funding and investment opportunities to promote the financial viability of Doncaster’s agricultural sector, particularly where finance relates to sustainability, renewable energy, decarbonisation, carbon sequestration and offsetting, and biodiversity enhancement.	X	X	
Training & support for new entrants, social enterprises, cooperatives and community ownership.	X		
Promote relevant partnership working between Doncaster’s agricultural sector, land agents, business sector, and other Team Doncaster partners.	X	X	
Develop a clearly defined food strategy for Doncaster. Raise the profile of Good Food Doncaster/Sustainable Food Cities to local food producers – to improve access to affordable healthy food, reduce food insecurity, and promote a successful, locally-led food economy.	X	X	X
Integrate support for agro-ecological farms and local supply chains into local development plans and new development site plans.	X	X	
Engage with farmers about land drainage and their contribution to flood risk mitigation.	X	X	
Optimise farming practices to support the protection of peatlands.	X		

Key Strategies and Plans

- [Achieving Net Zero: Farming's 2040 Goal – National Farmers Union \(2019\)](#)
- South Yorkshire Natural Capital Assessment (including woodland creation opportunity map) (2021)
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (2021) (in development)

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION, EDUCATION & BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

13. FOOD

Changing weather patterns and more frequent extreme weather are already having an impact on both national and local food production and therefore commercial viability. Local flooding in 2019 affected 18 farm-holdings and general wet weather impeded harvesting and planting. Each year, Doncaster generates 10,000 tonnes of avoidable food waste. This is wasted money for households and businesses; and also represents waste that has a high disposal cost.

Aims

- Increase the proportion of locally sourced food.
- Reduce and remove avoidable food waste.
- Promoting food security for the residents of Doncaster

Outcome

The impact of local food consumption and waste disposal is minimised.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Support communities to buy locally produced food or to grow their own food.	X	X	X
Continue to endorse the BDR Waste Partnership Love Food Hate Waste Campaign (Perfect Portions, Love Your leftovers, Savvy Storage, Know your dates, Planning Perfection).	X	X	X
Alignment with National Food Strategy principles; Review organisational or household food purchasing policies/approaches, ensuring healthy and sustainable choices are made.	X	X	X
Develop a 'veg cities' approach through the Doncaster Food Network.	X	X	
Encourage and support partnership between local suppliers and users/sellers of food produce.	X	X	X
Support local food producers to adapt to a changing climate and challenging weather events,	X	X	X

Key Strategies and Plans

- National Food strategy (Parts One and Two) ([2020](#) and 2021)

14. FLY TIPPING AND LITTER

Fly tipping is a major problem in some parts of the borough, particularly within the urban centre alleyways where thousands of tonnes of waste are cleared each year with an annual cost to the local taxpayer of almost half a million pounds. Aside from a drain on financial resources, it also presents a significant health risk and blights our neighbourhoods and countryside, and can negatively affect how an area looks and how people feel about their area. Where the composition of fly-tipped waste includes hazardous waste, it can threaten our ecosystem and wildlife and may even depict a risk to human life. Fly tipping also negatively impacts on the local landscape and enjoyment of green space for residents and visitors. Littering is also a problem across many parts of the borough with around 2000 reported cases last year, 3000+ fines issued and 500+ cases submitted for prosecution.

Aims

- Increased proportion of land and highways meeting required cleanliness standards.
- Reduce fly tipping and litter.

Outcome

Reduced incidences and impact of fly tipping & litter.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Robust and fair enforcement activity in response to fly tipping and littering.		X	
Lobby local magistrate courts for fly tipping punishments that reflect the social, economic and environmental costs.	X	X	X
Improve awareness of legal waste disposal contractors and the consequences of using unauthorised contractors.	X	X	X
Review, and improve and/or increase household and commercial waste provision.	X	X	
Use proactive architectural protections to reduce the risk of fly tipping, especially in areas that can affect drainage and cause flooding.	X	X	X
Develop innovative ways of working with local businesses to reduce the amount of take-away litter and encourage businesses to take ownership of localised issues caused by their packaging.	X	X	
Effective and accessible communication and engagement to discourage fly tipping and littering.	X	X	X
Maximise involvement in local initiatives e.g. Big British Spring Clean and Love Where You Live.	X	X	X

Key Strategies and Plans

- Doncaster Council Enforcement policies (various)
- Doncaster Council Environment Services Improvement plan (2021)

15. WASTE & RECYCLING

Waste is a problem at a global and local level. The world's oceans contain 97% of the world's water; they regulate our climate; absorb CO₂, and they are the number one source for protein for over a billion people. However, they are facing a major problem in the form of plastic pollution. Plastic waste can take hundreds of years to degrade and not all plastics are recyclable – single-use plastics make up almost half of the plastic made each year. In some cases, certain types of plastic are technically recyclable but not cost effective to do so. There are trillions of pieces of plastic waste already polluting the world's oceans, totalling millions of tonnes.

We all need to reduce our waste and ensure any unavoidable waste is disposed of appropriately. Our mind-set when dealing with waste must be to focus on the upper parts of the waste hierarchy: Reduce, Re-use, Repair, Recycle, Recover; with Disposal being the last option rather than the default one.

Doncaster is well served by waste processors who deliver waste transfer, processing, and total waste management services to residents and businesses. Waste services, included transfer stations, are delivered by numerous local and national independent companies. In addition, the Council operate several household waste recycling centres and are responsible for kerbside collection of general and garden household waste from residential properties, as well as the collection of waste from litter bins, street cleansing and ground maintenance activities.

Doncaster Council waste collection data shows that households have increased their recycling level to approximately 46% over the period 2014/15-2018/19; with the amount of residential and local authority collected waste reducing slightly over the same period. The percentage of waste going to landfill has reduced significantly from around 55% to 5%.

Aims

- Focus efforts on the waste hierarchy of 'Reduce, Re-use, Repair, Recycle, Recover, Dispose'; with particular focus on the first 5 stages.
- Achieve national targets associated with household waste recycling.
- Maintain the high level of waste diverted from landfill at 95%+.
- Maintain waste collection completion at 99%+ of all scheduled collections.
- Minimise consumption of single-use plastics.

Outcome

The impact of the borough's waste on the environment is minimised.

Delivery Actions

	Private Sector	Public sector	Residents
Provide advice and guidance on residential and commercial waste disposal/recycling options and consumer choices and behaviours.	X	X	
Ensure adequate, value for money provision of household, municipal and commercial waste facilities.	X	X	
Recovery of all waste at the Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham waste partnership facility, for recycling and solid recovered fuel production.		X	
Explore public and/or private waste management partnerships that promote the concept of the local 'circular economy' where one businesses waste become another business's resource.	X	X	
Review and if necessary, update the South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Plan.		X	
Procurement policies to include requirements associated with reduction and careful processing of waste.	X	X	

Key Strategies and Plans

- [BDR Joint Waste Plan \(2012\)](#)
- South Yorkshire Joint Waste Plan (in development)
- [South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy \(2017-2021\)](#)

RESEARCH AND EMERGING EVIDENCE

MONITORING RESEARCH AND DEBATE

Although there is clear and robust evidence surrounding many aspects of climate change research and policy, we must acknowledge that there are areas where uncertainties and disagreements remain. Detail and clarity continue to develop as research progresses into the impact of certain factors as well as the validity and value of potential solutions that emerge. Two examples where there remains a significant range of views and disagreement are aviation and meat consumption/plant-based diets.

Aviation is widely acknowledged to be a heavy polluter, but our international airport is also a major economic benefit for Doncaster, South Yorkshire and the Sheffield City Region. We need to do all we can to ensure our airport and associated business park minimise its impact on the environment whilst at the same time supporting it to realise its jobs growth and local economic gain potential. Regional airports are part of the solution to reduce the overall impact of passengers travelling further afield to a small number of specific airports e.g. in London or Manchester; but they also **need to invest in carbon reduction measures in their own fleet vehicles and ground operations, and their offsetting and investment in local natural capital**

Individually, we need to consider the environment when making decisions about the number of flights we take each year, particularly long-haul flights. The aviation industry has committed to cutting net emissions to zero by 2050 and is **progressing research into the development of cleaner fuels and electric planes**. Locally, any new developments in Doncaster are subject to a Biodiversity Net Gain requirement through the planning system.

Debate continues internationally about the environmental impact of livestock/red meat diets (methane production from animals, stronger impact than CO₂, impact on land from animal food requirements) versus a plant-based diet (intensive farming/threat to soil fertility, rainforest clearance, CO₂ production from transportation around the world). As there is currently no scientific agreement on this matter, Doncaster should monitor this discussion closely and adapt our own approach accordingly as and when a consensus is found. In the meantime, **we can all consider the source of our food, taking individual and commercial decisions to buy as locally as possible, and from manufacturers that use sustainable farming and production practices.**

These examples demonstrate the need for an environment and sustainability strategy to be flexible enough to be able to take on changes as they occur over time and adapt to changing information or circumstances. It is essential that we remain aware of international agreements and protocols for action on certain matters so that we can factor these into our own activity and investment plans as and when a scientific consensus is in place. This monitoring role also applies to forthcoming UK legislative changes e.g. the Environment Bill and Agriculture Bill and their potential impact on our strategic ambition and plans. **This will require all partners, particularly major organisations, to put in place resources to obtain such information and insight as well as developing arrangements for the effective sharing of information between appropriate stakeholders.**

FUNDING

It is also clear that financial resourcing is a major challenge. Local, regional and national government finances will be an essential part of our response to the environmental emergency, as will access to private finance opportunities from organisations wishing to offset their unavoidable emissions through investment elsewhere. **Doncaster will need to put in place the infrastructure and networks whereby such finance opportunities are identified at the earliest opportunity and exploited to the maximum as and when they become available.** In addition, businesses and residents will need to take a long-term approach to investment decisions wherever possible by spending money now to reduce emissions but also to save money in the long-term. We also need businesses, public sector organisations and residents to invest time and money in general sustainability improvements such as parks, and greenspaces.

MORE LOCAL EVIDENCE NEEDED

There are some aspects of the strategy that require further or more in-depth research to determine a clearer understanding of the current situation in Doncaster – only then can we identify and implement our collective locality-specific response. There is currently a lack of data and understanding in the topics listed below; each will need to be addressed by partners either individually or in partnership, in order for the most appropriate responses to be identified and implemented.

- Local biodiversity data.
- Energy efficiency of private homes.
- Energy efficiency of commercial and community buildings.
- Status of local trading partnerships (producers, manufacturers, retailers).

SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES

This section identifies a series of activity and/or commitments that we will need to deliver on if we are going to achieve our vision for Doncaster. In the same way that multiple stakeholders have contributed to the development of the strategy, its implementation is equally dependent on the collective effort and contribution of us all.

It is clear from the sort of interventions discussed in this strategy that different stakeholders will have different roles to play; and it is acknowledged that within any given cohort, different people and organisations will be able to make different scales of intervention according to their own particular circumstances.

Businesses and Public Sector Organisations

- Consider, and where possible, prioritise longer-term benefits and savings against short-term costs.
- Embed appropriate policies to encourage, enable, and support residents and employees to deliver on their role.
- Identify and share advice, guidance and good practice.
- Work collaboratively on investment, procurement and operational activity.
- Identify and share awareness of opportunities associated with private finance options.
- Decarbonise energy supply through demand reduction and the installation of low carbon energy generating technology.
- Invest in electrification of fleet vehicles.
- Identify opportunities for local partnerships – supply chains and customer base.
- Take advantage of funding opportunities for environmental improvements.
- Include environmental factors in procurement policies.

Residents

- Reduce waste; maximise re-use and recycling.
- Dispose of unavoidable waste considerably - don't drop litter and choose legitimate waste disposal companies/facilities.
- Invest in home energy efficiency improvements.
- Consider the environment when making transport choices: cycling, walking, using public transport, car sharing, and investing in Ultra Low Emission Vehicles where possible.
- Consider the environmental impact of the products you buy, how sustainable the materials used are, where it will be shipped from, and whether or not natural resources such as peat are being exploited.
- Shop locally wherever you can and consider the impact of buying from further afield.
- Make space for nature in your garden and support naturalisation in community areas.
- Support community initiatives e.g. litter picking.

Elected members (Ward Councillors, Members of Parliament, Parish Councils)

- Lobby Government (local, regional and national) for funding opportunities to support the implementation of the interventions required, to the scale required; and for legislative changes that make environmental priorities mandatory.
- Give the environment due consideration in any local lobbying activity on behalf of residents and businesses.

MONITORING PROGRESS AND GOVERNANCE

Progress needs to be measurable so we can continuously determine and communicate the success or otherwise of the activity we undertake. Different partners – be it businesses, organisations, communities or individuals will identify their own targets and measures of success; but as a borough, we must put in place a means by which we can assess quantitative progress. The Team Doncaster partnership board will adopt responsibility for performance management oversight and will put in place a framework by which board members can collate and analyse performance data.

All partners must be open to appropriate sharing of data associated with factors such as energy use, transport use, buildings efficiency etc. such that this can be accumulated to determine our collective impact/progress towards the borough's goals. Without such data sharing agreements, it will be very difficult to determine progress.

Priority Area	Outcome	Performance Indicators	Baseline
Woodland, Trees and Greenspace	Improved green space provision and increased tree coverage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of land covered by greenspace and tree canopy coverage (increase). Net loss of woodland, trees and greenspace due to development (minimise). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 5.8% of Doncaster is woodland. Doncaster tree canopy cover is on average 13% (7% - 24%).
Biodiversity	Bigger areas for nature and better quality habitats that are more joined up at all scales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of wildlife sites actively managed for their biodiversity interests (increase). Expenditure and engagement in biodiversity conservation (increase). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38% of the Borough's Local Wildlife Sites are actively managed for their biodiversity interests (2020). Public support, awareness and engagement in biodiversity conservation and social responsibility is rising; as shown by increases in expenditure by Non-Government Organisations and time committed to conservation causes by volunteers. Conversely, public sector expenditure has fallen dramatically over the last decade, and coordinated communication & support to help individuals/communities contribute, isn't well-developed.
Water Quality, Flood Management & Drainage	Better water quality and better protection from flooding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality measures (optimise). Scale and severity of flood damage incurred by residents and businesses (minimise). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further research needed to determine this.
Peatland & Soil	Peatland is recognised, protected, enhanced and extended for biodiversity, water storage, carbon sequestration, and essential climate mitigation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scale of loss/degradation of peatland from 2020 levels (minimise). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40% of vegetation and resident fauna affected, peat surface burned, tramways and access routes damaged, plastic water control structures melted and peat from some of the baulks which divide up the restoration cells burned.
Contaminated Land	Potential risk from contaminated land sites is appropriately mitigated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of CL sites identified and assessed (maximise). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 43 sites on the public Contaminated Land Register (2020).
Energy Efficiency of Buildings and Sustainable Energy	Reduced carbon footprint from homes & buildings and reduced running costs for residents and businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of homes/buildings with energy rating A-C (increase). Proportion of electricity generated from renewable sources (increase). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic energy efficiency ratings: A/B: 8%, C: 52% Private sector homes: A/B: 10%, C: 26% Council houses: B: 3%, C: 62% 9th highest number of renewable energy installations in the UK: 7,053 homes and 191 businesses generating their own electricity. 678kw solar PV installed on 16 Council owned buildings. 2.124MW solar PV installed on 750 council houses.
Statutory Nuisances	Reduced noise, light and odour nuisances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of noise, light and odour complaints (reduce). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Around 2,200 noise complaints per year. Around 24 light complaints per year. Around 80 odour complaints per year.

Priority Area	Outcome	Performance Indicators	Baseline																
Transport	Improved air quality across the borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of AQMAs (reduce). Air quality measures (optimise). Number of people cycling/walking for transport (increase) 	8 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Average (2019/20)</td> <td>µg/m3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PM10 across all sites</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NO2 - worst 3 sites</td> <td>74</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NO2 - best 3 sites</td> <td>33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NO2 - worst sites across all AQMAs</td> <td>46</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Jan-20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cyclists</td> <td>1910</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pedestrians</td> <td>12395</td> </tr> </table>	Average (2019/20)	µg/m3	PM10 across all sites	16	NO2 - worst 3 sites	74	NO2 - best 3 sites	33	NO2 - worst sites across all AQMAs	46		Jan-20	Cyclists	1910	Pedestrians	12395
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	Jan-20																		
Cyclists	1910																		
Pedestrians	12395																		
Nature Tourism	Nature tourism sites are protected, improved and well-used by residents and visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of visitors to nature sites/attractions (reduce). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total of £253m visitor spend per year (2017-2019) An average of 305,000 trips a year generating 760,000 overnight stays per year and generating an average annual spend of £41 million (2017-2019). 7.1 million day visitors p.a. generating an average £212 million p.a. (2017-19). Visitor spend on the Trans Pennine Trail increased from £144m (2011) to £885m (2017). 																
Green & Innovative Economy	Opportunities in the green economy are accessible and exploited.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of businesses and jobs created in green tech industries/supply chains (increase). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further research needed to determine this. 																
Existing Business Operations & Growth	Local businesses are supported to be more environmentally sustainable and to access opportunities associated with the green economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of commercial buildings with energy rating A-C (increase). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further research needed to determine this. 																
Farming	Local farms are resilient and adaptable to changing conditions, and actively support the reduction of impacts of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of businesses trading with local farmers (increase). Carbon footprint of local farms (reduce). Number of new farmers joining the sector (increase). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further research needed to determine this. 																
Food	The impact of local food consumption and waste disposal is minimised.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of food sourced from local providers (increase). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further research needed to determine this. 																
Fly Tipping and Litter	Reduced incidences and impact of fly tipping & litter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scale and severity of fly tipping and litter across Doncaster (reduce). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly fly tipping incidents range from 441 (Oct 2017) to 122 (May 2019). 70 tonnes of waste collected each week from hotspots, costing around £400k per year. In 2019, there were 1617 reported cases of littering, 3142 littering fines and 506 cases submitted for prosecution. 																
Waste & Recycling	The impact of the borough's waste on the environment is minimised.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of household waste recycled (increase). Amount of household, municipal and commercial waste to landfill (reduce). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total waste generated is composed of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12% Household waste (46.4% recycled, 4.6% to landfill (2018/19)). 18% Commercial and Industrial waste 63% Construction, Demolition and Excavation (Recycling and landfill proportions for C&I and C,D&E waste are not known at present) 																

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2020-2030

EVIDENCE BASE 2020

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide further details of the evidence upon which the Environment and Sustainability Strategy is based. It forms part of a package of documents alongside the strategy itself, the Climate and Biodiversity Commission report, and other individual partner strategies and action plans.

The document includes an overview of analysis from resident and member engagement activity, as well as specific data and current activity associated with each priority area.

RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT

Resident engagement has taken place through a number of 'Doncaster Talks' engagement exercises including 'Doncaster Talks (Summer 2019)', 'Doncaster Talks – Climate & Biodiversity Commission Evidence Gathering (November 2019)' and 'Doncaster Talks – Environment (October 2020)'.

SUMMER 2019

This engagement exercise was done through an online survey and face to face engagement with residents in various settings across the borough (e.g. pop up stalls in town centres and at local events). The exercise was not environment-specific, and residents were asked to answer three general questions relating to the Borough:

1. What is good about where you live?
2. What would you like to see improve?
3. What should Doncaster focus on in the future?

There were 3,610 resident responses. The majority of respondents were in the 18-64 age range (73.5%) and an average of approximately 1% of each ward (21 wards) were represented.

Question 1 analysis (What is good about where you live?) showed that *access to green spaces* was the second most mentioned topic (17 wards), second only to community spirit. This shows how highly valued access to the environment is by our residents. Having a quiet neighbourhood (6 wards) and good transport links (5 wards) were fourth and fifth respectively for this question.

Question 2 analysis (What would you like to see improve?) showed that *street cleansing, littering and fly tipping* was the most mentioned topic (20 wards). This shows how much residents appreciate a clean and aesthetically pleasing environment. Road conditions (7 wards), public transport (3 wards), road safety (3 wards) and environment/green spaces (3 wards) were fourth, and joint seventh respectively.

Question 3 analysis (What should Doncaster focus on in the future?) showed that *cleanliness, fly tipping and litter* was the second most mentioned category (13 wards) which Doncaster should focus on in the future, with transport (4 wards) mentioned seventh.

Specific analysis of environmental themes identified in Q2 and Q3 gave the following insight:

For 'What would you like to see improve?': 29% said transport related issues such as condition of roads, pavements and pathways; transport links and infrastructure. 27% said fly-tipping, litter and street cleansing. 19% said woodland, greenspace, better maintenance of trees, grass and hedges.

For 'What should Doncaster focus on in the future?': 30% said fly-tipping, litter street cleansing. 25% said air quality and transport related issues such as conditions of roads, pavements and pathways; improving public transport, traffic and congestion. 11% said woodland and greenspace, with a majority of reference to maintenance of existing parks and open spaces.

NOVEMBER 2019

This engagement exercise was performed on behalf of the Climate and Biodiversity Commission between October 2019 and April 2020 to gather evidence about current environment initiatives and ideas for how Doncaster should respond to the climate and biodiversity emergency. The questions asked via an online survey were:

- "Do you know Doncaster has declared a climate & biodiversity emergency?"
- "Do you know of anything happening in Doncaster which is helping to reduce the impact of Climate Change?"
- "What could Doncaster do to help reduce the impact of Climate Change in the future?"

120 residents responded. The majority of respondents were in the 45-64 age range (43%) and there was representation from across all wards in the Borough.

51% of respondents said they did not know that Doncaster had declared a climate & biodiversity emergency; 45% said they did know; and 4% were unsure.

Around 39% of respondents said that they did not know (or were unsure) of anything happening in Doncaster that is helping to reduce the impact of climate change. Some residents referenced the work of various groups around the Borough and environment initiatives they have set up, for example Trust 22 in Thorne working to reduce plastic use. Other themes that emerged from the responses about things happening in Doncaster to help reduce impact of Climate Change include recycling, school-specific projects, business responsibility and waste processes.

The three most common themes for what Doncaster could do to help reduce the impact of climate change in the future were increasing tree & hedge planting (24%), improving recycling (23%), and improving the condition of roads and pathways (22%). Other themes that emerged include better infrastructure for active travel, improving building regulations, more electric vehicles, renewable energy, education and information accessibility.

OCTOBER 2020

An environment-specific Doncaster Talks engagement exercise took place October to December 2020 to gain public opinion to influence various strategies which are in development, including the Environment and Sustainability Strategy and Borough Strategy. The online consultation aimed to gain resident opinions on the Climate and Biodiversity Commission's recommendations, aspects of the Environment Service Improvement Plan and matters being considered for inclusion in the Environment and Sustainability Strategy.

Findings from the 450 respondents include:

- 91% of respondents said that tackling climate change is extremely or somewhat important to them, with 87% agreeing or strongly agreeing with the need for big changes to address climate change.
- The following benefits associated with tackling climate change were listed as extremely important by majority of respondents: "Better air quality", "Enjoyment of nature", "Doing the right thing for future generations" and "Better physical and mental health".
- When asked about the way they do things (e.g. use of utilities in the home, how they travel, waste and recycling), majority of respondents said that they are already doing a lot or some things to changes the way they do things in order to address climate change.
- Similarly, a large proportion of respondents (61%) said that they have already made changes to improve the insulation of their homes. Similar proportions of respondents said they have already made changes to their homes heating system (35%) and that they are willing but not able to (39%). Majority of respondents said that they are willing but not able to spend money on solar panels, an electric vehicle or other measures in response to climate change.
- 88% of respondents agree or strongly agree with the new naturalisation approach being trialled in different green spaces across the Borough whereby grass is cut less frequently to all more wildflowers and plants to grow.
- Respondents were asked to rank policy areas in order of importance to them. This resulted in Health and Wellbeing, Education and Skills, and Economy being ranked as the top three, Arts and culture was ranked last, and Environment and Climate Change ranked near the middle (number 5 out of 8 policy areas).
- A question about balancing priorities, with house building given as the example, resulted in 63% of people choosing the options which focused on improving energy efficiency of existing homes and building new homes to high environmental standards, as well as saying no to building developments that are not at the highest environmental standards, even if this results in those developments not going ahead. Only 9% of respondents said that the council should focus on building many new homes, complying only with minimum legal building standards.
- When asked to place a marker on a continuum indicating where Doncaster should focus resources (from targeting resources on a few specific areas to spreading resources evenly across all areas), respondents put the marker near the middle, but slightly more towards spreading resources evenly across all areas.

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES ENGAGEMENT

WARD COUNCILLOR ENGAGEMENT

All elected Ward Members were consulted throughout the development of the strategy. Engagement took place in various ways including:

- Two series of engagement sessions held in October 2019 and July 2020,
- Updates provided to the Housing & Environment Overview and Scrutiny panel on both the strategy and progress of the Climate and Biodiversity Commission,
- 4 elected members were part of the Climate & Biodiversity Commission.

This section primarily focuses on the feedback and comments provided from the two series of engagement sessions with elected members.

The aim of the first series, held in October 2019, was to understand members' main environmental concerns, both borough-wide and ward-specific. During this series, fourteen councillors provided feedback. The nine topics listed below were commented on by all councillors and highlighted as topics which concern residents the most:

1. Air quality
2. Transportation/congestion
3. Planning/energy efficiency
4. Recycling, waste, street cleaning & fly-tipping
5. Enforcement
6. Education/encouragement
7. Greenspace/parks/trees including biodiversity
8. Flood management
9. Food

Specific comments made by councillors included:

- "Adwick/Carcroft have the highest pollution figures because of the A1M; and have a lot of HGV traffic."
- "Woodfield Way has no weight limits; lorries from the quarries use this road as it shortens the route to the M18."
- "Education is required to ensure people take responsibility of their own rubbish. Problems in Town Centre/Hexthorpe with people not using the correct bins."
- "Braithwell has expanded since 1950s but houses are using same water course/storage as before the additional homes were built. Severn Trent deal with the water in this area. Homes keep getting flooded."
- "Flooding in Kirk Sandall has affected the train line through the area. Thorpe Bank/Barnby Dun/Fordstead Lane regularly closed due to flooding and the diversions impact traffic."
- "Tickhill/Wadworth have significant issues with litter & fly-tipping, pollution from vehicles and noise pollution from motorbikes and quad bikes."
- "Finningley (Airport) – new planes being increased. This will increase pollution in the area."
- "Highfields – fly tipping – people just don't even use their own bin, they just dump it."
- "Town centre has many tree-lined avenues and air quality under tree canopies seems better. A lot of benefits from trees which aren't really seen. Only really talk about the negatives."

The second series of engagement sessions took place throughout July 2020. The purpose of these sessions was to discuss the information obtained through the 'SCATTER' modelling which shows the impact on greenhouse gas emissions of potential interventions to respond to climate change.

Much of the discussion focussed on ensuring understanding of the information but also how best to share this with the wider public in an understandable way – to ensure everyone understands what will be required to help achieve greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

The main points raised by Members included:

- **Understanding** – Communicating the amount of work required to meet our targets, and the significant individual and organisational costs involved. Clear and easy to understand public communications are required.
- **Building** – Difficult decisions to be made regarding house quality vs number of homes built. If developers are not environmentally focussed, then the Council should not give planning permission. Difficulty derived from what is and is not present in planning law.
- **Trees** – May be difficult to achieve the scale of planting discussed. Careful consideration should be given to where trees are planted as the positives are not gained in the area where they are needed if planting occurs in a different area -

'off-setting'. Trees can help improve air quality, but most are planted away from urban areas. Tree off-setting needs to be taken into account during the Planning process.

- **Electric cars** – Concerns about the necessary infrastructure required and potential unwillingness to change vehicle fuel type if their current car meets their needs. There are still issues with the batteries; lithium is a finite resource and what can be done after the battery is no longer viable to be used.
- **Partnership collaborations** – Partnership working is key, particularly to help with the cost of many interventions required to achieve the targets being set. More public-private partnerships need to be used, not only for funding but to show a united front. More organisations working together towards a common goal can further influence others, including the public. Communication between parties is key to ensure all are on the same page to prevent opportunities being missed.
- **Barriers/challenges** – People will only make changes if they feel it is affordable and manageable. Incentives may have to be used widely to gain buy-in. Finances and affordability will be a big factor that needs addressing. There needs to be a can-do attitude to explore different options, rather than saying things cannot be done. Behaviour change will be more difficult for some than others, particularly if commuting requirements are limited by poor public transport provision. People need to be encouraged, rather told what to do.
- **Communications** – Methods need to be tailored to different generations, not everyone uses social media for example, but libraries are frequented by various groups. Maintained and consistent messages are needed to make behaviour changes towards the required new norm. Tone of messaging is also very important. There needs to be a balance between cost and benefit messaging; some people understand the benefits but cannot afford the initial outlay to implement improvements.
- **Education** – This will be key, as will promoting a cultural change. Need to make the issue real and relevant to the public, that anything they do will have much bigger consequences; little changes add up to the big changes. Education around the things that people can do themselves will help sow the seed for them to make bigger changes (when they are able to do so).
- **Policy changes** – Will there be more specific policies to protect the environment i.e., banning disposable BBQs? How much can we do in relation to specific policies when much is dictated from central government?
- **Transport** – The highways infrastructure around Doncaster was developed to reduce traffic issues in town centres but accidents, particularly on motorways, cause diversions to be sent through town centre and cause gridlocks. Many parents are dropping children off at school in cars and keep the engine running. Increasing numbers of visitors to attractions around the Borough, e.g. Lakeside or Yorkshire Wildlife Park, have seen increased vehicle presence in these areas and increasing issues of air quality.

Comments were also made by one or two councillors on enforcement, flooding/water management, research and consultations.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Parish councillors were provided with an update via their Parish Council Joint Consultative Committee (PCJCC) meeting. This took place in January 2020 where parish councillors were given information on the Climate & Biodiversity Commission, including who the members are and its objectives.

Parish councillors were invited to submit their viewpoints within the Doncaster Talks – Climate & Biodiversity Commission Evidence Gathering and were informed of a number of events which they could get involved in alongside Commission members.

A further briefing was provided to the PCJCC in October 2020 outlining the key information gathered during development of the strategy and the draft content expected to go through the approval process. Committee members provided comments and suggestions which were factored into development of the final strategy document.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

In September 2020, the three Members of Parliament (MPs) for Doncaster were engaged to consider what they would like to see from the new Environment and Sustainability Strategy. All three constituencies were represented:

- Doncaster North, Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP (Labour)
- Doncaster Central, Rt Hon Dame Rosie Winterton MP (Labour)
- Don Valley, Nick Fletcher MP (Conservative).

Communication is going to be a critical element of the strategy. No single group, community or industry sector can deliver all the interventions required to tackle the environment and biodiversity emergency, nor can any single stakeholder

deliver a majority share. A clear communication and engagement plan is required to ensure all residents, community groups, businesses, public sector organisations and regional and national partners understand the importance of this issue. It needs to ensure collective buy-in and commitment to make individual contributions to the response and grow and maintain awareness of the opportunities and support that is available to enable them to do so.

MPs stressed the importance of communicating the benefits that will come from responding to climate change, rather than simply the challenges. Highlighting the anticipated better jobs, better transport, better places, better health, and better lives outcomes must be at the forefront of the strategy engagement activity. This will ensure stakeholders see the benefits to them personally, as well as the benefits across communities, the town, region, country and globally.

Another shared view was that we can tackle most sub-elements of the strategy and start on the required interventions now, with current resources – so we should be clear about this. However, we must also highlight where we need to go further than what current resources allow, identifying where additional resources would be needed from external sources e.g. Government or private investors. There are also numerous aspects of the strategy where further investigation and analysis is required to inform specific responses, either borough-wide or in specific locations across Doncaster.

All MPs felt that flooding is a major issue that needs to be prioritised in the strategy – both in terms of proactive work to defend homes and businesses from flooding, but also in preparing the best possible procedures to activate a response to flooding if it does take place. This will require working with multiple partners across different local authority areas.

PARTNER COMMITMENTS

Doncaster's Environment and Sustainability Strategy is an aggregation of numerous partners' targets, commitments and activity; but many partners have their own individual strategies or action plans to address climate change. These documents cover a range of issues such as working practices, procurement policies, buildings, workforce culture, waste, education, and staff support. A summary of some of the key partner strategies is provided below, with further information available within each document.

DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD & RURAL AFFAIRS (DEFRA) incl. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA)

In 2018 DEFRA released '[A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment](#)' which captures plans for all DEFRA agencies, of which the Environment Agency is one. The plan sets out the Government's long-term approach to protecting and enhancing various natural landscapes and habitats in the UK.

The plan sets out several goals that hope to achieve the following:

- Clean air
- Clean and plentiful water
- Thriving plants and wildlife
- A reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought
- Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently
- Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment

Further, environmental pressures will be managed through:

- Mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Minimising waste
- Managing exposure to chemicals
- Enhancing biosecurity

Policies related to the above goals will focus on:

- Using and managing land sustainably
- Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes
- Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing
- Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste
- Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans
- Protecting and improving the global environment

DONCASTER and BASSETLAW TEACHING HOSPITALS NHS TRUST (DBTH)

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals' Annual Report and Accounts 2019/20 states that the Trust is committed to improving its carbon reduction performance and has a range of low carbon initiatives in place to ensure delivery. NHS carbon reduction targets, which are linked to the UK Climate Change Act 2008, are in place and require Trusts to reduce CO₂ emissions by 34% by 2020 and 80% by 2050. At the end of 2019/20 the Trust had reduced its CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent) by 7,426 tonnes and achieved the 34% reduction target. There had been the intention to roll out Green Champions in 2020, but this was put on hold due to the global Covid 19 pandemic. The Trust will deliver its ambitions through delivery of the Delivering a 'Net Zero' National Health Service released in 2020.

DONCASTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Doncaster Chamber of Commerce has introduced new business support services to help businesses become greener. This includes the introduction of a new Green Business Forum to allow organisations to access and share best practice, as well as an opportunity for local businesses to engage with regional policy makers on environmental policy issues. Additionally, the Chamber has partnered with Engie to offer green energy solutions to businesses which will help companies to be more sustainable and save money. The Chamber will continue to introduce new products and services to help businesses become greener and maximise commercial opportunities linked to the low carbon agenda.

The Chamber's education arm 'Opportunities Doncaster' is increasingly collaborating with progressive businesses to develop work readiness in residents through innovation and enterprise challenges linked to the low carbon agenda. For example, local learners were recently supported by a fast-food chain to develop plastic free children's meals. The Chamber will continue to link its business and education activities to carbon literacy.

DONCASTER CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP (CCG)

Doncaster CCG has a [Sustainable Development and Management Plan \(2018-2021\)](#) which details how they are going to reduce their direct impact on the environment including reducing buildings-related greenhouse gas emissions, business travel and waste going to landfill.

The 8 areas they are focusing on to reduce environmental impact are:

- 1. Leadership, Engagement and Workforce Development** - Sustainable and resilient services will only emerge from a culture that understands and values environmental and social resources alongside financial resources. This requires strong leadership and awareness of staff to move sustainability to the forefront.
- 2. Carbon Hotspots** – This area looks to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by increasing recycling and will look at the carbon footprint related to travel of employees, patients and visitors.
- 3. Commissioning & Procurement** - The CCG will look to use criteria to stimulate more ambitious and innovative approaches to delivering care that costs less, creates less environmental harm and reduces inequalities. Sustainable commissioning will take a whole system approach to improving health and wellbeing of the people it buys services for. The CCG understands that commissioning services in a way that utilises local assets, improves the local environment and empowers local people and communities can achieve wider benefits from the same investment.
- 4. Sustainable Clinical and Care Models** - To be prepared for changing times, climates and events it is increasingly important to consider the environmental and social impact of how services are delivered.
- 5. Healthy, Sustainable and Resilient Communities** - A local approach is needed to support communities to thrive, be more sustainable, resilient and healthy in changing times and climates. NHS, public health and social care organisations play an important role in local communities, as employers and as core public service providers. They are an integral part of communities and can help support community groups, local agencies and local people to further build a sense of place and identity, so people want to live, work and invest there. These elements also create the conditions for improved health and wellbeing.
- 6. Metrics** - The purpose of this area is to set out a vision for measuring progress in continually improving health and wellbeing in England now and for future generations, within available financial, social and environmental resources.
- 7. Innovation, Technology and Research & Development** - This area can improve sustainability particularly, where the components act as catalysts for each other. It is the product of collaboration with many organisations and individuals across the system that has helped to highlight and define good practice in innovation technology and research & development.
- 8. Creating Social Value** - Actively designing and delivering social value is a core part of the transformation needed across public sector organisations. There is an emphasis on the importance of considering social value in advance of commencing any commissioning and procurement processes. Such considerations should help inform and shape the purpose of the products needed and, perhaps more importantly, the design of the services required.

This plan will be reviewed every two years and in accordance with any changes to relevant legislation or good practice guidelines, or after a significant change in the structure of the CCG. Where review is necessary due to legislative change, this will happen immediately.

DONCASTER COUNCIL

Doncaster Council does not have an individual Environment Strategy. However, the environment is at the focus of numerous elements of the strategic framework within which it operates e.g. the Borough Strategy, Housing Strategy, Education & Skills Strategy, Inclusive Growth Strategy, Transport Strategy, and the Council Environment Services Improvement Plan. The Council will make a direct contribution to many of the interventions required across all aspects of the Environment and Sustainability Strategy, some of which are presented below.

Woodlands, Trees & Green Spaces

- Consider opportunities to enhance and increase green infrastructure assets e.g. woodland, parks, open spaces.
- Develop and implement a borough-wide, multi-partner tree planting strategy.

Biodiversity

- Manage land and water sustainably, informed by a Natural Capital Assessment.
- Enforce Biodiversity Net Gain requirements for developments and uphold tree preservation orders.
- Develop and review organisational policies and procedures to ensure natural capital is valued and protected.

Water Quality, Flood Management & Drainage

- Reactive maintenance of highways & property that support flood risk mitigation; ensure public drainage assets are working correctly to allow surface water to drain away.
- Planned works completed on a cyclical basis that includes cleansing all road gullies, linear drainage, soakaways, trash screens, pumping stations, ponds and flow controls.

Peatland and Soil

- Identify alternatives to replace the use of peat-based products.

Contaminated Land

- Maintenance of public contaminated land register and remediated sites database.
- Assess potential sites of concern in line with appropriate regulations and local inspections strategy.

Energy Efficiency of Buildings & Sustainable Energy

- Build highly energy efficient council homes.
- Inspect private rented homes to identify & respond to excess cold hazards.
- Decarbonise the Council's electricity supply through demand reduction and the installation of low carbon energy generating technology.

Statutory Nuisances Including Noise, Odour and Light Pollution

- Make appropriate planning decisions to mitigate adverse impacts of new developments.
- Develop and strengthen reporting and monitoring protocols across all services.
- Robust and fair enforcement of Enforcement Policies where necessary and appropriate.

Transport

- Lead the transition to ultra-low emission vehicles including the required refuelling infrastructure.
- Naturalisation of appropriate areas through changes in grass cutting frequency, planting more greenery or reducing public access.
- Invest in active travel, including resident led approaches for low traffic neighbourhoods and school streets.

Nature Tourism

- Raise awareness of green and blue infrastructure. Specific emphasis within the Visitor Economy Strategy.

Green and Innovative Economy

- Learn from the international community in achieving inclusive and sustainable growth and prosperity.
- Support businesses to set out green strategies to help investors to direct capital into 'green' projects at scale.

Existing Business Operations and Growth

- Support businesses to identify and access available funding streams for making their operations more environmentally friendly.

Farming

- Maintain focus on local farm business development, funding and subsidy with particular focus on resilience, sustainability, and climate mitigation and adaptation.
- Raise the profile of Good Food Doncaster/Sustainable Food Cities to local farmers and food producers – aiming to maximise access to affordable healthy food, reduce the risk of food insecurity, and to promote a successful, locally-led food economy in Doncaster.

Food

- Explore a compassionate approach to supporting residents to eat sustainably and healthily, and adoption of the BeWell@Work award.
- Explore links with community food initiatives and projects.

Fly Tipping and Litter

- Greater deployment of CCTV cameras at fly tipping hot-spots to support enforcement action against perpetrators
- Invest in technology to improve efficiency of fly-tipping response routes and times.

Waste and Recycling

- Provide advice and guidance to partners and households on waste/recycling options.
- Review future options for enhancement of council-operated household waste facilities.
- Procurement policies to include requirements associated with reduction of waste.

DONCASTER SHEFFIELD AIRPORT (DSA)

DSA have produced a Sustainability Road Map. Peel Group, who own the airport, have four targets derived from several UN SDGs that they aim to achieve in the next 5 years.

- Continually improve the sustainability of assets - including targets for energy, waste, water, procurement and office sustainability.
- Support the development of sustainable low carbon communities, transport, energy and infrastructure - including buildings being a 'very good' or excellent BREEAM standard.
- Create new training, employment and local business opportunities through regenerations activities - increasing jobs & skills, looking to provide for local communities and encouraging sustainable tourism.
- Help communities connect with nature - including biodiversity protection by natural capital accounting.

There are plans for a sustainability school at DSA (to address carbon literacy and employee initiatives), support functions (e.g. car share schemes, paperless working, electric vehicles, removal of single use plastics, remote working for non-operational roles), supply chain review (including retail aspects) and a solar farm onsite.

Prior to the development of their Sustainability Road map, they produced their [Corporate Social Responsibility \(CSR\) Report 2019](#) which provides details on environment related initiatives. The CSR report outlines several specific initiatives that DSA have implemented in recent years to help reduce the impact of the airport on climate and biodiversity issues.

- Invested £110k in energy saving lighting upgrades for the terminal and car parks.
- Invested in its own purpose-built onsite water treatment works to better manage surface water and sewage.
- Waste is managed on behalf of the airlines, terminal tenants and all other tenants with recycling initiatives through a partnership with Doncaster Community Recycling Partnership (DCRP).
- Supporting strategic transport schemes that aim to increase public transport connectivity such as a proposed rail station connected into the East Coast Mainline and local rail networks.
- The Noise Monitoring and Environment committee is a subgroup of the Airport consultative committee with a specific remit to monitor and review all aspects related to noise, air quality, ecology and the impact on the local community of ground operations associated with the Airport.
- Developed a long-term Landscape Management and Habitat Creation plan which is agreed with the Council.
- Created over 25 acres of managed habitat areas, including 44 artificial bat roosts erected around the Airport and 6 bird and owl boxes within woodlands. Underground tunnels have also been built between some of the habitats which have also been constructed.
- DSA aims to achieve sustainable growth while contributing to the development of society through several initiatives including the installation of a solar power farm.
- Ecological and landscape aims:
 - To retain and replace as much of the existing vegetation around the Airport as is feasible.
 - To maximise opportunities for new habitat creation.
 - To provide an attractive and beneficial environment for passengers and residents.

ENGIE UK

Engie is a leading energy and services company focused on three key activities: production and supply of low carbon energy, services, and regeneration. They work with businesses and organisations to accelerate the transition towards a net zero carbon world by reducing energy consumption, greening supply and enabling progress through innovative technology, data & partnerships. Engie has vast experience in a number of different areas including green housing, retrofitting and sustainable transport. ENGIE UK considers the environment to be at the heart of their service delivery and it underpins all that they do. They are committed to preventing pollution and reducing their environmental impacts.

Within Doncaster, Engie have been working in partnership with different organisations on a number of key projects including developing an energy masterplan to help the Council and the borough to become more sustainable in energy production and use; developing a high-level appraisal of DCLT's current emissions and investment options for becoming more sustainable; and various other projects which are still being scoped out.

NATIONAL FARMERS UNION (NFU)

In early 2020 the NFU published its net zero ambitions in [Achieving Net Zero – Farming's 2040 goal](#). The NFU's assessment is that they can only deliver net zero if they act across a range of internationally recognised inventories. The ambition for a net zero contribution to climate change across the whole of agricultural production by 2040 is a national aspiration, not an expectation that every farm can reach net zero. Every farm will start the journey to net zero from a different place and will need a unique action plan. The policy measures needed to enable UK farming to meet their net zero aspiration will require a partnership approach. Uptake by farm businesses will need to be accompanied by concerted support across government departments, agencies and other stakeholders to act with them and help them deliver on this ambition.

Action to tackle climate change in UK agriculture requires a portfolio of different policies and practices focused on three key themes, or pillars:

- Improving farming's productive efficiency to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions – enabling farming to produce the same quantity of food, or more, with less inputs in smarter ways.
- Farmland carbon storage in soils and vegetation – improving land management and changing land use to capture more carbon, through bigger hedgerows, more woodland, and especially more carbon-rich soil.
- Boosting renewable energy and the bioeconomy to displace greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels and to create GHG removal through photosynthesis and carbon capture.

The NFU has emphasised that, at the same time as reducing their impact on the climate, farmers should not reduce their capacity to feed UK consumers with high quality, affordable British food. The UK must not achieve its climate change ambitions by exporting UK production, or greenhouse gas emissions, to other countries.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE (SYFR)

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue have adopted the [Environmental Protection Handbook for the Fire and Rescue Service](#), along with all Fire and Rescue services to follow. The Handbook was developed in conjunction with the Environment Agency from all four areas of the UK.

It states that there is clear evidence that the fire and rescue service can, and do, make a significant contribution in protecting the environment and that because of their actions, significant harm to the natural environment has been prevented or mitigated. The handbook provides a role in enduring information is available to allow effective planning and response to incidents which have the potential to cause serious harm to the environment.

The current version of the handbook outlines that it does not consider the impacts that climate change will have on the Fire and Rescue Service; as this was covered in, 'Effects of Climate Change on Fire and Rescue Services in the UK' (1/2006). This document stated that climate change is unlikely to provide new challenges for Fire and Rescue Services, instead, those challenges that are already faced will potentially become more service, and also more frequent, i.e. flooding and grass/woodland fires.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE (SYP)

South Yorkshire Police have developed a [Sustainability Strategy \(2020-2025\)](#) with targets based around seven of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- **Good health and well-being** – support the health and well-being of employees and those SYP work with.
 - Develop and implement the actions arising from the health and wellbeing strategy.
 - Identify mechanisms to enhance community wellbeing through neighbourhood policing
- **Quality education** – provide SYP's people with the skills, knowledge and confidence to contribute to sustainability and widely share these opportunities
 - 100% of staff with the skills, knowledge and confidence to contribute to sustainability.
 - Increase SYP's contribution to social value within schools, colleges and universities across the region.
- **Reduced inequalities** – promote environmental, social and economic equality across everything SYP delivers
 - Review and update our policies and processes to promote equality across our business activities.
 - Work with partners and stakeholders to support the reduction of inequalities in the communities we serve.
- **Responsible consumption and production** – embed sustainability considerations into the purchase, use and disposal of all the resources SYP use
 - Embed sustainability within the procurement process and support the transition to a circular economy.
 - Work with suppliers, to understand and improve the sustainability credentials of SYP's supply chain.
- **Climate action** – take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
 - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75 per cent by 2030 and net zero by 2050.

- Play an active role in supporting South Yorkshire to respond to the climate emergency.
- **Peace, justice and strong institutions** – ensure sustainability is considered in everything SYP delivers
 - Embed the use of the Sustainability Spectrum across South Yorkshire Police and report progress annually.
 - Embed sustainability in the governance and reporting processes to Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services.
- **Partnerships for the goals** – develop effective partnerships to support a positive contribution to the communities we serve
 - Work in 50 partnership initiatives to support the delivery of the SDGs.
 - Work with colleagues from the Police and the Fire Service to support a national response to sustainability.

Progress against the achievement of the Sustainability Spectrum will be monitored via the force Organisational Infrastructure process; whereby each district and department across the force is required to support a quarterly review of their own delivery and this will include sustainability.

The implementation of this strategy will be coordinated by SYP’s sustainability team, which will work with colleagues across the force to achieve the targets identified against their priority SDGs.

YORKSHIRE WATER (YW)

YW have been focusing on climate change, carbon emissions reduction and adaptation for many years. It is a priority for them because, as a business they are reliant on a stable climate – it impacts both their ability to provide clean water to the region, and their ability to deal with wastewater and prevent flooding.

In 2019, YW made a commitment to be Net Zero by 2030. Their approach to achieve this commitment covers three areas:

- **Reducing emissions** - operational emissions have reduced by 80% since 2004/5, mainly through investment in their own renewables and buying only green energy.
- **Retaining carbon** - Yorkshire Water is the second biggest landowner in Yorkshire, and as such their land has significant potential to impact on their emissions. They have developed a tool to account for these emissions which has provided a baseline to monitor against. They are also involved in activities on tree planting and peat restoration. In 2019, the Yorkshire Land Network was established to bring together the region’s biggest landowners to work together, with an aim to develop a carbon offsetting market for Yorkshire.
- **Building resilience** – this work covers a wide range of areas designed to help YW and its customers be more resilient. Key activities include reducing demand and encouraging water efficiency; building supply resilience; reducing flood risk and encouraging mitigation; and helping to create a resilient environment.

To support their approach, they have developed the Six Capitals assessment tool which helps understand the total impact of each decision made. The Six Capitals are Human, Intellectual, Social, Financial, Manufactured, and Natural.

DATA, ACTIVITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

WOODLANDS, TREES & GREEN SPACES

What we know

- Trees absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂), prevent flooding (by absorbing water, intercepting it and slowing down the rate that it flows into rivers), prevent soil erosion and reduce surface run-off. The canopies create shade and shelter, encourage wildlife and are a source of fuel. Trees also provide water quality improvements and contribute to climate action by acting as a land-based carbon sink.
- Doncaster's public tree resource is widespread and diverse but was until recently, largely unrecorded. To date, over 40,000 trees on council land have been surveyed and added to the municipal tree database, including nearly 12,000 in parks and greenspaces and 10,000 street trees. 18% of Doncaster's municipal trees are maple species, 11% lime and 7% cherry. 80% of Doncaster's municipal trees are less than 50 years old.
- Approximately 5.8% of Doncaster is woodland (South Yorkshire average: 7.4%, national average: 8.4%).
- Doncaster tree canopy cover is 13%; wards range from 7% (Stainforth/Barnby Dun) to 24% (Edlington/Warmsworth). Doncaster is lowest in South Yorkshire (SY average 16%, national average 16%).
- Pests and diseases that affect trees appear to be increasing in number and severity of impact.
- The increase in urban temperatures and changing patterns of rainfall affect the capacity for trees to grow within urban areas.
- There is a lack of robust data on quantity and quality of greenspace.
- Many of our parks are high quality with 5 parks having received the Green Flag Award and Elmfield Park has been granted Fields in Trust Status; however the standard of many parks is poor and declining.
- Parks have aging fixed play equipment with no defined replacement budget.
- Large trees are often not valued in town centres and residential areas and their removal is often called for by residents/elected members.

What we've done/are doing

- Aligning with regional and national initiatives to lever investment, for example source to sea EA nature-based solutions programme, northern forest, regional climate activity.
- Doncaster Future Parks programme
- Doncaster Green Space Network: Enhancing social and community capacity, developing platforms for local knowledge share/best practice; volunteering opportunities for corporate & residential participants, and opportunities for new partnership working.
- Doncaster Smart Parks: Integrating new technologies into parks provision, usage and delivery; collating data to support parks provision and development; innovation within parks provision; and utilisation of web-based portals and social media to support the Green Space Network
- Doncaster Quality Parks: Striving for benchmark open space provision standards (Green Flag Standards) and local quality mark (second phase of Green Space Audit).
- Doncaster Parks of the Future: Diversification for the benefit of the natural environment/climate adaptation - for example, looking at more sensitive management of parks, reviewing mowing regimes, allowing naturalisation where appropriate, encouraging areas of natural regeneration to support multiple environmental outcomes. Exploring opportunities for storing water in parks to enhance habitat and look at climate adaptation in urban areas.
- Developing a strategy to encourage and support an increase in the use of greenspace areas by incorporating additional amenity facilities (cafés/toilets) etc.
- Undertaking a Natural Capital Assessment to identify natural assets that provide ecosystem services and developing knowledge share arrangements with other places about adapting green space management for multiple benefits.
- Emerging Local Plan Policy 33 states that development proposals will be supported where it can be demonstrated that woodlands, trees and hedgerows have been adequately considered during the design process and significant adverse impact on public amenity or ecological interest has been avoided. There will also be a presumption against development that results in the loss or deterioration of ancient woodland and/or veteran trees. The Local Plan also has a policy where developers will be asked to complete a HIA where certain triggers are met – loss of green space is one of the triggers.

Health implications

Woodlands, trees and green spaces play an important role in the health and wellbeing of the population. Not only do they lend beauty to our urban and rural communities; time spent in natural environments has demonstrated mental and physical health benefits.

There are positive health effects of viewing natural landscapes on stress levels and speed of recovery from stress or mental fatigue, faster physical recovery from illness and long-term overall improvement on people's health and well-being are reported. Safe and accessible green spaces such as woodlands and parks entice families and children to spend more time outdoors and natural spaces are key to people spending more time being active and socialising.

High quality green (e.g. parks and open spaces) and blue (e.g. lakes, rivers and canals) infrastructure has a positive effect on the health and wellbeing of local communities. Green infrastructure makes several important contributions to local climate regulation including the positive impact on air quality, the reduction in the impact of the 'urban heat island effect', reduction in the likelihood of surface water flooding and the potential to reduce noise pollution. Trees also help to clean and cool the air and reduce harmful air pollutants and air temperatures.

Communities that have access to clean, safe and attractive green spaces in urban and rural areas will be more likely to travel actively through them, enjoy them, and play and socialise in them. Thus, by safeguarding, sharing and increasing and improving green space we can expect to see significant improvements in the local environment and the mental and physical health of those that use these areas.

BIODIVERSITY

What we know

- The UK's biodiversity continues to undergo significant change, in the face of pressures from agricultural practice, detrimental land management, climate change, urban expansion, pollution, invasive non-native species and other factors.
- The impacts to nature include loss of habitat and degradation of its quality, character, distinctiveness and connectivity, in-turn resulting in a loss of species diversity – our biological communities are becoming more similar to each other and less resilient.
- The Government's most recent biodiversity assessment indicates that the UK will not meet the Global 2020 targets it committed to and the following trends persist, including:
 - Rapid changes in species abundance, with more species decreasing than increasing and with the rate of decline not letting-up and in some cases accelerating
 - Species distribution is falling
 - 15% (1188) of conservation-status species, are currently assessed as being threatened with extinction.
- Public support, awareness and engagement in biodiversity conservation and social responsibility is rising as shown by increases in expenditure by Non-Government Organisations and time committed to conservation causes by volunteers. Conversely, public sector expenditure has fallen dramatically over the last decade and coordinated communication and support to help individuals and communities play their part, is not well-developed.
- Doncaster (by area) is the largest Borough in England, covering 220 square miles of varied landscape and supporting some of the richest and rarest habitats in Britain, some occurring nowhere else in the UK.
- Approximately 65% of the Borough is under agricultural use – mostly arable production.
- Doncaster is naturally a marshy landscape but has been artificially pump-drained primarily for agriculture and hunting purposes, making it one of the driest parts of England. Despite this, rivers and wetlands (including the Rivers Don, Dearne, Went, Idle and Torne) are prominent and important features of the Borough's landscape and heritage.
- In the east of the Borough the landform dips to sea level and the low-lying agricultural land is intensively pump-drained and covered in-part by Water Level Management Plans.
- Thorne and Hatfield Moors form part of the UK's largest area of lowland raised bog (peatland), a wetland complex of international importance for nature conservation, which sit within this modified landscape.
- As well as conservation sites of international importance, the borough has 2 Nature Improvement Areas (The Dearne Valley and Humberhead Levels), 15 Sites of Special Scientific Interest and approximately 381 Local Sites.
- Doncaster's wider green (and blue) infrastructure network - of parks, woodlands, allotments, playing fields, cemeteries, rivers and canals etc - supports nature in both rural and urban areas, however few public open spaces are managed to protect or enhance their nature conservation value. Only 38% of the Borough's Local Wildlife Sites are actively managed for their biodiversity interests.
- Public perceptions of what 'managed' greenspace should look like vary widely and are not necessarily beneficial for biodiversity, e.g. the merits of long grass management are not widely understood or welcomed.
- Through local and expert knowledge, we know broadly what action needs to be undertaken for nature, but the supporting evidence and monitoring is not widely or consistently captured to track biodiversity gains and losses. The resources and the drivers needed to implement change are not yet in place.

What we've done/are doing

- Emerging Local Plan Policies 30 (Ecological Networks), 31 (Valuing Biodiversity and Geodiversity), and 32 (Local Wildlife and Geological Sites) work together to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity (sites, habitats and species) and ecological networks.
- Working in partnership, at a landscape and river-catchment scale and across the Borough's boundaries, to plan and deliver strategic habitat and species conservation initiatives that also provide wider sustainability benefits, e.g. Natural Flood Management, community pride and capacity building. Recent projects have delivered extensive peatland restoration interventions on Thorne and Hatfield Moors, community engagement in the habitats and heritage of the Dearne Valley, and several wildlife, visitor and natural flood storage enhancements within the Torne, Don and Went river catchments.
- Working with owners and managers of wildlife sites to provide advice, information and support on land management and opportunities to enhance biodiversity.
- Supporting the operation and development of Doncaster Local Records Centre to promote the collection and sharing of biological information, to inform our knowledge of the Borough's biodiversity and decision-making at all levels. Doncaster is one of 16 accredited local record centres in the UK.

- Doncaster delivered one of DEFRA's six Biodiversity Offsetting pilots to inform the development of Biodiversity Net Gain in the planning system.
- Developed a Doncaster Green Infrastructure Strategy to set out the biodiversity priorities.
- Supporting the Northern Forest initiative.
- Review of greenspace capacity for tree/woodland planting is underway.
- Identification of strategic 'Nature Recovery Network' habitat creation and restoration sites currently underway.
- Commissioning with partners a Natural Capital Assessment for Doncaster identifying opportunities for protecting, enhancing and investing in natural assets and the ecosystem services they provide.

Health implications

Favourable conservation status of wild flora and fauna is essential not only for securing healthy eco systems but for human wellbeing too. Well-designed ecological networks are also essential for mitigating the negative effects of climate change. In addition to the ecological benefits of these sites, there are many health and wellbeing benefits for the residents that use them, therefore it is important that the sites are accessible to all.

WATER QUALITY, FLOOD MANAGEMENT & DRAINAGE

What we know

- Doncaster has large areas that are at risk from river and/or surface water flooding.
- A key issue is the increase in impermeable area due to continued development/increase in new highways; with little resources for upgrading the highway drainage network. An improved drainage network would cost in the billions, as the size of pipework is never upgraded. To mitigate this, flows entering sewers are restricted by attenuating on site.
- Doncaster Council Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) Adoption Policy is currently being implemented to help improve water quality on new developments across the borough. SUDS features allow surface water to re-enter the ground after passing through treatment trains, rather than entering sewers or watercourse.
- Flood protocols/action plans are in place.
- Natural flood management (NFM) schemes are implemented where possible across the borough.
 - Historically, NFM schemes have been difficult to deliver due to funding restrictions for government flood defence grant in aid. However, the requirements are changing which is making the wide scale adoption of these projects easier. Similarly, another challenge with financing NFM is that regulatory regimes tend to prefer the more easily quantifiable outputs of traditional solutions. There is also often very little support available to land managers for the ongoing maintenance of NFM schemes. Yorkshire Water's six capitals approach to assessing benefits is useful for NFM as it captures the wider health and environmental benefits.
 - There's an opportunity to fund NFM projects through carbon and biodiversity offsetting markets and Yorkshire Water is exploring this through the Yorkshire Land Network. This could also help get around the lack of funding for ongoing maintenance.
 - The new requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain from developments could also provide a route for funding of NFM approaches.
- The Environment Agency has an investment request for over £40million of nature based solutions schemes' on the flood risk programme for the River Don, £33million of this request is for Doncaster.
- Water Level Management Plans are in place for Internal Drainage Boards however, Doncaster Borough has 3 drainage boards, and a strategic plan needs to be implemented to tie these together.
- Catchment Area Based Action Plans exist for the 'The Don' and 'The Torne', but a broader catchment approach is important to look at the whole system in order to help mitigate flood risk and build climate resilience. Doncaster have been an advocate for the 'one catchment approach' to helping reduce flood risk and plan for future changes in drainage management as a result of climate change. Yorkshire Water is in conversation authorities across the Sheffield City Region about the possibility of a Don Catchment flooding partnership. Similarly, the Environment Agency is developing a catchment plan for the whole catchment along with other partners involved in source to sea and one catchment approach work.
- A well-maintained drainage network across the Borough leads to achievement of objectives within the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) and provides additional benefits including:
 - Reduced the risk of flooding for properties of surface water
 - Less standing water on the highway network
 - Fewer road/bridge closures and road diversions
 - Fewer potholes
 - Reduced liability
 - Less vehicle/personal damage/injury
 - Better reliability for public and commercial transport services
 - Reduced costs
 - An enhanced environment
 - Access to green space (which has health and wellbeing benefits)
 - Biodiversity benefits
 - Climate mitigation benefits.

What we've done/are doing

- Reactive and planned drainage maintenance:
 - Reactive maintenance takes account of highways and properties at risk of flooding and ensures the drainage assets are working correctly to allow surface water to drain away.
 - Planned works are carried out on a cyclical basis and include cleansing all road gullies, linear drainage, soakaways and trash screens.
 - Inspections are carried out on all other drainage assets, such as pumping stations, ponds and flow controls on a monthly or annual basis to determine the work which needs to be carried out on these assets.

- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment identifies several residual flood risk areas and details planning advice for these which should be considered when looking to develop in these areas. The Council keeps an up-to-date evidence base on flood risk so that proposals outside of Development Allocations have the best available evidence on which to prepare their own site-specific flood risk assessments and appropriate mitigation, and to assist with passing the sequential or exception tests.
- Approval, adoption and maintenance of new Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS).
- Implementation of new flood alleviation schemes occurs every year, including NFM schemes.
- Emerging Local Plan Policy 57 (Drainage) requires that development sites incorporate satisfactory measures for dealing with their drainage impacts, to ensure wastewater and surface water run-off are managed appropriately and reduce flood risk to existing communities.
- Emerging Local Plan Policy 58 (Flood Risk Management) requires that all planning proposals be considered against Government planning policy in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), including application of the flood-risk sequential test, and if necessary, the exception test.
- The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 places duties on the Council to:
 - Carry out Section 19 investigations into any flooding incidents
 - Maintain an asset database of flood risk structures (section 21)
 - Consult on all planning applications in terms of flood risk
 - Co-ordinate management of flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses
 - Co-operate with all other risk management stakeholders

Health implications

- Safe, well-managed and good quality water resources are essential to the health, wellbeing and sustainability of the population.
- Well-managed SUDS also provide local green space that is accessible when not being used for flood water storage which can provide significant health and wellbeing benefits.
- When flooding does occur, it impacts on the lives of local people in several ways. It can affect their homes and ability to travel and work. Floods may also cause injuries, infectious disease outbreaks, chemical contamination, disruption of power and water supplies and difficulties accessing health services.
- A number of studies have noted increases in the incidence of common conditions such as substance misuse, depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder following flooding. The difference between a person experiencing distress and one who goes on to develop further mental health problems depends on a number of factors including the severity and duration of the flood, a person's pre-existing problems, and the overall impact of the flood on each person's life.
- While experiencing a flood is the primary cause of stress for people who are affected, it is important to remember that the stress and strain associated with dealing with cleaning up and recovery may also be a problem.

PEATLAND AND SOIL

What we know

- Thorne, Goole and Crowle Moors, together with Hatfield Moors cover an area of 3,318 hectares (8201 acres).
- The mixture of habitats, including peatland, marsh, woodland and gravel pits, means the area is incredibly rich in wildlife - the reserve supports over 5,000 species of plants and animals, of which more than 4,000 are insects.
- The aim of conservation management for the site is to retain suitable conditions for the development of raised bog and its vegetation.
- Agricultural Land Classification Mapping Data (national dataset) is old and not comprehensive and has limited value in aiding determination of relevant planning applications.
- Soil loss and its environmental impact is not limited to the peatlands but watercourses in agricultural land throughout the Doncaster area are impacted by sediments from soil loss reducing biodiversity, contributing to flood risk, and increasing loss of carbon and soil fertility.
- Peatland, in its natural healthy condition act as carbon sinks and water stores.
- Significant proportion of Doncaster's lowland peat was damaged by commercial peat extraction – these areas have been extensively drained to lower the water table level such that they become a source of significant carbon release.

What we've done/are doing

- Emerging Local Plan Policy 61 (Protecting and Enhancing Doncaster Soil and Water Resources) protects significant loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land (grade 1, 2 and 3a), protects soils of high environmental value (such as peatlands), and requires development proposals to demonstrate that all practicable steps have been taken for soil resources to be conserved and managed in a sustainable way.

Health implications

Peatlands are highly significant to global efforts to combat climate change, as well as wider sustainable development goals. The protection and restoration of peatlands is vital in the transition towards a low-carbon and circular economy. In their natural, wet state peatlands provide vital ecosystem services and sequester carbon. By regulating water flows, they help minimise the risk of flooding. Peatlands form part of a diverse natural environment and thus contribute to biodiversity but also provide a natural landscape which promotes health and wellbeing.

CONTAMINATED LAND

What we know

There are various sources of data related to contaminated land sites. Key sources include:

- Historic Maps (1851 to 2017) identify previous land use and potential contamination.
- Land Quality GIS Datasets including Geology, Hydrogeology, Petrol Stations, Closed Landfills, etc.
- Inspection Strategy (2017) – details how potential contaminated land is identified using datasets within GIS. Potential sites are then risk assessed to determine their priority for inspection. Any land found to be Contaminated Land (as per the Contaminated Land Regulations) that poses an unacceptable risk will be determined, remediated and put on the Contaminated Land Register.
- A public Contaminated Land Register details contaminated land as per the Regulations – currently 43 sites in Doncaster on the register.
- List of Potential Contaminated Land Sites – this dataset is in the process of being ratified.
- A GIS dataset of remediated sites is in the process of being compiled.

What we've done/are doing

Research/Data/Insight

- Phase 1 Contaminated Land Desktop study to ensure potential contaminated sites are identified and risk assessed in accordance with current guidance.
- Cross-referencing of remediated sites to list of potential sites, development of GIS datasets.
- Active member of YALPAG (Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Pollution Advisory Group) which provides guidance, training and networking events/meeting with regional officers.
- Sharing of advice amongst partners about potential contaminated land.
- Proactive and reactive consultations with building control and development management.
- Local Plan Policy 56 (Contamination and Unstable land) proposes that development sites mitigate contamination or land stability through ensuring necessary remedial action, properly identifying and treating adverse ground conditions and clearly demonstrating that the land is suitable for use and there is no significant harm to health or the environment. This can only be captured when new applications are submitted and might not necessarily be picked up otherwise. The Local Plan also recognises the importance of identifying potential sites of concern, the need for investigation and, if appropriate, remediation to protect future site users and the environment as a whole.
- Prior to the EPA 1990 Part IIA Regulations of 2000, there was no legislative requirement to consider land contamination at planning application or any other stage; nor was there any robust comprehensive guidance as is available today. However, Doncaster Council did seek to employ the trigger levels of the Interdepartmental Committee on the Redevelopment of Contaminated Land (ICRCL) and occasionally those of the Dutch Intervention Levels (the Dutch being viewed as the model due to their extensive land reclamation experience).
- The Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance was revised in April 2012, it details how local authorities should identify, inspect and, if appropriate, ensure land and groundwater is remediated. One of the roles of the Local Authority is to inspect their areas in order to identify contaminated land. The Local Authority also needs to consult with other agencies (e.g. the Environment Agency) to determine how best to manage the land and establish whether sites should be designated as 'special sites' as prescribed in the Contaminated Land Regulations.
- The National Planning Policy Framework states that planning policies and decisions should ensure:
 - A site is suitable for its proposed use, taking account of ground conditions and any risks arising from land instability and contamination. This includes risks arising from natural hazards or former activities such as mining, and any proposals for mitigation including land remediation (as well as potential impacts on the natural environment arising from that remediation);
 - after remediation, as a minimum, land should not be capable of being determined as contaminated land under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990; and
 - Adequate site investigation information, prepared by a competent person, inform these assessments.
- YALPAG Development on Land Affected by Contamination has been adopted by the Council and provides guidance for developers, landowners and consultants on safe development in accordance with the NPPF and Local Plan.

Health implications

To date, there is little conclusive evidence of serious health effects from the types and levels of land contamination found in England. However, some sites could pose significant risks to health from long-term exposure based on the known toxicology of contaminants. Equally, the likely chance and amount of the dose, depends on the potential exposure pathways from which the public could be exposed. In light of these potential risks there is good reason to take a precautionary approach to dealing with land potentially affected by contamination.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF BUILDINGS & SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

What we know

- By referring to data from the national Energy Performance Certificate database, we know that Doncaster's domestic energy efficiency ratings profile closely matches that of the national profile: A/B: 8%, C: 52%, D: 17%; E: 18%, and F/G: 5%.
- Energy ratings are uniform across all tenures and the private rented sector has the largest proportion of the least energy efficient homes.
- Private sector homes in Doncaster have the following profile: A/B: 10%, C: 26%, D: 45%, E: 17% and F/G: 4%. Around 92% of these have the potential to achieve A-C rating. But only 6% could achieve an A rating.
- Using a combination of EPC data and UNO SAP rating software, we know that the circa 21,000 Council houses mainly fall into rating C (62%) and rating D (35%), with 3% at rating B.
- Doncaster has the 9th highest number of renewable energy installations in the UK, with 7, 053 homes and 191 businesses generating their own electricity as of March 2019.
- 678kw of solar PV has been installed on 16 Council owned buildings, all energy generated on site is either consumed by us or sold via a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) to the tenant. These works have been funded through borrowing, enabling electricity savings to be made as well as Feed in Tariff and PPA payments returning the investment.
- 2.124MW of solar PV has been installed on 750 council houses; on average, 50% of the solar generated electricity is used by the tenant, the other 50% goes back to the grid. This is HRA funded with Feed in Tariff payments returning the investment.
- Carbon emissions from the use of gas and electricity in Council buildings was 12,051 tCO₂ in 2019.
- Nearly half (45.7%) of households, in England & Wales, living in private rented properties are in fuel poverty. National Energy Action estimates that 10,000 deaths each year are attributable to living in a cold home. In Yorkshire & Humber live, around 11% are estimated to be in fuel poverty.
- National planning policies are in place to support proposals that give priority to low carbon & renewable energy generation: heat or power generation from light, water, waste; landfill & sewage gas energy generation; and wind power, in appropriate locations.
- From April 2020, landlords can no longer let a property with an EPC rating below E, unless they have a valid exemption in place. Legislation is in place to require local housing authorities to investigate and take appropriate action to remove hazards from housing stock, for which 'excess cold' is just one.

What we've done/are doing

- Reduction in Council carbon emissions from the use of gas and electricity from 26ktCO₂ to 12ktCO₂ in the past 5 years, via various measures including PV installations, LED lighting upgrades (buildings and street lighting), biomass boiler installations.
- Continued improvement of the energy efficiency rating of council homes, with a long-term ambition of carbon neutrality.
- Operation of home energy saving grants since 2001, helping thousands of homeowners and social housing tenants to receive free and discounted wall and loft insulation, replacement boilers and first-time gas central heating – upgrade from coal fires/electric storage heaters/portable electric heating.
- Delivering area-based initiatives to target vulnerable households living in fuel poverty in energy inefficient housing, resulting in more high energy efficient homes (SAP more than 65) and fewer low energy homes (SAP less than 35).
- Promotion of the use of micro-renewable energy technologies and decentralised heat and power systems within new developments.
- Inspections of private rented properties and notification to landlords of energy efficiency improvements required to remove excess cold hazards.
- Embedding new Future Homes Standard and associated changes to Parts L and F of Building Regulations for new council dwellings.
- Local planning policy is being updated through the emerging Local Plan Policies 59 and 60.
- Ensuring compliance with the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) for all Council owned commercial property advertised to let.
- Delivery of Energy Management services to schools as part of the Buy Doncaster service offer, helping schools reduce energy and water consumption and invest in renewable energy technology.

- Delivery of a proactive, community based, approach to provide home energy saving advice and support with home energy saving improvements since 2008.
- Developed opportunities for training and education e.g. carbon literacy.

Health implications

Affordable and sustainable energy is important for the health and wellbeing. It is key to health that people can afford energy and can heat and run their homes efficiently. Embedding sustainability into current and future housing and other developments are essential for a cleaner and greener borough. Supporting interventions and developments that improve the energy efficiency of current and new housing stock and buildings and that contribute to an inclusive economy that benefits the health and wellbeing everyone in Doncaster.

10.8% of the Doncaster population (2017) are estimated to be in fuel poverty and fuel poverty affects our populations unevenly, with residents who are poorer and older being more likely to experience it. Fuel poverty and cold housing affect many different population groups, with various levels of health impacts relating to different groups. There are measurable effects of cold housing on adults' physical health, well-being and self-assessed general health, in particular for vulnerable adults and those with existing health conditions. Children experience significant negative effects of cold housing in terms of infants' weight gain, hospital admission rates, developmental status, and the severity and frequency of asthmatic symptoms. There are clear negative effects of cold housing and fuel poverty on the mental health of adolescents. Older people experience a higher mortality risk, physical health and mental health and fuel poverty and cold homes contribute excess winter deaths (Marmot, 2011).

Renewable sources of energy offer several potential advantages. They do not irreversibly deplete finite resources, and most have a lower climate footprint than do fossil fuels. If managed well, they can pose minimal health risks and can yield social and economic co-benefits.

Public Health acknowledges the great importance of low carbon and renewable energy however, placement of such facilities may negatively impact communities' health and wellbeing, however it should be noted that biomass can impact on air quality and thus the public's health.

It is key that energy efficiency interventions are continued and scaled up/receive further investment in order to ensure that as many properties as possible are energy efficient and that those whose health is most at risk are prioritised and proactively targeted.

STATUTORY NUISANCES INCLUDING NOISE, ODOUR AND LIGHT POLLUTION

What we know

- The Council's Enforcement Service has a duty to investigate its area for statutory nuisances and complaints, with an escalating approach to the issues. This often starts with an informal discussion/letter, but can involve personal monitoring, recording equipment, service of legal notice which requires the perpetrator to take action to stop or reduce the problem being caused, prosecution and/or works to stop the nuisance continuing. The Enforcement Service are also consultees of the Planning Service and provide technical guidance to the service on how developers should mitigate any environmental impact and reduce the impact of the locality on a development. The Service are also statutory consultees to the Licensing Team and can offer advice or object to premises licence applications should they believe that unacceptable public nuisance may be caused by any proposal.
- The Council's Enforcement Team investigates a wide range of complaints which can have a negative impact on people's health and wellbeing, the environment and local area or community.
- The Council receives around 2,200 noise complaints per year:
 - Most noise complaints are from residential sources associated with playing music (35%), dogs/animals (27%) and noise from neighbours (23%).
 - Majority of complaints are resolved in the earliest informal manner through letters, phone calls or face-to-face discussions between enforcement officers and the person causing the disturbance. Only around 50 cases per year result in Notices being served, with some of these resulting in formal proceedings such as prosecution and/or seizure of noise making equipment.
 - The vast majority of cases are closed because residents do not complete the necessary monitoring forms to provide evidence upon which formal action can be taken. The reasons for this are unknown, although it is quite likely that for many cases, the initial informal contact made with the perpetrator is sufficient to resolve the problem reported.
- Fewer odour and light complaints are received, with around 80 and 24 per year respectively, the majority of which are not substantiated as a statutory nuisance:
 - The majority of odour complaints are in rural areas and are agricultural in nature.
 - Light complaints are evenly spread across the borough.
- The Council receives around 14 dust complaints per year. Dust complaints often arise due to construction and development sites. In such cases, investigation is undertaken to ensure the developer is taking "best practicable means" to minimise any dust emissions.
- The Council receives around 40 chimney smoke complaints per year, most from domestic premises. It also receives around 240 bonfire smoke complaints, over 75% of which are domestic bonfires.
- There is a need to develop liaison and reporting mechanisms from the Fire Service regarding attendance at fires that cause smoke, to enable the Council to take enforcement action against perpetrators where appropriate.

What we have done/are doing

- Significant investment in 45000 low power LED street lanterns. These will last 25 years (3 times longer than the old sodium lights) and has reduced the borough's energy bill by 70%, and the borough's streetlight carbon footprint by 80%. This tech allows for need-led automatic/remote brightening/dimming of lanterns which will help to minimise light pollution. Over 70% of the material from the old lights were recycled.
- Emerging Local Plan Policy 55 (Pollution) states that development proposals that are likely to cause pollution, or be exposed to pollution, will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that pollution can be avoided, or where mitigation measures will minimise significantly harmful impacts to acceptable levels that protect health, environmental quality and amenity. Under this policy, particular consideration will be given to assessment of risks to public health and impact of cumulative effects, presence of noise generating uses close to the site, impact on air quality, any adverse effects on water bodies and groundwater resources, and the impact of artificial lighting.
- Larger developments that require planning permission will often have a condition requiring the developer to submit a management plan detailing how they will minimise the impact of dust and noise on the locality.

Health implications

Noise is second to poor air quality in terms of the burden of ill health caused by a single pollutant and is increasingly high on the international agenda. Over 80 percent of people report being exposed to noise pollution in their homes. Direct links to ill health include sleep disturbance and stress, with more indirect associations including hypertension, cardiovascular disease and impaired children's learning development. Addressing noise levels retrospectively can be costly and it is better to consider noise pollution in planning decisions.

Appropriate lighting contributes to a sense of identity and place and makes for a safer and friendlier environment. However, inappropriate lighting can cause light pollution. Inconsiderately sited security lights, as well as illuminated signs and floodlit parks, car parks and recreational areas, all have the potential to affect people in their homes. Health implications related to using inappropriate lighting in public spaces include risks relating to glare and inappropriate light spectrums, as well as harm to local ecologies. Although artificial light can provide many benefits to society, for example extending the time people can spend outside recreationally and providing better visibility and feelings of safety in public spaces, it is important that the right lighting is used in the right place, at the right time.

Odour nuisance is subjective and difficult to define and measure particularly since they can also arise from a wide variety of sources. In rural areas, people may complain about the smell from slurry spreading on farms, or other agricultural activities. In urban areas, odour problems may arise from restaurants and takeaways, dry cleaners, smoking, blocked drains and waste facilities, including waste transfer stations and wastewater treatment works. Although most odours are not harmful to health, they can be a common cause of distress and complaint for individuals.

TRANSPORT

What we know

Air Pollution

- 8 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) have been declared. Their locations are all near busy roads, and are due to high levels of nitrogen dioxide:
 - Central Doncaster, alongside the A630. (North Bridge Area/Wheatley Hall Road) (Aug 2001).
 - An area surrounding A1(M) junction 36, extending along the A18 (Balby Road) eastwards to Doncaster town centre. (Aug 2001).
 - Along a section of the A18 (Carr House Road) between the junctions with the A638/Bawtry Road and A638/Trafford Way. (Aug 2001).
 - Along a section of the M18, crossing the A638/Bawtry Road extending into the Hatchell Wood area up to Warning Tongue Lane. (Jun 2003).
 - Parts of Conisborough (Low Road, Doncaster Road and Sheffield Road and other roads adjacent to those listed). (Apr 2012).
 - Along the A1 in Skellow (including Hill Crest, Howden Avenue and Crabgate Lane and other adjacent roads). (Sep 2013).
 - Along the A635 (Barnsley Road) in Hickleton (Dec 2014) and Marr (Aug 2020).
- Whilst we have been successful in reducing concentrations in some areas over the long-term, we are still some way from compliance with the national air quality annual mean objective for nitrogen dioxide. Current improvement trends suggest the status of the AQMAs will remain unchanged in the near future.
- The number of deaths attributable to particulate matter air pollution in 2010 was around 160 deaths per year. In 2018 this was 147 deaths (4.6%). This is a higher proportion than Yorkshire & Humber (4.5%) but lower than England (5.2%).

Vehicular Road Use

Department of Transport (DfT) 2019 data shows:

- Doncaster has consistently had the highest level of vehicle use in South Yorkshire for almost 3 decades. Since 1993, motor vehicle traffic has increased by 67%; with a recent 16% increase between 2014 and 2019.
- The national average vehicle age was 9.1 years for petrol cars, 7.3 years for diesel cars, and 15 years for motorcycles.
- There was a 18% decrease from the previous year in national new diesel car registrations (3% increase for petrol).
- Electric vehicle registrations increased nationally by 144% (37,850) against the previous year. In Doncaster, the increase was much higher at 489% (from 55 to 324); this was second only to Birmingham.
- The number of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV) in the licenced car sector increased from 202 in 2012, to 6759 in 2019.
- Bus use in the Sheffield City Region (SCR) has fallen by 18% in 10 years; yet a quarter of households don't have a car. Nearly 1 in 5 residents live in a rural area and the population is ageing (this data is unavailable for Doncaster specifically).
- Doncaster buses are often the oldest and most polluting in South Yorkshire. Bus services are provided by private, for-profit companies, so there needs to be continued support for these businesses in their transition to greener fleet.
- Average number of Public Service Vehicles has reduced in the four years to 2018 by around 13%.

Active Travel

- Data from Sport England Active Lives Survey shows that between November 2015 to November 2018 Doncaster has:
 - A downward trend in cycling for travel (from 12.5% to 9.1%). This is similar to national and regional figures.
 - An upward trend in walking for travel (twice within the last 28 days) (from 23.9% to 27.4%). This figure is the England, Yorkshire and South Yorkshire figures, but the trend is similar.
- The Pedestrian count long-term trend (2002-2018) is upwards, with almost 13,000 pedestrians in 2002 to almost 17,000 in 2018: indicating a 31% increase over 17 years. The average number of pedestrians from 2010 to 2018 is 12% higher than the average from 2002 to 2010.

Rail

- There are 9 Doncaster train stations, located in Adwick, Bentley, Conisbrough, Town Centre, Hatfield & Stainforth, Kirk Sandall, Mexborough, Thorne North and Thorne South.
- Doncaster and Conisbrough stations are seeing increases in passengers, but all others have seen reductions of between 6%-14% across 2016-2019.

Rail patronage – Rail station entries/exits

Station Name	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Change	%
Doncaster	3,825,644	3,857,370	3,917,948	92,304	2.4%
Adwick	197,926	186,820	170,790	-27,136	-13.7%
Bentley	130,434	131,280	130,044	-390	-0.3%
Conisbrough	91,724	98,376	118,012	26,288	28.7%
Hatfield & Stainforth	81,440	76,744	73,108	-8,332	-10.2%
Kirk Sandall	124,546	110,646	107,844	-16,702	-13.4%
Mexborough	209,928	200,428	192,350	-17,578	-8.4%
Thorne North	188,758	175,868	173,472	-15,286	-8.1%
Thorne South	87,334	83,840	81,766	-5,568	-6.4%
TOTAL	4,937,734	4,921,372	4,965,334	27,600	0.6%

Taxis

- There are over 700 taxis in Doncaster, consisting of approximately:
 - 200 Hackney Carriage Vehicles (can be flagged down in the street or park on a taxi rank)
 - 100 Private Hire Operators (able to accept bookings and dispatch licensed vehicles to carry out the journey)
 - 600 Private Hire Vehicles (journeys must be pre-booked through a private hire operator)
 - 500 Private Hire Drivers (can only drive a licensed private hire vehicle)
 - 500 Joint Drivers (can drive either Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicles)

Council Fleet

- Approximately 675 vehicles of varying size and specification ranging from small cars to large gritting lorries, which is on par with similar sized Local Authorities. The EU emissions standard footprint is significantly below expected levels.
- Number of miles driven is increasing:
 - Jul 2017 - Mar 2018: 0.42billion miles
 - Apr 2018 - Mar 2019: 1.05billion miles
 - Apr 2019 - Mar 2020: 1.07billion miles

Road Works

- 5000+ road works applications per year 2012-2019, causing 1.23 days disruption per permit. Traffic congestion increases emissions as vehicles progress more slowly along their route.
- Current maintenance backlog is around £150m for highways and around £27m for bridges. Annual maintenance budget for highways works on the ground at £4m-£5m and £850k for bridges.

Alternative Fuel Infrastructure

- Fuelling buses and cars with compressed natural gas (CNG) could help to reduce carbon dioxide and nitrogen dioxide emissions.
- A CNG feasibility study data shows several very good potential sites for a CNG station (due to proximity of key users and high/medium pressure mains access). These include the A638 near The Dome, Rands Lane Industrial Estate, Middlebank and New Rossington (iPort).
- The initial site identification report proposed that subsequent research is needed to define the viability (including potential demand) and economics of potential stations, taking into consideration the strategic requirements of the region.

Regional and Local ambitions

- The Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy aims to enhance access to jobs, markets, skills and supply chains; Enhance productivity by making the transport system faster, more reliable and more resilient; and Invest in integrated packages of infrastructure to unlock future economic growth and support Local Plans, including new housing provision.
- The Mayor's ambition for journey times: Neighbourhood (the closest built-up area to your home) to Regional Hub in 15mins, Regional Hub to Regional Hub in 30mins, and Regional Hub to Major Centre in 75mins.

What we've done/are doing

Partnerships

- Quality bus partnership – working with private bus companies to improve emissions from the local bus fleet.
- Daily price cap has been implemented for bus travel around Doncaster.
- Doncaster Active Travel Alliance – partnership of internal Doncaster Council colleagues that have similar outcomes in relation to walking and cycling. Supports an active travel providers group that deliver funded programmes of work in the Borough.
- SCR Active Travel Commissioner project and programme board – to shape active travel policy and implementation across the borough.
- Annual Clean Air Day Awareness Campaigns – road closures around a school and areas with high pollution from cars. There was good uptake of the activities. Coupled with the Sustainable Travel work in schools, these campaigns have helped raise awareness of the effect of the number of cars dropping kids off at school and idling outside schools, which contributes to poor air quality. More work is needed to reduce the amount of traffic and idling outside schools.

Investment

- Cycling & Walking – Council investment in walking and cycling infrastructure and behaviour change approaches such as school active travel officers.
- A proposal has been submitted as part of the Emergency Active Travel funding to trial a low traffic neighbourhood in Doncaster by the end of March 2021. It is our intention to develop our community engagement approaches to further identify potential areas. Doncaster has also been successful with Dept of Transport funding to test school streets in 10 schools.
- Using lifecycle planning and budget optimisation modelling to identify long-term maintenance funding requirements for the maintenance and improvement of road network condition.
- Fleet Replacement Policy is underway, which has brought the Council's fleet EU emissions standard footprint significantly below expected levels. Long-term ambition is for all fleet to comprise of ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEVs), specifically electric vehicles (EVs), and plans for charging infrastructure are being prepared.
- SCR have been successful with a bid, to the Department for Transport for Transforming Cities funding- £35 million to be spent in Doncaster over the next 3 years on active travel infrastructure and improving bus journey times.

Policy/Regulation

- All industrial processes listed within the Environmental Permitting Regulations are required to have a permit, issued either by the Council or Environment Agency. Doncaster Council currently has 85 permitted processes within the Borough.
- A number of emerging Local Plan Policies relate to air quality:
 - Requirements for EV charging
 - Cycling and walking provision as set out in Policy 17 and 18
 - Strategic provision of Town Centre Car Parking as detailed in Policy 15
 - Reduced cause of, or exposure to, pollution, as described in Policy 55
 - Ensuring that low carbon and renewable energy proposals have no unacceptable adverse effects on air quality, as detailed in Policy 59
- The HIA screening process asks if a development site is in an AQMA – if so, then it asks that a Rapid Assessment is undertaken – however, depending on the development itself it may already need a comprehensive HIA.
- All Streets (road works) Permit Scheme (commenced Apr 2019) – forecasting approximately 9000 permits per year.

Advice/Education/Behavioural Change

- Advising Businesses: ECOstars (funding ended in March 2020) recognised good fleet practices and helps businesses reduce emissions. ECO driving training funded until end of 2020 helps businesses train drivers in cleaner driving practices.
- Advising residents: 'Fuelling Change' & 'Care4air' campaigns – awareness of alternative fuelled vehicles.
- The services schools currently get all year round are:
 - Modeshift STARS Accreditation (national schools scheme, recognising support for sustainable travel)
 - Bikeability (teaching the safe cycling skills, encouraging a healthy lifestyle)
 - Dr Bike (mechanics carrying out bicycle safety-checks/servicing at workplaces/schools)
 - DCLT Cycle Hub (Cycling for Health - focal point for a broad spectrum of cycling activity, from informal support and advice to led rides, cycle training and supervised activity)
 - Active Travel Events (Active Travel Awards, Schools Yorkshire Tour, Clean Air Day)
 - Active Travel Officer in Schools

Health Implications

The quality of the local environment can have a significant impact on physical and mental health. Recent evidence indicates that living in an area with clear air can lead to positive changes in people's health behaviours. Improved air quality is associated with increased physical activity among older adults. There is a wealth of consistent evidence demonstrating clear adverse effects of exposure to air pollutants on health outcomes across all population groups. For example, poor air quality is linked with an increased risk of developing chronic conditions (e.g., COPD and type II diabetes), neonatal complications and poor birth outcomes, cancer, worsened respiratory outcomes and childhood mortality, among others. The national trend shows high average concentrations of air pollution in both the most and least deprived areas, and lower concentrations in the (predominantly rural) mid-decile areas. Children (14 and under) and older people (65 and older) are more susceptible to the effects of air pollution (NICE 2017).

Reduced levels of car parking and travel plans which encourage the use of public transport, cycling and walking will result in better local environmental conditions.

Switching more journeys to active travel will improve health, quality of life and the environment, and local productivity, while at the same time reducing costs to the public purse. These are substantial 'win-wins' that benefit individual people and the community as a whole.

Encouraging shorter journeys by walking and cycling can help reduce high levels of road traffic that has a negative impact on air and noise pollution and can isolate communities due to perceived road safety.

Connectivity to and from key development areas across the Town Centre, such as the rail/bus interchange, college and Waterfront, by walking and cycling is crucial to positive redevelopment of the area. It can have multiple interrelated effects on health and wellbeing such as physical activity, the reduction in noise and air pollution and safer streets due to increased pedestrian/cyclist usage.

In order to effectively improve health and wellbeing in the long term, interventions should focus on wholesale system change with a focus on societal and structural improvement in combination with educational or persuasive approaches. Bespoke packages should be developed for our target area and populations. Resources will be required to assess effectiveness and potential impact in combination, for example an anti-idling campaign in isolation may only show small improvements, but should be introduced together with driving measures, appropriate green infrastructure, and behaviour information on what side of the road to walk on, choosing less polluted routes. These combined approaches more effective and have potential public health co-benefits such as improved uptake of walking/cycling.

ECONOMY & GREEN TECHNOLOGY

NATURE TOURISM

What we know

- Nature Tourism can be categorised into three groups:
 - *Incidental natural settings or experiences* – the location, both locally and geographically, may not be pre-determined, and could encompass a wide variety of options such as bodies of water, the countryside, wilderness or almost any natural area.
 - *Activities dependent on nature and where nature provides a focus* – more prescriptive wildlife viewing, birdwatching/ornithology or perhaps walking/rambling.
 - *Activities enhanced by nature* – although engagement with nature isn't the primary purpose of the trip or visit, the engagement within a natural setting enhances or adds value to the experience. Outdoor activities and physical pursuits such as cycling, walking, running, and kayaking for example, fall into this category especially in the context of day visits.
- Natural capital projects aim to protect, restore and enhance natural ecosystems to better support climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts whilst conserving biodiversity and other vital natural resources.
- The success of nature tourism in many parts of the UK is predicated on a few key factors: the presence of charismatic (or “iconic”) species, a supporting infrastructure of well managed and interpreted sites capable of handling individuals and groups of visitors, and a network of supportive businesses including accommodation providers, catering services, and where relevant, locally based services such as boat trip operators and/or wildlife guides.
- Between 2017-2019 there was an average of 305,000 trips a year to Doncaster generating 760,000 overnight stays per year which generated an average annual spend of £41 million. In the same period Doncaster had, on average a further 7.1 million day visitors per year, generating an average £212 million per year. This is a total of £253m visitor spend per year. Visitor spend on the Trans Pennine Trail increased from £144m in 2011 to £885m in 2017.

What we've done/are doing

- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) gives clear guidance that planning policies should support economic growth in rural areas, and together with other policies in the Plan, Part 4 of Policy 26 of the Local Plan provides support for appropriate proposals for new non-residential development in the Countryside. These uses may include the development and diversification of sustainable tourism and leisure developments.
- Policy 35 of the Local Plan supports the preservation and, where appropriate, enhancement of heritage significance of the Borough's assets, including assets at Thorne and Hatfield Moors. Part B of this Policy also supports improvement of accessibility and enjoyment of the Borough's existing and potential attractions, including Cusworth Hall and its parkland, Conisbrough Castle and Brodsworth Hall and its parkland and Potteric Carr.
- A number of parks in Doncaster (Campsall Country Park, Bentley Park, Sandal Park, Cusworth Park and Quarry Park) have achieved a Green Flag Award which recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces. Achieving this award gives the park the status of being affiliated with a prestigious awards programme, as well as tangible benefits such as boosting tourism and opening up revenue opportunities.
- A Visitor Economy group has been set up with partners who manage some assets including Yorkshire Wildlife Park, English Heritage, Conisbrough Castle, Brodsworth Hall. This allows for a coordinated approach to managing and marketing nature attractions to ensure visitors can have the best experience of Doncaster's natural assets.
- Visit Doncaster has a specific section to showcase the nature tourism options in the Borough and make it easier for visitors and residents alike to discover opportunities to explore the natural assets the Borough has to offer.

Health implications

High quality green and blue infrastructure has a positive effect on the health and wellbeing of local communities. It can increase the amount of physical activity and time spent outdoors and green space can have positive effects on mental health and wellbeing. A focus on nature tourism could help safeguard and improve our natural resources in addition to creating sustainable jobs and economic growth for rural areas. In order to support the population's health and wellbeing it is key that economic growth is sustainable and creates social value locally. An example would be ensuring additional income in relation to tourism is invested back into the natural resource and the local community. Any development in relation to tourism must protect and enhance the natural resources and it is important that any additional tourism does not increase car travel, nor negatively affect the site or the local environment. It is key that for any tourism related development that takes place, the primary modes of transport are sustainable, and that additional car travel is not encouraged. Good connectivity including walking and cycling infrastructure to our green and blue infrastructure for Doncaster residents and those visiting from outside the borough is key to maximise the number of sustainable journeys made to these venues.

GREEN AND INNOVATIVE ECONOMY

What we know

Direct Low-carbon jobs by Sector

- The 'Local green jobs - accelerating a sustainable economic recovery' (2020) report written by Ecuity Consulting on behalf of the Local Government Association (LGA) provides analysis of the direct jobs employed in the low-carbon and renewable economy and the jobs required for a net zero economy in England. The report also:
 - Identifies where these will be located in the coming years
 - Includes an assessment of the number of jobs that will be required, by sector – which is further broken-down to regional and local authority level, based on industry insight and the current sectoral breakdown in each area.
- The LGA estimates that for Doncaster, across all the low-carbon and renewable energy economy, 3,649 jobs will be required by 2030, and 5,565 will be required by 2050.
- The table below breaks this down by the sectors that the UK Government currently defines as comprising the low-carbon and renewable energy economy:

Sector	Jobs by 2030	Jobs by 2050
Low-carbon electricity	81	205
Low-carbon heat	897	1,349
Alternative fuels	1,330	1,971
Energy Efficiency	820	865
Low-carbon services	194	547
Low emission vehicles & infrastructure	327	628
Total	3,649	5,565

- These 'direct' jobs refer to those jobs that arise directly as result of the investment or installed capacity. In other words, the jobs related to designing, manufacturing, constructing, operating and maintaining a particular technology or energy source.
- Clearly, technologies and services will evolve as the country moves towards 2050, but this is useful information to inform Doncaster's low carbon strategy – when blended with the 'on-the ground' information that the data doesn't capture, for example:
 - Major Projects underway and in the pipeline
 - The opportunities for cross-boundary collaboration at scale

What we've done/are doing

A New Borough Strategy

- Whilst the Covid-19 crisis is likely to lower Doncaster's economic growth for a number of years, the 2030 ambition is unchanged: to develop a more inclusive, sustainable and resilient economy that improves the well-being of residents.
- Key supporting strategies to help achieve this include: Inclusive Growth Strategy, Housing Strategy, Education & Skills Strategy 2030, SCR Strategic Economic Plan, SCR Energy Strategy, South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan
- To 'build-back better' from Covid-19, Doncaster (and the SCR as a whole) is:
 - *Prioritising investment in a low carbon economy* – to improve the well-being of residents through cleaner air, environmental security, improved health, improved public transport, and a resilient economy with more quality jobs.
 - *Developing a framework for delivering green growth* that will balance the improvement of local well-being with the respect for planetary environmental boundaries.

Green Businesses & Jobs

- The transition to carbon neutrality has the potential to unlock substantial business opportunities – to build a more resilient and better economy; and to support people into well-paid work at scale.
- Doncaster will prioritise the low-carbon investments that will deliver jobs at scale and deliver productive and sustainable assets for the future.
- As acceptance and support increases for climate change emergency action, there will be a whole range of opportunities to take advantage of, linked to public, industry, and government pressure to develop a more inclusive and sustainable economy; this could be for new buildings, machinery as well as retrofitting/upgrading of existing tech to newer, cleaner standards. These include a whole variety of industry sectors e.g. clean energy production, domestic heating, and low carbon transport.

- Doncaster recognises that many jobs can be created in sectors which do not display strong distinctive local/regional traits or competitive advantages, i.e. they have the potential to be created everywhere. For example, energy efficiency products are likely to be installed in households across the whole country.
- Emerging Local Plan policy 27 (Green Infrastructure) requires developments to contribute to Green Infrastructure (GI) and have regard to the latest GI audits and strategies. The GI must principally benefit the development and connect to the wider network. Major development proposals of 30+ family dwellings require a GI masterplan that demonstrates how the development enhances the environment and avoids loss or damage to GI assets.
- Emerging Local Plan policy 47 (Design of non-residential, commercial and employment developments) includes a requirement for high quality, attractive developments that make a positive contribution to the area. New major non-domestic developments must meet BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) rating of at least 'Very Good' and secure at least 10% of their regulated energy from renewable sources. Large buildings must be able to accommodate solar panels.
- Learning from the international community in achieving inclusive and sustainable growth in prosperity, for example Amsterdam's application of the 'doughnut economies' model as a guide to what it means for countries, cities and people to thrive in balance with the planet.

The Circular Economy

- The report by Ecuity Consulting provides a useful benchmark on the number of direct jobs, however Doncaster recognises that to fully harness the benefits of a low carbon economy, it is necessary to develop an overall circular economy – to keep finite resources in a loop of use and reuse for as long as possible using renewable energy sources.
- A circular economy aims to redefine growth, focusing on positive society-wide benefits. It entails gradually decoupling economic activity from the consumption of finite resources and designing waste out of the system. This needs to be underpinned by a transition to renewable energy sources. The circular model builds economic, natural, and social capital and is based on three principles:
 - Design out waste and pollution
 - Keep products and materials in use
 - Regenerate natural systems

Health implications

A vibrant economy contributes to good health and wellbeing. Creating a green and innovative economy should contribute to improved health and wellbeing if the development aims to equalise the opportunities presented and tackle the inequality in income, health and opportunity that exist locally. These proposals present the opportunity to change focus to sustainable development and should be used to create good, quality sustainable jobs, training and careers and to increase social value, for example, by creating a cyclical economy that benefits local workers, local communities, local businesses and the local environment. It is important that with any new industry or development that they aim to have a positive impact on the local environment (including transport considerations) and population health and wellbeing in addition to being green technology/industry. A Health Impact Assessment should be undertaken on the new development related to this policy to ensure that it does not negatively affect health and wellbeing.

EXISTING BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND GROWTH

What we know

- Prior to the Covid-19 global pandemic, Doncaster was in a transition from an economy dominated by heavy industry to a more diverse, knowledge-driven economy.
- In the ten years to 2020, Doncaster recovered from the 2008 global financial crisis and made good progress in developing a more enterprising, diverse and inclusive economy, for example:
 - GVA: Between 2012 and 2018, Doncaster recorded a £1.57bn (+37%) increase in overall current price GVA, taking the total to £5.9bn.
 - Businesses: The business base grew from approximately 6,500 to 9,360 (+44%) in ten years (2010-2020). Almost 90% of Doncaster's businesses are micro businesses that employ up to 9 people.
 - Jobs: The number of private sector jobs increased by approximately 13,500 to 95,000 (+17%) in ten years (2009-2019). This included increases in for example professional, scientific and technical jobs (+2,500), transport and storage (+2,000), construction (+2,000), manufacturing (+1,000), business administration and support services (+1,000). These increases more than offset a reduction in retail jobs (-1,000) and mining, quarrying and utilities (-700). During the same period the number of public sector jobs reduced by approximately 5,000. The top five employing sectors in 2019 were health, retail, manufacturing, transport and storage and education.
 - Employment: The employment rate hit record highs and in December 2019 stood at 71.7% which was 6 percentage points higher than in 2014.

- Housing: The rate of house building was on a par with the national average and 2018/19 was a record year with over 1,300 net homes provided.
- Jobs and growth were supported by a critical mass of major projects including town centre regeneration, DN7 Unity Project and the growth hub around the Airport (Gateway East).
- However, the Covid-19 crisis resulted in UK recession and has had major impact on Doncaster's economy and the well-being of residents, particularly through unprecedented numbers of job losses and business closures
- As early as May 2020:
 - The number of claimants searching for work had risen to 14,560 (7.6% of the working age population), double the amount seen at the same time the previous year and the highest number of claimants in one month since April 1996.
 - The proportion of 16-24 year olds searching for work was 10.8% - the 2nd highest in the country.
- Doncaster entered this recession with relatively low economic resilience due to long-standing post-industrial challenges relating to:
 - Relatively low levels of skills, e.g., for NVQ4+ skills Doncaster was ranked 62 out of 63 in Great Britain.
 - There was an above average proportion of residents with no formal qualifications – ranked 43 out of 63/
 - Relatively low levels productivity – ranked 55 out of 63.
 - Relatively low levels and exports per job - ranked 59 out of 63.
 - Relatively high levels of unemployment - a rate of 7.2% compared to a rate of 3.9% for England.
- The Centre for Progressive Policy (CPP) reported, 'Back from brink - avoiding a lost generation', identified Doncaster as one of seven Yorkshire and Humber areas that are vulnerable to the long-term scarring of their economies. The report highlighted that unemployment can have long lasting impact on individuals who find it increasingly difficult to reconnect with job opportunities; this then impacts on their health and well-being.
- Doncaster and Sheffield City Region (SCR) economic recovery plans are focused on the imperatives of getting people back into work, through employment and skills support, supporting as many businesses as possible to bounce back and exploiting new markets and opportunities.
- At the same time, the objective of 'building-back better' for the longer term underpins the work – to improve the well-being of residents within a zero-carbon future.

What we've done/are doing

- Bringing the Industry Together - The Doncaster Green Growth Conference in January 2020 demonstrated the Doncaster approach to co-producing future priorities by considering current strength, assets, barriers and opportunities for growth. It brought together local businesses, providers of business support, the academic sector and leading national thinkers in the fields of green growth and productivity.
- Developing Competitive Advantages- Doncaster already has distinctive industry strengths it can exploit to create quality jobs and tackle climate change at the same time.
- Doncaster's Inclusive Growth Strategy and emerging SCR Strategic Economic Plan identifies Future Mobility as a key platform for jobs, innovation, GVA and productivity growth – and for tackling climate change. Doncaster is working to create green jobs and growth at scale, by combining its existing competitive advantages (e.g. rail engineering and logistics) and strategic development projects (e.g. iPort, Airport, NCATI and Waterfront site) and linking them to wider opportunities for innovation.
- Doncaster is linking its competitive advantages and wider low-carbon growth opportunities to investment in education, skills and training. This includes developing new Centres of Excellence as part of Doncaster's University City ambitions – including Green Tech.

FARMING

What we know

General:

- Farming is a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions but can also play a significant role in climate adaptation and mitigation. There are significant benefits to be made by farmers from productivity gains which will also benefit the environment, but many would need local and national support to achieve this.
- Agriculture and the land-based economy can capture CO₂, which can be turned into food, fibres and fuels.
- Farmers also have a special responsibility to protect carbon reserves already in soils and vegetation. Farms are custodians of our soils and have the crucial responsibility of looking after the land for use by future generations.
- Agricultural emissions are mainly methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O); not CO₂ like for electricity generation, transport and manufacturing. Cutting CH₄ and N₂O emissions is difficult because they result from complex natural soil and animal microbial processes.
- A supply of nitrogen from organic or inorganic sources is necessary for the growth of crops and pasture, and it is an unavoidable consequence of soil processes that a small amount of nitrogen in an agricultural system will be emitted as nitrous oxide. Likewise, methane is produced by bacteria as cattle and sheep break down the cellulose in their diet, producing milk and meat for human consumption from large areas of grassland that would be unsuitable for arable farming.
- Livestock/animals recycle nutrients back into the ground through their waste, and so support sustainable farming.
- Action to tackle climate change in UK agriculture is focused on three key themes: Improving farming's productive efficiency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; Farmland carbon storage in soils and vegetation; Boosting renewable energy and the bioeconomy to displace greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels and to create GHG removal through photosynthesis and carbon capture.

Doncaster:

- Doncaster's commercial agricultural sector has around 36,000 hectares; almost ¾ of which are cereals and other arable crops including biofuels – likely therefore to include significant contract farming as well as locally owned farms. Roughly 6000 hectares is used for grassland for livestock and almost 300 hectares is used for fruit and vegetables.
- DEFRA Doncaster livestock data identifies almost 21000 pigs, 11,000 sheep, 8000 cattle (beef and dairy), and 55,000 poultry. With the area of grassland available, there is then significant intensive livestock farming.
- Direct employment in Doncaster's agriculture is modest, DEFRA figures giving a total of 865 individuals, which includes farmers, partners, directors and spouses (full time and part-time), salaried managers, regular workers ((full time and part-time), and casual workers. There will be further employment in farm-related business, and diversified farm enterprises.
- Turbulent weather has a huge impact on farm businesses. 2020's harvest is expected to be the lowest in 40 years.
- Farms are often dissimilar to each other with unique characteristics and circumstances in place – any opportunities/solutions/support mechanisms will need to be flexible enough to be accessible to a range of different businesses. This will require close consultation, communication and partnership working with farmers to shape the solutions that will provide the most impact.

National:

- Government advisors the Committee on Climate Change (Land Use report, 2020) recommends low-carbon farming practices, afforestation and agro-forestry, peatland restoration, bio-energy crops, and reducing consumption of the most carbon-intensive foods.
- The National Farmers Union have set a net zero greenhouse gas emissions target across agriculture in England and Wales by 2040.
- Emissions from UK farms presently amount to 46m tonnes of CO₂e a year – about 10% of UK Green House gas (GHG) emissions.
- Agricultural emissions have decreased by around 16% overall since 1990, but there has been only modest progress since 2011, when the industry's GHG Action Plan was agreed.
- Leaving the European Union – EU agricultural subsidies will come to an end and a different regime of farm payments based on different principles will be introduced by the Agriculture Act. In addition, trade deals with the EU (from outside) and with other parts of the world will affect export opportunities and competition from imports. Both will have significant impacts on farm business financial models.
- Biodiversity – the Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme, due to be fully rolled out by the end of 2024, will replace the schemes currently available under the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Farmers will be paid for work that enhances the environment, such as tree or hedge planting, river management to mitigate flooding, or creating or

restoring habitats for wildlife. ELM Tier one would encourage farmers to adopt environmentally sustainable farming and forestry practices, while farmers, foresters and other land managers. Tier two would focus on delivering locally-targeted environmental outcomes. The third tier would pay for larger-scale, transformational projects – such as restoring peatland.

What we've done/are doing

- Good Food Doncaster now achieved Sustainable Food City status.
- Procurement policies to support partnerships with local producers
- Maximising relief support for local farmers affected by recent flood events.
- Business Doncaster offering support for local farmers to identify and access funding opportunities.

Health implications

Farming is a critical to maintaining our food self-sufficiency. Sustainable, innovative and responsible farming can work in symbiosis with the environment and help sustain and protect it. However, some types of intensive farming can have a negative effect on the local environment, and population health and wellbeing due waste, noise, smell and the associated road transport.

The UK's farmed land is rich in social and cultural heritage and significance. The food we eat affects our health and wellbeing and our connectedness to the world around us. Farms provide employment to local people and form part of local communities and any interventions and policies that aim to increase opportunities for local people to farm sustainably could be positive for economic health and wellbeing. Protecting green belt and farmland is key to supporting the health and wellbeing of our communities and maintain the green space around us. By supporting local farmers to farm in a way that supports biodiversity, protects the natural environment, maintains animal welfare, reduces and reuses waste and energy we can contribute to reducing climate change and supporting local health and wellbeing.

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION

FOOD

What we know

- The Environmental Land Management (ELM) test and trial scheme (due to be rolled out by the end of 2024) will replace schemes currently available under the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and will provide a way of achieving the goals of the Government's 25-year Environment plan and commitment to net zero by 2050 whilst supporting the rural economy. The scheme means that farmers and other landowners may be paid for delivering the following public goods:
 - clean air
 - clean and plentiful water
 - thriving plants and wildlife
 - protection from environmental hazards
 - beauty heritage and engagement with the environment
 - reduction and adaptation to climate change.

Under this scheme, work to enhance the Environment, such as tree and hedge planting, river management to mitigate flooding and creating or restoring habitats for wildlife means that farmers will be at the forefront of delivering environmental benefits, whilst improving the environmental sustainability of farming businesses.

- Locally, the aim is to explore ways of supporting our communities to buy locally produced or fresh food, or to grow their own vegetables. However, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the priority has been to ensure food is safely distributed to the most vulnerable and to co-ordinate that distribution through the most effective channels.
- Changing weather patterns and more frequent weather extremes are already beginning to have an impact on UK and Doncaster agriculture's food production and therefore commercial viability and food security. Flooding in 2019 affected 18 farm-holdings and more general wet weather impeded harvesting and planting.
- There are a variety of issues created by modern-day food production, including:
 - Water use and water pollution. Growing food takes a lot of water - About 70% of all water use goes towards agricultural efforts. When runoff of agricultural pollutants occur, groundwater supplies can get contaminated with things like nitrogen and phosphorus—commonly used in modern farming practices.
 - Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Greenhouse gas emissions, such as CO₂, are created when fossil fuels are used during several aspects of the food cycle, including food production and distribution.
 - Environmental contaminants and pollutants - The growing, producing, and transporting of food can create numerous environmental contaminants that can have adverse effects on the health of humans and the ecosystem. These contaminants include ammonia pollution and the emission of different nitrogen compounds that disrupt the soil as well as animal and plant life.
 - Depletion of natural resources - Food production takes up a significant portion of the world's natural resources, with livestock being the largest contributor.
- Love Food Hate Waste (LFHW) is a national campaign launched by Waste Recycling Action Programme (WRAP) in 2007 to tackle the 8 million tonnes of food waste thrown away each year in the UK at a cost of £12 billion to households. Since its launch, millions of people have responded saving around £1.5 billion worth of food.
- It is recognised that greater education around health and skills development is required around fresh food preparation due to the large amount of avoidable waste, transport and energy use, generated from convenience foods, that could be tackled if families could be encouraged to cook from scratch.
- Food waste is expensive to consumers and has a high disposal cost due to its disposal through the residual waste stream in Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham.
- The Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham (BDR) Waste Partnership, Love Food Hate Waste Campaign adopts some of the principles of the National campaign to reduce the amount of Food waste and centres around 5 themes:
 1. Perfect Portions
 2. Love Your leftovers
 3. Savvy Storage
 4. Know your dates
 5. Planning Perfection
- Following the 2017 LFHW campaign, the most recent waste composition analysis for BDR shows that around 33.5% of household residual waste consists of food waste. This is a reduction of over 75% from the same time the previous year. It is estimated that Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham households are each disposing of 2.2 kg, 2.4 kg and 2.5 kg of

food waste a week respectively. Of this, over 60% is classed as avoidable food waste or food and drink that has been thrown away but was edible at some point prior to disposal.

- This avoidable food waste, that which at some point could have been eaten, makes up around 7,700 tonnes of waste a year in Barnsley, 10,200 tonnes in Doncaster and 9,600 tonnes of food waste a year in Rotherham or 27,500 tonnes a year across BDR. This is a reduction of over 30% on the previous year.

What we've done/are doing

- Reviewing the work and focus of the Good Food Doncaster Partnership in line with the climate change commission priorities and public health priorities
- Looking at re-branding the Good Food Doncaster work and reviewing membership and purpose
- Exploring a healthy weight declaration charter and the adoption of the Be Well@Work award internally which includes work around the healthy eating agenda and behaviour change
- Exploring the potential for an integrated Healthier Doncaster wellness model in forthcoming months which will include behaviour change approaches

Health implications

It is recognised that takeaway and drive-thru fast-food outlets can lead to increased levels of litter from the packaging associated with their products. In the case of drive-throughs, such litter can arise a considerable distance away from the place of purchase. Further details concerning littering is included in the Fly Tipping and Litter section.

The impact of food insecurity particularly during the covid-19 pandemic (and during recovery) is going to have enormous health implications for some individuals and families across the borough and may in a lot of ways further exacerbate health inequalities which were already prevalent before the crisis began. Food is a basic need for human life and if there are barriers to accessing it whether it be physical or mental (or social) there are inevitably going to be enormous health implications for some members of the population. Food is also a social connector and in the absence of community cohesion (through community lockdown and social isolation) there are inevitably going to be considerable implications for mental health and social isolation. The climate commission is developing a local response to the global epidemic and food is a part of the issue. The health implications around food both during and after covid-19 are an essential priority and the mental health issues and social isolation issues will need to be considered across many sectors.

Our food systems have a significant effect on the environment and on population health and wellbeing. A healthy diet is key to the health and wellbeing as it provides not only the nutrition needed to protect us against a range of diseases, but also enables us to maintain a healthy weight. In Doncaster we have unacceptable levels of childhood and adult excess weight and many of our families are eating diets that are low in fresh foods and nutrients and high in cheap, poor quality food. Much of this is due to income, skills, environment and availability. Maintaining a balanced, healthy diet that is high in fruit and vegetables and low in "fast food" and ready meals is key to improving health and wellbeing in Doncaster.

A sustainable, localised approach to food production and provision can help provide access to affordable, healthy food and can help tackle health inequalities. Access to a healthy diet is far more difficult for some groups in our population and a poor diet is linked to deprivation, geographic location and low income. It is essential that any interventions that aim to improve access to sustainable food concentrates on reducing inequalities for these groups and does not increase inequalities by engaging with the "easy to reach" populations.

FLY TIPPING AND LITTER

What we know

- Monthly fly tipping incidents (as reported to DEFRA) range from 441 (Oct 2017) to 122 (May 2019). This is aligned with other similar authorities and slightly below the national average. Monthly fly-tipping incidents have further reduced with 109 reported in July 2020.
- This data significantly under-states the true number of incidents because they do not include fly-tipping in hotspot areas which are dealt with separately on a scheduled basis. Hotspots include many areas of the Borough where residential streets have back alleys, where waste is potentially collected from several locations along the alley but may only be recorded as one instance of fly - tipping (in some cases, it is not recorded at all).
- An additional 70 tonnes of waste is collected each week from hotspots: at a cost of around £400k per year.
- Since April 2020, 1,500 tonnes of waste has been removed.
- The Council does not meet its target for timely clearance of fly-tipping, often achieving much less than the '85% within 7 days' target.
- In 2019, there were 1617 reported cases of littering, 1247 cases of graffiti, and 809 reported spillages. Littering fines totalled 3142, and 506 cases were submitted for prosecution.
- In 2019, there were 534 complaints for dog fouling and 134 stencils printed on pavements to encourage dog owners to clear up after their dogs. Data provided over the last five years indicates a downward trend in the number of complaints and notices issued.
- The Council has a Borough-wide Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) that covers a range of behaviours designed to reduce the unpleasant impact caused from irresponsible dog ownership, including the requirement to pick up immediately after it messes and to always carry a means of achieving this when out with a dog.
- Complaints regarding dog fouling in gardens is captured within 'nuisance' but these figures included miscellaneous complaints; overall estimated figures recorded a low of 63 complaints (2019) and a high of 85 (2016); with an overall downward trend between 2015-2019.
- Complaints regarding waste in gardens range from 1448 (2015) to 962 (2019); with an overall downward trend between 2015-2019
- Additional complaints associated with bin issues range from a low of 140 complaints (2016) to 884 (2019); with an overall upward trend between 2015-2019.

What we've done/are doing

- The employment of private contractors to carry out a range of enforcement actions, including litter and dog fouling.
- Liaison with the Environment Agency, Police and Fire Service over fly tipping intelligence for enforcement.
- Comprehensive review of the data and intelligence collected. Identifying the true scale of fly-tipping from ad-hoc and planned clearances - number of incidents, cost of clearance, and speed of clearance.
- Independent review underway of Street scene team data collection practices and procedures.

Health implications

Fly tipping imposes a direct financial cost to the Council, the public and to private landowners relating to the clearance, investigation and prosecution of fly-tipping incidents, as well as to prevention measures. Fly tipping can negatively affect the wider community; how it looks and how people feel about where they live. Where the composition of fly-tipped waste includes hazardous waste, fly-tipping can threaten our ecosystem and wildlife and may even depict a risk to human life. Fly-tipping also negatively impacts on the local landscape and enjoyment of green space for residents and visitors.

WASTE & RECYCLING

What we know

- Detailed information about the exact amount of total waste generated in Doncaster is not available as there are several sources of waste and a standard system for waste reporting does not exist for commercial operators.
- Waste collected by councils (household waste) across the UK is only a small proportion of the total waste generated. DEFRA (2016) data shows 63% is Construction, Demolition and Excavation; 18% is Commercial and industrial; and 12% is household waste.
- Waste from local authorities falls into two main categories:
 1. Local authority collected waste – (until recently referred to as Municipal Solid Waste MSW) this is all waste that is collected by local authorities including waste from households, businesses, litter bins, street cleansing and ground maintenance activities.
 2. Waste from households is the waste collected from kerbside collections, household waste recycling centres, bring banks and bulky waste collections
- The table below illustrates the waste volumes collected by Doncaster Council in financial year 2014/15 and 2018/19.

	2014/15	2018/19
Local Authority Collected Waste (previously MSW)	160,612	154,435
Waste from Households (previously Household Waste)	140,471	134,848
Recycling Rate	40.6%	46.4%
Percentage of waste to landfill	54.6%	4.6%

- Doncaster is well served by local re-processors such as ReFood, Freeland Horticulture, Briar Hills and Attero. There are also several independent transfer stations such as Westmorelands and Middletons, as well as many independent waste companies both for transfer and total waste management services.
- As well as the local re-processors and waste management companies, national companies such as Biffa, Suez, FCC and Veolia also provide waste and recycling services in Doncaster.
- Waste collected by the local authority is recorded in detail and reported to Wastedataflow - the web-based system for municipal waste data reporting by UK local authorities to government.

What we've done/are doing

Key Partnerships

- Delivery of the five key strategic priorities set out in the South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy (SYMWS) (2017):
 1. Encouraging and inspiring children and adults across South Yorkshire to make less waste and lower their carbon impact by reducing, re-using and recycling more.
 2. Working hard to deliver and maintain dependable and reliable waste services to all our customers.
 3. All four councils working together where appropriate to deliver value for money services.
 4. Continued exploration of how waste technology can be used to improve recycling and waste services.
 5. Proactively influencing decision-making on waste at a European, national and local level, to drive investment into infrastructure within South Yorkshire and the Sheffield City Region economy.
- A strategic review of the SYMWS is to be undertaken in light of the Resource and Waste Strategy for England (2018), 25 year Environment Plan and the transposition of the 2020 Circular Economy Package.
- Developed sufficient, clear planning policies for waste facilities for a green economy to develop through the Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Plan (2012). In partnership with Sheffield, undertake a South Yorkshire Waste Plan to contribute to preparing the region for a green future.
- Doncaster Council have implemented changes to their collection and disposal services since 2014/15 that have resulted in better recycling performance and diversion from landfill:
 - Fortnightly household waste collections of black bins (general, non-recyclable waste), green bins (garden waste), green boxes (glass recycling) and blue bins (mixed recycling).
 - Changes to the collection service have reduced health and safety implications for the collection staff, provided simple to use facilities to residents and made savings to the overall costs of collection (?)
 - Trade waste collection service also includes recycling collection.
 - A Public Finance Initiative (PFI) contract was let in 2012 with Barnsley and Rotherham for a 250,000per annum Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) plant with anaerobic digestion. This plant came online in 2015 and extracts between 12-15% from the black bin waste that is collected for recycling and composting. The process removes water from organic material such as food waste, reducing the amount of material that needs to be sent to a final disposal point by around 30%. The final dried material is referred to as solid recovered fuel (SRF) and is used at the Ferrybridge multi-fuel facility to produce electricity.

- There are some waste types that are not suitable for processing in a MBT plant. These materials are sent to a facility in Leeds that processes the material into refuse derived fuel (RDF) and SRF to be used for energy recovery, minimising the need for landfill.
- The waste and recycling department of Doncaster Council ensure the responsible disposal of waste generated by Street Scene activities – street cleansing, fly tipping and litter – and minimise the landfilling of these materials through efficient separation at the Doncaster Transfer Station.
- A Council-operated facility at Carcroft recycles rubble and road material waste from road works and Council developments, which is then used to create a renewable sub-base for sale. This saves the Council considerable sums on tipping charges as well as generating an income.
- There is a programme of on-going installation of GPS tracking, state of the art camera systems and in-cab technology in 100% of all new and replacement collection vehicles to optimise collection routes and processes.
- There has been and will be further investment in resources to drive improved use of new and existing technology for both staff and customers e.g. more online support.
- Doncaster has been working in partnership with Rotherham and Barnsley Councils for many years to deliver waste services through formal contracts including the Household Waste Recycling contract, garden and residual waste management contracts. More recently, Doncaster has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the other South Yorkshire Councils to enable them to work together where possible to deliver mutually beneficial outcomes.
- Council partnership contracts include:
 - Household waste kerbside collections (Suez), household waste recycling centres (Fcc Environment), bulk waste collection and re-use/recycling (Doncaster Refurnish), Garden waste (Freeland Horticulture), and PFI BDR waste facility (Renewi).
 - As well as having a Council transfer station there is also West Moorlands, a privately run commercial transfer station in Balby. Using both these facilities helps to maximise efficiencies and minimise the carbon impacts for street scene services.
 - Since March 2020, due to contract change, materials which previously had to go to landfill due to a lack of technology to process them (e.g. mattresses and sofas) are now being directed to AWM (Leeds), which has invested in modern technology to separate materials for recycling and divert waste from landfill to create fuel. This further reduces the amount of waste currently going to landfill below the 3.4% figure from 2019.
 - There is also a privately run green waste facility operated in Hatfield (Briar Hills).
- Provision of a bespoke recycling service to the Borough's businesses to ensure their waste is disposed of and processed appropriately and as efficiently as possible, while reducing the impact on the environment.

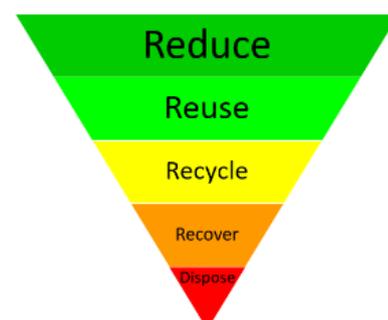
Health implications

Reducing the consumption of materials and increasing recycling are key priorities that have a number of benefits to the health and wellbeing of residents, at both an individual and population level. It helps to reduce the financial expenditure in the economy, providing financial resources for individuals and the public sector. There is less need for raw materials, preserving natural resources and utilising less energy, therefore reducing emissions that may impact climate change. There is also less space requirement for landfill or treatment facilities.

Although landfill activities produce methane and other emissions, the overall scale of direct effects of releases to air from landfill and other waste management practices is relatively small compared with emissions from other sectors such as transport. The Health Protection Agency concluded that although the disposal of waste materials to landfill can undoubtedly present a pollution risk and a potential health hazard, improvements in landfill design and management, restrictions in the type of waste that can be handled and environmental legislation designed to minimise pollution should all ensure there is no significant risk to health of the local population. Nevertheless, landfill remains the last resort for waste disposal.

A focus on reducing the amount of consumption across the Borough and moving up the waste hierarchy (pictured below) to change the focus from waste disposal to reduce, re-use/repair, recycle and other developing forms of resource recovery, will result in raw materials being preserved.

Manufacturers are already reviewing the way they design goods and packaging to enable higher levels of recycling and reducing reliance on disposal facilities and landfill. Doncaster should endeavour to be at the forefront of rethinking waste. Waste and recycling facilities should be viewed as manufacturing facilities with opportunities to build a green economy with skilled and semi-skilled workers rather than facilities that impact on the well-being of residents.



EDUCATION/BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

- Behaviour change happens because people:
 - Have the skills and knowledge to be able to do it (Capability)
 - Have the resources and social support to do it (Opportunity)
 - Want to do it (Motivation)

Capability

- Education and awareness development are critical to give people the capability to contribute in a positive way to the quality of the environment.
- Promotional activity across a range of media/communication methods must be used to ensure everyone receives the necessary information e.g. via social media, schools, community groups.
- Increasing knowledge may not be sufficient to facilitate behaviour change. People's skills may need to be increased and barriers to attaining knowledge and skills overcome. We will ensure any potential language or cultural barriers don't block people's capability to do the desired behaviour. Examples include providing bin collection and other user information in a range of languages, teaching people how to compost or building individual confidence or ability to actively travel.

Opportunity

- The physical environment heavily impacts on what the automatic behaviour is in any given situation.
- Putting in place the right infrastructure or services and ensuring ease of access to the required behaviour can help individuals to take the desired course of action without thinking e.g. prominence of litter bins, kerbside recycling options, and access to recycling centres can all encourage people to dispose of their litter/waste in a responsible manner.
- Providing opportunities for people to engage in conversations about environmental sustainability provides an opportunity to learn, share ideas, and collaborate for the benefit of the environment, but also for the benefit of households, communities and businesses.

Motivation

- Creating safe, attractive and convenient environments can motivate residents to change their behaviour.
- For example, developing footpaths and cycle paths can encourage people to opt for active travel; creating high quality, safe greenspace will encourage its use for leisure purposes, and in turn increase the value the community puts on such amenities.
- Communicating the impacts achieved by positive behaviour change can motivate others to seek out such personal benefits or replicate community/environmental benefits too. The same can be applied to the negative impact of certain behaviours, in a bid to develop social pressure to act in responsible ways.

Examples of behaviour change interventions include the following:

- Remove or reduce the use of single-use plastics in offices and schools.
- Become more energy aware & energy efficient in their homes.
- Encourage and support households to grow their own food.
- Increase the percentage of journeys that are less than 1 km that are taken on foot, by bike or public transport.
- Improve environmental awareness in schools and the workplace.
- Embed environment strategy objectives into business/organisational policies and procedures.

INTERVENTIONS IMPACT MODELLING

There is clearly a range of activity options available to consider when planning our pathway to carbon neutrality. We needed a way of quantifying the impact of each option on our CO₂e levels such that any given proposed activity could be considered relative to others as part of our prioritisation decisions. The modelling tool we used for this analysis was SCATTER, by Anthesis.

SCATTER is a local authority focussed emissions tool, built to help create low-carbon local authorities. It offers the modelling of emissions reduction pathways, based on the ambition of several emissions reduction measures that can be set by the user.

The tool considers a range of interventions and quantifies their impact (reduction in CO₂e) for varying levels of each intervention. These interventions are broad ranging across multiple sectors: Agriculture & Land Use, Domestic Buildings, Energy Supply, Industry & Commercial, Transport and Waste

All analysis is based on the current understanding of impacts (which is subject to change) and on certain rate of intervention assumptions, e.g. do *THIS*, to this *EXTENT*, across this *TIMESCALE*, to reduce the baseline CO₂e forecast by *THIS AMOUNT*.

It allows relative comparison of different interventions, which can be used together with their costs to inform activity/investment decisions.

SCATTER's baseline assessment for Doncaster indicates the cumulative total emissions for Doncaster based on current levels and trends. It suggests that if things continue as they are, Doncaster is on course to produce around 48 million tonnes of CO₂e by 2050.

Given that Doncaster's carbon budget is around 12 million tonnes of CO₂e, this represents a required reduction of around 36 MT CO₂e.

The following table provides a range of interventions and the potential reduction in CO₂e.

Category	Sub-category	Target/Intervention	Reduction in CO ₂ e
Domestic Buildings	Domestic space heating & hot water - retrofit	By 2050, 10% of current stock is retrofitted to a medium level, 80% deep retrofit.	6.2MT
Transport	Domestic passenger transport - Technology	Cars & buses are 100% electric by 2035, rail is 100% electric by 2030. Avg occupancies increase to 18 ppl per bus km (from 12), 1.65 ppl per car-km (up from 1.56), & 0.42 ppl per rail-km (from 0.32).	5.2MT
Transport	Domestic passenger transport - Demand	25% reduction in total distance travelled per individual per year by 2030.	2.7MT
Domestic Buildings	Domestic space heating & hot water - technology	By 2050, 90% heating with fuel-cell (u)CHP	2.3MT
Industry & Commercial	Commercial heating & cooling - technology	By 2050, majority of heating is with community-scale CHP (both solid & gas fuel)	2.3MT
Energy Supply	Offshore wind	Large-scale offshore wind generation grows to 4.8MWh per hectare in 2030, 6.9 MWh in 2050	2.3MT
Energy Supply	Biomass/Coal power stations	Solid biomass generation quadruples in 2025, dropping off after that; Coal phase-out follows trajectories from the National Grids Two degrees scenario	2.2MT
Industry & Commercial	Commercial heating & cooling - demand	In 2050, commercial heating, cooling & hot water demand is 60% of today's level	1.6MT
Transport	Domestic freight	By 2050, 22% decrease in distance travelled by road freight; 75% increase in efficiency. In waterborne transportation, 28% increase in use of waterborne transport.	1.5MT
Energy Supply	Solar PV - Small	Local solar capacity grows, generating equivalent to 2500 kWh per household in 2030; 5200 in 2050 (from baseline of 400 kWh per household)	1.4MT
Industry & Commercial	Industrial processes - Efficiency	Industry electricity consumption is 50% of total energy consumption by 2035; 65% by 2050. Output falls by 2% every year for non-heavy industry.	1.3MT
Domestic Buildings	Domestic space heating & hot water - demand	hot water demand per household reduced by 8% every 5 years	1.1MT

Category	Sub-category	Target/Intervention	Reduction in CO2e
Transport	Domestic passenger transport - Modal shift	Avg modal share of cars, vans, & motorbikes decrease from current national avg 74% total miles to 38% in 2050.	0.9MT
Domestic Buildings	Domestic space heating & hot water - new build	From 2021, 100% new build properties are built to passivhaus standard	0.7MT
Domestic Buildings	Domestic lighting, appliances & cooking - demand	Total energy demand drops to 27%	0.6MT
Waste	Volume of Waste & Recycling - Reduction	Total volume of waste is 61% of 2017 levels by 2040.	0.5MT
Industry & Commercial	Commercial lighting, appliances, & catering - Demand	Commercial lighting & appliance energy demand decreases 25% by 2050	0.5MT
Energy Supply	Small-scale wind	Small-scale wind grows to 2.8MWh per hectare in 2030; 3.3 in 2050 (from a baseline of 1.2 MWh per hectare)	0.5MT
Energy Supply	Onshore wind	Large-scale onshore wind generation grows to 1.9MWh per hectare in 2030, 2.2 MWh in 2050	0.3MT
Industry & Commercial	Industrial processes - Output	Reduction in process emission from all industry: general industry reduces process emissions at a rate of 4.5% per year. Chemical emissions reduce 1% per year; metals 0.7% per year, & minerals 0.8% per year	0.2MT
Waste	Volume of Waste & Recycling - Recycling	65% recycling, 10% landfill, 25% incineration achieved by 2035, recycling rates increasing to 85% by 2050.	0.2MT
Energy Supply	Hydroelectric power stations	Hydroelectric pwer generation grows to 34 MWh per hectare inland water in 2030; 41 in 2050	0.2MT
Agriculture & Land Use	Forestry	24% increase in forestry cover	0.1MT
Agriculture & Land Use	livestock management	0.5% annual reduction in livestock numbers	0.1MT
Energy Supply	Solar PV - Large	Large-scale solar generation grows to 200kWh in 2030; 400 in 2050 (from a baseline of 50 KWh per hectare)	0.1MT
Transport	International aviation	DfT "low" forecast for aviation. The "low" forecast encapsulates; lower economic growth worldwide with restricted trade, coupled with higher oil prices & failure to agree a global carbon emissions trading scheme.	0.01MT
Agriculture & Land Use	tree planting (outside woodland)	Tree-planting to increase current coverage by 30% by 2030; from 2030-2050 further increase of 20%	NEG
Energy Supply	Tidal & Wave	For areas with wave/tidal power, 320-fold increase by 2030, 1300-fold increase by 2050	NEG
Transport	International shipping	By 2050, 28% decrease in fuel use at UK ports.	NEG
Agriculture & Land Use	land management	7% decrease in grassland, 1% increase in coverage; increase in the coverage of settled land	-0.02MT
Industry & Commercial	Commercial lighting, appliances, & catering - Electrification	By 2050, 100% of commercial cooking is electrified	-0.2MT
Domestic Buildings	Domestic lighting, appliances & cooking - electrification	Small reductions in efficiency of domestic cooking. Proportion of cooking which is electric increases to 100% by 2050	-0.6MT

ASSOCIATED STRATEGIES AND PLANS

- [Achieving Net Zero: Farming's 2040 Goal – National Farmers Union \(2019\)](#) – NFU aims to reach net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across the whole of agriculture in England and Wales by 2040 by improving farming's productive efficiency; improving land management and changing land use to capture more carbon; and boosting renewable energy and the wider bioeconomy, all while not reducing capacity to feed UK consumers with high quality, affordable British food.
- [Air Quality Action Plan \(2018\)](#) – Measures to improve air quality across the borough, and in particular within Air Quality Management Areas.
- [BDR Joint Waste Plan \(2012\)](#) – Sets out the overall approach to managing waste across Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham over the next 15 years, including what waste facilities are required; where they will be located; when they will be provided; and how they will be delivered and monitored.
- Biodiversity Net Gain guidance (2020) (in development) – Guidance to help ensure that developments leave biodiversity in a better state than before.
- Borough Strategy (2020) (in development) – Build upon the successes of the DGT plan to deliver a transformation in the well-being of Doncaster people and places over the next 10 years.
- [Contaminated Land Inspection strategy \(2017\)](#) – Details how the Council will deal with contaminated land as defined by the regulations, taking into account the local circumstances and land quality of the borough.
- [Cycling Strategy \(2019\)](#) – Aims to make Doncaster a nicer place to live, learn and work by providing opportunities for people of all abilities to participate in cycling.
- [Don, Dearne, Torne](#) and Rother Catchment Plan (various, under review) – Aims to understand the scale and extent of flooding now and in the future, and set policies for managing flood risk within the catchment. Provides a list of projects summarising the relative contributions each one makes towards Water Framework Directive funding themes and the partnership aims.
- Doncaster Council Enforcement policies – Associated with various service areas e.g. planning, littering, fly tipping, licensing.
- Doncaster Council Environment Services Improvement plan (2021) – Aims to deliver appropriate service improvements in Street Scene, Regulation & Enforcement and Highways, Waste & Recycling - as well as delivering changes and improvements common across all three areas.
- [Doncaster Green Infrastructure Strategy \(2014\)](#) – Aims to provide an attractive setting for investment and a place where the workforce wants to live; and provide opportunities to diversify the economy and develop jobs in conservation/green industries, and improve resilience to the impacts of climate change (e.g. provide urban cooling & reduce flood risk).
- Education and Skills Strategy (2020) (in development) – Sets out the vision and ambitions for lifelong learning opportunities in Doncaster; reviews the challenges and opportunities facing the current system, and establishes six priority areas for action over the next ten years; establishes shared strategic delivery principles and will lead to the development of an action plan for achieving key objectives.
- Energy Masterplan (2020) – Practical actions and solutions that will allow Doncaster to unlock projects to help achieve climate change plans, energy transition, and certified carbon neutrality status.
- Future Parks management plans (2019) – Aims to take a systems based approach to parks and open spaces and look holistically at our provision to enhance the offer and provide opportunities for current and future generations to actively participate in, enjoy and benefit from open spaces.
- [Get Doncaster Moving Strategy \(2016\)](#) – Provides a framework within which physical activity and sport can flourish for the benefit of all parts of the community.
- [Heritage Strategy and Policies \(2015\)](#), under review) – Aims to help to establish heritage's role in Doncaster and its surrounding area, covering all forms of heritage that have value within the Borough, both locally and nationally.
- Housing Delivery Plan (2020) – The Council's 5-year house building programme; includes partnerships with housing associations and private developers.
- Housing Strategy (2020) – The borough's ambitions and activity around meeting need, raising standards and supporting independent living.
- [Humber River Basin District Management Plan \(2015\)](#) – Provides a framework for protecting and enhancing the benefits provided by the water environment. To achieve this, and because water and land resources are closely linked, it also informs decisions on land-use planning.

- [Inclusive Growth Strategy \(2018\)](#) – Sets out a 15-year vision for inclusive growth in Doncaster. It explains the main focus of our work, and the actions we aim to deliver over the next 3 years (to 2021) that will propel the whole borough's economic prospects and boost the life chances and well-being of its people and communities.
- [Local Flood Risk Management Strategy \(2014\)](#) – Sets out a clear plan for future flood risk management in Doncaster, ensuring people, businesses, communities and other risk management authorities have an active role in how flood risk is managed.
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (2021) (in development) – (To be introduced by the Environment Bill) – a spatial strategies for nature, that will map the most valuable existing habitat for nature, map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environment goals, and agree priorities for nature's recovery.
- [Local Plan \(2015\)](#) – Sets out the land use allocations and development policies/conditions for the borough.
- National Food strategy (Parts One and Two) ([2020](#) and 2021) – Part One published in 2020 aims to identify where the worst cracks have appeared during the pandemic and recommend some immediate Government actions to help those most affected; and to prepare for the end of the EU Exit transition period on 31st December to maintain the UK's high food standards, while also becoming a champion of free trade.
- [Our Plan for the River Don \(2020\)](#) – Don Network collaborative pathway to a better Don catchment.
- [SCR Energy Strategy \(2020\)](#) – Sets out the vision, goals, policies and targets in support of the refreshed Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and has been developed in collaboration with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), local authority partners, and stakeholders from academia, business, industry, charity, community groups and members of the public.
- [Site Management Plans for the individual Moors](#) (under review) – Thorne and Hatfield Moors are overseen by Natural England as a national nature reserve part of the Humberhead Levels. Site management plans also include private landowner responsibilities via the Humberhead Levels Partnership.
- [SCR Strategic Economic Plan \(2020\)](#) – Sets out what needs to be done to grow the economy and transform the lives and wellbeing of our people. It focuses on the communities of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield and will inform what we do over the next 20 years.
- [South Yorkshire Municipal Waste Strategy \(2017-2021\)](#) – Aims to deliver high quality waste and recycling services for those who live, work, study, visit or conduct business within the region; and to reduce, re-use, recycle and recover energy from 95% of South Yorkshire's waste by 2021.
- South Yorkshire Natural Capital Assessment (including woodland creation opportunity map) (2021) – An assessment of elements of nature that directly or indirectly produce value to people, including ecosystems, species, freshwater, land, minerals, the air and oceans.
- Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) Adoption Policy (2020) (in development) – Aims to provide the process for Doncaster Council to adopt and maintain SUDS features that are a requirement of new developments.
- [Tree Policy and Tree Risk Management plan \(2019\)](#) – Aims to implement the broad aims and actions set out in Theme 2: Trees and Woodlands of the Doncaster Green Infrastructure Strategy (2014), to ensure Doncaster's urban forest helps contribute to high quality urban environments and establish a clear, consistent and structured approach to how Street Scene will maintain trees on Doncaster Council owned land.
- [Visitor Economy Strategy \(2019\)](#) – Sets out to achieve the following vision: By 2022, Doncaster will be recognised as a major visitor destination within Yorkshire and will be seen as one of the foremost emerging visitor destinations nationally. Doncaster's reputation will be one of a blend of historic heritage, family friendly attractions, a broad ranging arts & culture offer, fantastic entertainment, cuisine, sport and leisure facilities.
- [Walking Strategy \(2018\)](#) – Aims to improve the quality of where people walk and their perception of safety, making walking the first choice for short journeys.
- Water level management plans (IDB) for Thorne, Crowle and Goole Moors ([Part 1 \(2008\)](#) and [Part 2 \(2018\)](#)) and [Hatfield Chase \(1995\)](#) – Provides means by which water level requirements for conservation, agriculture, fisheries, industry, flood defence and water quality can be balanced and integrated.
- Wildfire Plans (in development) – Relating to response and recovery to recent and any future wildfires.
- [UK Peatland Strategy \(2018-2040\)](#) – Aims to capture and embed, for the long term, a shared vision for all peatlands in the UK, helping maintain a focus across a broad partnership and allowing progress to be marked and celebrated.

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Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 12.01.21

To the Chair and Members of Cabinet

HOUSING STRATEGY UPDATE - 2020-2025

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Cllr Glyn Jones	All	Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Since the approval of Doncaster's 'Housing Strategy 2015 to 2025', there have been significant changes in the external strategic environment, which have shifted the context on which the Strategy's objectives were based. Key societal changes that influence our approach to housing include the response to climate change, a greater awareness of the importance of housing on health, and major changes in the usage of town centres.

Significant progress has been made since 2015, however some issues remain and new issues have emerged, requiring increased focus and energy to address. This update of the Housing Strategy has refreshed the Strategy's Vision and Aims to reflect the current strategic environment and highlight responses to prominent issues. It also incorporates the learning from studies, needs assessments and other strategies undertaken since 2015.

This report presents the draft updated Housing Strategy 2020 to 2025, for approval. Once approved, a public facing, fully designed version and summary of the document will be developed and launched in early 2021.

EXEMPT REPORT

- Not exempt

RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is recommended that
 - The draft updated Housing Strategy 2020 to 2025 be approved
 - Following approval, a strategy communication and launch plan be developed, including graphics and design of a publication version of the strategy and executive summary

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. Our homes have a powerful influence on health and wellbeing, and enabling access to a good home for everyone is one of the most effective ways of improving the wellbeing of our population. A healthy home is stable and secure, in good repair, warm, comfortable, and free from hazards. Poor quality housing results in a range of physical and mental health problems. Having a healthy, stable housing situation can provide the foundation for people to thrive, remain independent for as long as possible and contribute to their community and society

During 2020, people spent more time in their own homes than they normally would expect to and the quality, stability and security of their home has had an even greater impact than usual. There is evidence of links between housing and the unequal impacts on people of COVID-19, for example, related to overcrowded housing or to homes with no access to private open space. There is also uncertainty around the full impact of the post-Covid recession on household budgets and the wider economy.

Updating the Housing Strategy at this point enables the Council and its partners to refocus resources and efforts. This includes a new emphasis on enabling and supporting people to plan, act and invest in their homes, in order to protect their independence and wellbeing for the future.

BACKGROUND

5. Cabinet approved Doncaster's 'Housing Strategy 2015 to 2025' in July 2015, following extensive consultation and development. Since then, there have been significant changes in the external strategic environment, which have shifted the context on which the Strategy's objectives were based. 2020, as the mid-point in the timescale of the strategy, provides the opportunity to assess the progress made and refocus efforts for the next five years.
6. Significant progress has been made since 2015, however some issues remain and new issues have emerged, requiring increased focus and energy to address. Progress includes: consistently exceeding housing build targets; many new affordable homes provided; the introduction of two Selective Licensing Schemes; maintenance of 100% decency standards in council housing; improved fire safety measures in all council high rise buildings; the introduction of design standards and future proofing in council new build designs.
7. The current strategic context includes
 - The likelihood of an extended period of economic uncertainty: the end of the transition period following exit from the EU; the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects of lockdown measures; and, the expected post COVID-19 recession

- The Mayor’s Restart, Recovery, and Renewal Plan, responding to the challenge of Covid-19 and looking to build back better
 - Government proposed reform of the Planning system in England
 - The adoption of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2024
 - The application of the 2019 Housing Needs Survey
 - The publication of the Social Housing White Paper
 - Sheffield City Region Housing Review recommendations
 - Recommendations from the Local Commission on Climate and Biodiversity Crisis and the Council’s Environment and Sustainability Strategy
 - The development of a new Borough Strategy for Doncaster.
8. A Five Year Housing Delivery Plan has been developed alongside the review of the Housing Strategy. The Plan sets out proposals for delivering on the second Aim in the new Housing Strategy, meeting the needs and aspirations for new homes. This will include:
- An accelerated Council House Build Programme
 - Housing Association Development Programme
 - Maximising delivery through S106 Planning agreements and other contributions for affordable housing
 - Engagement with private developers to maximise opportunities for mixed tenure delivery and better choice of homes for all residents
9. During the review of the Housing Strategy, engagement has taken place with:
- The Mayor and Portfolio Holder
 - Chief Executive and Directors
 - Elected members via a briefing session
 - Key stakeholders, including Team Doncaster Partners and St Leger Homes, other council departments, housing developers, social landlords and private landlord representatives
10. The attached Appendix 1 provides the draft version of the updated Housing Strategy 2020 to 2025. It provides an outline of implications of the current strategic context, the revised Vision and Aims, as well as high level actions.
- The new Vision and Aims of the Strategy reflect:
- The response to climate change and the need to work across housing types, and tenures, to meet carbon reduction targets
 - The importance of housing for health and wellbeing
 - Major changes in the usage of town centres, such as changed shopping habits and the likely continuation of home working, giving an opportunity for more homes within our main repurposed urban areas
11. The recommended refreshed **Vision** is:
- Homes that enhance the wellbeing of our residents and our place**

12. The recommended refreshed **Aims** are to:
- i. Enhance the safety and condition of homes, the main setting for our wellbeing throughout our lives
 - ii. Meet housing need and aspirations, support our local economy and help revitalise town centres and communities
 - iii. Make homes greener and more energy efficient to reduce carbon emissions and keep energy costs affordable
 - iv. Enable and support people to plan, act and invest in their homes, to protect their independence and wellbeing for the future
13. Some of the key proposed actions to deliver the Aims include:
- Housing actions in the Mayor's Restart, Recovery, and Renewal Plan: a whole system approach to tackling homelessness; development of the Five Year Housing Delivery Plan
 - An accelerated £100m+ Council House Build Programme, providing new affordable homes at high design and energy efficiency standards
 - The aim to complete a new Private Sector Housing Stock Condition Survey, as the foundation for a long term Housing Retrofit Programme raising energy efficiency standards for all homes across the borough and improving conditions in the private rented housing sector
 - Responding to new responsibilities on Building and Fire Safety
 - Implementing the housing recommendations from Doncaster's Environment and Sustainability Strategy
 - Working to deliver new homes in key economic growth locations, and in our town centres, to support our economy
 - Working in partnership with our residents and other agencies to help tackle climate change and support independent living, mobilising our shared skills and capacity to improve homes and lives for the future
14. Additional appendices to this report are as follows
- Appendix 2: Draft Executive Summary
 - Appendix 3: Due Regard Statement
 - Appendix 4: Outline Communications Plan

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

15. Option 1: Continue delivery of existing actions and projects to fulfil the Housing Strategy 2015-25 vision and objectives

Option 2: Adopt the updated Housing Strategy 2020-25 Vision and Aims in order to better reflect the current strategic environment and prominent issues, refocussing efforts for the remaining five years of the strategy (recommended)

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

16. Adoption of the refreshed Housing Strategy 2020-25 Vision and Aims is recommended (option 2) as this will ensure that the revised actions and projects reflect the current strategic environment and highlight responses to prominent issues. It builds on the findings and recommendations of studies, needs assessments and other strategies undertaken during the first five years of the Housing Strategy.

It is not recommended that option 1 be taken; continuing with the existing strategy vision, objectives and actions would not meet the current housing aspirations or requirements of Doncaster and its residents.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

17.

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>Doncaster Working: Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access to good fulfilling work • Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish • Inward Investment 	<p>Delivering the planned new homes, with a focus on quality and affordability, will help improve Doncaster as a place, attract more inward investment and lead to more quality jobs.</p>
	<p>Doncaster Living: Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	<p>Homes have a powerful influence on health and wellbeing, and providing access to good housing for everyone is one of the most effective ways we can improve the wellbeing of our population.</p> <p>Increasing the number of affordable homes across the borough will provide more good quality, affordable homes, which are energy efficient and larger in size.</p> <p>New homes in our town centres will help to repurpose them for the future</p>
	<p>Doncaster Learning: Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school • Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or 	<p>A healthy, stable housing situation provides the foundations for children and families to thrive and contribute to society.</p>

	<p>better</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work 	
	<p>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have the best start in life • Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust • Older people can live well and independently in their own homes 	<p>Homes have a powerful influence on health and wellbeing, and providing access to good housing for everyone is one of the most effective ways we can improve the wellbeing of our population.</p> <p>Working to achieve behaviour change in the approach to housing and health, will support independence at home for as long as possible</p> <p>Providing better quality affordable housing development schemes allowing children, vulnerable families/individuals and older people to live independently.</p>
	<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern, efficient and flexible workforce • Modern, accessible customer interactions • Operating within our resources and delivering value for money • A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents • Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	<p>Working to achieve behaviour change in the approach to housing and health will support independence at home for as long as possible</p>

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

18. Due to the required timescales and the restrictions on activity necessitated by the Covid 19 pandemic, there has not been the opportunity for wide scale consultation on the updated Housing Strategy. This may cause concern amongst some stakeholders and members of the public. However, the 'current drivers' for the strategy update include the findings and analysis of substantial public consultation and evidence gathering. The updated Strategy is the response to the findings of this consultation. In addition, two consultation seminars with internal and external partners, and a session with elected members have informed the development of the strategy.
- The update of the Housing Strategy has interdependencies with other strategic developments (such as the new Environment and Sustainability

Strategy, Local Plan and Borough Strategy) which are following various timescales. To prevent any 'misalignment' or contradiction with these strategies, the review team have worked closely with other colleagues to contribute to and take account of implications to the Housing Strategy.

Central government proposals or announcements (such as the Planning White Paper, Homes England funding, Government Spending Reviews) will influence the delivery of the Housing Strategy objectives.

As with other activities, progress may be affected by the Council's on-going response to Covid-19 and the recovery period that will follow.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials NJD Date 27.11.20]

19. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives the local authority the power to do anything that individuals may generally do.

Section 29 of the Deregulation Act 2015 abolished the statutory duty placed on local authorities under section 87 of the Local Government Act 2003 to provide a housing strategy, but as a key strategic document it is beneficial for one to be in place.

The revised Housing Strategy 2020-2025 will enable the Council to set out its approach to this sector, taking in to account the government's approach and priorities.

Under the Equality Act 2010 the decision maker must also comply with the Public Sector Equality duty to consider the need to promote equality for persons with "protected characteristics": age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and have due regard to:

- i. eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation;
- ii. advance equality of opportunity;
- iii. foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.

In order to do this the decision maker will need to have sufficient information about the effects of the proposed changes on the aims of the Equality Duty. The Equalities implication section (paragraph 15 below) is designed to assist with compliance with this duty and so the decision maker must take that into consideration and the public sector equality duty before taking the decision.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials JC Date 16.10.20]

20. The implementation of the strategy is subject to the availability of both capital and revenue budgets. The capital programme and revenue budget are approved by Full Council each year. The Housing Strategy 2020-25 contains more detail about specific funding being used to support the strategy.

Capital and revenue budget pressures resulting from the implementation of the strategy should be considered as part of the budget setting process, for example the cost associated with undertaking private sector housing stock condition surveys.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials KJ Date 22.10.20]

21. There are no HR implications specific to the recommendations in the report, however, any emerging matters that impact on the workforce will require HR engagement at the appropriate time.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials PW Date 27.11.20]

22. There are no technology implications specific to the recommendations in the report. However, any emerging technology requirements to support the delivery of the strategy will require Digital & ICT engagement at the appropriate time.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials KH Date 14.10.20]

23. Good quality, safe and well-designed housing and communities are key to the success of the Borough and essential for building a healthy, engaged and inclusive society. Our homes should feel safe, comfortable, warm and dry, and should provide security and stability. They should meet the diverse needs of individuals and families, and should be of decent quality, regardless of age, type or tenure. Homes should be also be affordable and sustainable, and well connected to vibrant, active and healthy communities.

The revision of Doncaster's Housing Strategy presents a significant opportunity to improve and protect the health and wellbeing of the local population and it is recommended that we maximise the potential of this strategy to bring partners together to improve health and address health inequalities. It is encouraging to see that health and wellbeing features highly in the Strategy. By acknowledging the importance of health and wellbeing as a priority, the legacy of the Strategy could be that it helps lay the foundations for good health and wellbeing in the long term for future generations of Doncaster citizens.

The strategy describes a number of objectives and actions that aim to improve the quality, accessibility and safety of our homes and create supportive and connected communities. In addition to improving housing locally, we must ensure that all communities benefit and that we address inequalities in health, in addition to social and economic inequalities. There are a number of groups who can experience inequalities in relation to health and housing, these include people on a low income, people in areas of high deprivation, BAME communities (including our Gypsy and Traveller communities and refugee and asylum seeker population), older people, people with health conditions or disabilities and people experiencing homelessness or complex lives.

It is essential that any work undertaken to implement the Strategy promotes fairness and inclusion and aims to reduce the inequalities that face these groups at every opportunity. It is also encouraging to see that the Strategy intends to support evidence-based, partnership approaches to improve people's lives through housing, such as COM-B behaviour change, whole systems approaches, design standards and Health Impact Assessment.

We recommend that the focus on health and wellbeing continues during the Strategy's implementation and that all opportunities to improve health

through the home are embedding in all related policies and actions.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials SA Date 24.11.20]

24. A Due Regard Statement summarises the process followed to ensure protected characteristics were considered in the development of the revised strategy. This includes needs assessments, in depth analysis of the needs of specific groups, community engagement activities and stakeholder workshops. The proposed actions to deliver the strategy's aims are evidence based and aim to improve people's housing, health and wellbeing.

CONSULTATION

25. The Covid-19 pandemic has severely restricted the scope for consultation on this new Strategy within the timeline for its production. However, the current drivers for the Strategy review include the findings and analysis of substantial previous public consultation and evidence gathering. Consultation has also taken place with:
- The Mayor and Portfolio Holder
 - Chief Executive and Directors
 - Elected members via a briefing session
 - Key internal and external stakeholders at two on-line seminar sessions
 - Consultation with Minorities Partnership Board and the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Workers Group

BACKGROUND PAPERS

26. [Housing Strategy 2015 – 2025](#)
Review of Housing Strategy 2020 proposed approach – Directors 07.09.20

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Not applicable

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

Karen Lythe, Assistant Director for Strategic Housing
01302 737670 karen.lythe@doncaster.gov.uk

Sarah Abbotts, Senior Policy, Insight and Change Manager
01302 737854 sarah.abbotts@doncaster.gov.uk

Lead Officer: Karen Lythe, Assistant Director for Strategic Housing

DAN SWAINE, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

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**Doncaster
Council**

DRAFT

Doncaster Housing Strategy Update – 2020 to 2025

**Homes that enhance the wellbeing of our
residents and our place**

www.doncaster.gov.uk

Foreword

Welcome to Doncaster's revised Housing Strategy 2020 to 2025.

Our homes have a powerful influence on our health and wellbeing. This has become even more apparent during 2020, when many of us spent much more time in our own homes than we normally would expect to and many of our residents were still dealing with the aftermath of the devastating floods in November 2019.

Access to good housing for everyone is one of the most effective ways of improving health and wellbeing. We need homes that meet our needs, now and as we get older. I want the people of Doncaster to have homes that are safe, secure and warm.

The Mayor's Restart, Recovery and Renewal Plan, our initial focus following Covid-19, is driving the delivery of more affordable homes and working to prevent as many people as possible from becoming homeless.

In the longer term, we need homes to become more energy efficient: we can tailor the homes we build now to the standards of tomorrow, and help people with older homes update insulation and heating methods. A major Housing Retrofit Programme will support the people of Doncaster to do this, but we will all need to play our part.

Councils working alone cannot meet the challenges we face from climate change and an ageing population. By working with our residents, community organisations and other partners, we can help the people of Doncaster to protect their independence and wellbeing.

Cllr Glyn Jones, Deputy Mayor and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Equalities

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1. Introduction

In 2015, the Council set out its 10 year vision and priorities for homes across the borough. In the last 5 years, much has been achieved, and much has changed, not least in this unprecedented year of 2020. A mid-term review of the 2015-2025 Strategy was essential, to ensure we're still working towards the right priorities and using our resources to the best effect for the well-being of all our residents over the coming 5 years.

In 2021, the Doncaster Borough Strategy will also be updated. It will build upon the successes of the Doncaster Growing Together Plan to deliver a transformation in the well-being of Doncaster people and places over the next 10 years.

This mid-term review of the 2015-2025 Housing Strategy is driven by the powerful influence our homes have on our health and wellbeing, and providing access to good housing for everyone is one of the most effective ways we can improve people's wellbeing. A healthy home which is secure, in good repair, warm, comfortable, and free from hazards, which could harm our health, is one of the foundations for life. By contrast, poor quality housing causes a range of physical and mental health problems, as well as being expensive to heat and causing high carbon emissions.

In 2020, many of us spent much more time in our own homes than we normally would expect to. The quality, size, condition and security of our home has had a direct impact on our experience of this period.

Evidence is emerging that COVID-19 is having an unequal impact on households and much of this is due to the home they live in. Recent research¹ (Place Alliance, 2020) has found that access to private open space, in the form of a garden or terrace, was the most critical factor in terms of people's comfort in their homes during the full lockdown period. Having enough space for occupants was also extremely important. Proximity to a park or green space was most important in terms of satisfaction with neighbourhoods, closely followed by being close to shops and amenities, and quiet streets to walk and cycle.

The learning from COVID-19 so far, makes it clear that in order to build Doncaster residents' resilience to future challenges, we need to ensure that our homes and communities support us, enable us to thrive and do not increase inequalities between us.

Along with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been other significant changes that have shifted the basis of the objectives in the Housing Strategy 2015-2025. These include:

- recovery from the 2008 recession and the investment in economic regeneration which is underway
- preparation for the end of the transition period following the UK's exit from the EU and the potential economic impacts arising from that

¹Place Alliance (2020) Home Comforts During the COVID-19 Lockdown
http://placealliance.org.uk/research/research-home-comforts/?mc_cid=e39ab41b70&mc_eid=b33912de9e

- extensive flooding experienced within the borough in 2019
- a growing awareness of the scale and urgency of the climate change emergency, and understanding of the impact of housing on carbon emissions, and the imperative to reduce those emissions

We also now have more information on the housing needs of our residents, having completed a Housing Needs Study in 2019.

In this review, we have refreshed the vision for homes in Doncaster, updated our key aims and outlined the key actions that we will take over the next five years.

These include:

- I. the delivery of new homes in all tenures to meet housing need, including accelerated investment in the Council House Build Programme to deliver more new affordable homes, more quickly
- II. the development of a borough-wide housing retrofit programme to ensure the condition of existing homes is improved and we start to reduce carbon emissions
- III. increased preventative work on homelessness and rough sleeping, and the expansion of our Housing First programme
- IV. a comprehensive response to new legislation on Building and Fire Safety
- V. improving our understanding and involvement in raising the standards of homes and tenancy management in private rented housing
- VI. supporting our town centres as shopping and working habits change, with new homes to raise footfall and improve liveability

New housing plays a key role in the large economic regeneration schemes underway and planned for the Borough. This includes Unity, Doncaster Sheffield Airport and, the Waterfront and City Gateway schemes in Doncaster town centre. Other housing schemes will regenerate our Main Towns, across the borough. These new homes allow people to live near their work, reduce commuting and provide investment and job opportunities for local, regional and national companies.

Doncaster has set a target of reducing carbon emissions by 85% by 2030 and becoming carbon neutral by 2040. This is ten years ahead of the 2050 carbon neutrality target set by the UK Government. A new Council Environment and Sustainability Strategy is currently being developed and as part of this an emissions analysis tool, SCATTER, was used to model the impact of different options to help achieve the carbon reduction targets. For Doncaster, housing improvements, particularly retrofitting housing stock to improve energy efficiency, were shown to be the intervention that would have the most impact. It will be a huge challenge to reduce the carbon emissions for 110,000 homes across the borough, and the Council, landlords and all residents will all have a part to play in rising to this challenge.

2. Progress on the delivery of the 2015-2025 Housing Strategy

Significant progress has been made against each of the objectives.

2.1 More new homes to meet need and demand

The Local Plan annual target of delivering 920 new homes has been consistently exceeded, with an average of approximately 1,200 new homes being completed each year. During 2020, the number of new homes built will reduce due to the impact of Covid-19 restrictions and lockdown, but we hope to see a recovery in delivery rates during 2021.

From April 2015 to March 2020, 925 new affordable homes were built across the borough. This includes:

- an investment of £53.9m by the Council to provide 407 new Council houses;
- 196 new Housing Association homes; and,
- 322 new affordable homes secured via contributions from private housing schemes

However, the number of people on the council housing waiting list and number of bids for each available property illustrates the continuing need for more affordable homes.

Since 2015, 136 Extra Care Housing apartments have been built in partnership with Housing 21, at Casson Court in Thorne and Swallowdale in Edlington. These provide independent, accessible accommodation, for rent or part ownership, with an on-site care team. 75 bungalows have been provided across the borough for older people or people living with physical disabilities.

However, we have more to do and are continually developing our understanding of the housing needs, now and in the future, of specific groups of people within our community. These include older people and people with physical or learning disabilities. We also know that too many children who are cared for by the Council are placed in accommodation outside Doncaster.

Working together, the Council and St Leger Homes have bought 33 properties to add to the council housing portfolio. In the majority of cases, these acquisitions have been targeted at empty properties or more recently at helping to meet specific housing requirements, as identified in the 2019 Housing Needs Study.

2.2 Reducing empty homes

Grants from the Council have helped to bring back into use 50 empty properties for renting via St Leger Lettings. In addition, an Empty Homes loan product is being developed to provide assistance for owners of an empty property to help bring it back into use. A Matching Service has recently been developed and launched, to assist with matching empty homeowners considering selling their property, with people who are looking to buy.

Improved re-let times for the Council's housing has led to fewer empty homes. However, despite this progress more work needs to be done to tackle the much higher level of empty homes that are privately owned, which make up more than 90% of all empty properties.

2.3 Improved housing conditions

Progress has also been made to raise the standards of homes within the Borough:

- Two Selective Licensing Schemes have been introduced for private rented homes in Hexthorpe and Edlington
- Council housing decency standards for over 20,000 homes have been maintained by St Leger Homes at 100%, and following on from the tragic Grenfell Tower fire, all nine Council high rise blocks have had improved fire safety measures installed
- The design standards for the Council House Build Programme have been increased to exceed current Building Regulations
- From 2015 to 2020, 13,555 Council homes benefitted from investment to make them more thermally efficient. This included over 7,000 new A** rated combi condensing boilers being fitted. Other improvements included external wall insulation and Solar PV units.
- In privately owned homes, 1,051 properties have had loft, wall and floor insulation, 200 properties have been fitted with gas central heating for the first time, 150 of the borough's most vulnerable households have had inadequate heating systems replaced and 50 residential Park Homes have been connected to the mains gas supply to reduce heating costs

The Council's Regulations and Enforcement Service undertakes reactive enforcement interventions in homes in the private rented sector, of which there are now more than 20,000 across the borough. Over one year in 2019-20, the team received 376 complaints and carried out 148 full inspections of properties. These found 100 Category 1 Hazards, which are an immediate threat to health and safety. Examples include electrical hazards, fire safety issues, missing stair handrails and broken windows.

2.4 Reducing homelessness

There have been a number of positive steps since 2015, towards our target to prevent more people from becoming homeless and to help them find a new, permanent home more quickly when they do. We responded quickly to the introduction of the new 2018 Homelessness Reduction Act, producing our own new **Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy** in 2019. The Imogen Blood Review 2019, an expert, independent review of our working practices shaped this new Strategy.

There were 2,595 approaches for assistance from individuals or households with homelessness during 2019/20:

- 851 were provided with advice and support to resolve their housing issue
- 250 were prevented from becoming homeless
- 268 were supported into a new permanent home
- 325 were placed in to temporary accommodation for a period of time whilst waiting for a permanent home

Working with key partners, we introduced the award-winning Complex Lives Alliance in 2018. This brings together the expertise of a number of agencies, to support our most vulnerable people who have complex issues such as homelessness, rough sleeping, addiction and offending behaviour, and who as a consequence have multiple health and support needs. This close partnership working has helped us to secure

funding from Government by co-ordinating multi agency bids, for example for a Rapid Rehousing Pathway and supplying preventative support to those at risk of rough sleeping.

During the initial lockdown period in spring 2020, people who were rough sleeping or presenting as homeless were accommodated in emergency accommodation as part of the 'Everyone In' initiative. This was to help protect them from the risks associated with Covid-19. A successful bid for Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP) funding will enable us to continue to support people who are homeless until March 2021

In 2020, we also started a review of our hostel provision, a recommendation of the Imogen Blood Review, with a goal of reducing the scale of communal living for people needing emergency accommodation, and instead providing more small scale, dispersed housing in community settings across the borough.

3. The 2020 Context – Strategic drivers for change

Since the approval of the '[Housing Strategy 2015-2025](#)', there have been significant changes affecting the basis on which it was developed.

3.1 The National strategic context

The UK Government has set an ambition to increase the **levels of house building** to an average of 300,000 new homes per year.

The housing market is inextricably linked to the health of the wider economy. Currently, the UK is facing an extended period of **economic uncertainty** due to the end of the transition period following our exit from the European Union and the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government sees the housing industry as a means of supporting the recovery of the national economy, but the success of this approach will be affected by households' ability to access new homes to buy or rent, and on their ability to maintain their current tenancies or mortgages.

Welfare Reforms limiting financial support for rent costs and levels of benefit support for households have impacted on the affordability of housing for many people. **New homelessness prevention legislation** has come into force, but limits on Council budgets and increases in housing costs coupled with Welfare Reforms have affected the impact of these changes, and it is still possible for a private rented tenant to lose their home for no fault of their own, as Section 21 notices have not been repealed.

The vital importance of **building safety and fire safety** were brought into the sharpest possible focus by the tragic events at Grenfell Tower in June 2017, and the subsequent on-going enquiry. In Doncaster, the Council and St Leger Homes immediately embarked upon a range of measures to improve and enhance safety in homes at greater risk from any incident of fire. Preparations for the emerging new legislation through the Fire Safety Bill and Build are underway. St Leger Homes are already carrying out and completing additional fire safety assessments and investment, rather than waiting for legislation to be enacted, and have established a Tenants Fire Safety Group to improve the communication with and the involvement of tenants in protecting fire safety.

In November 2020, the Government finally published **the Social Housing White Paper**, the inspiration for which was some of the issues emerging from the Grenfell Fire enquiry. The White Paper, called "**The Charter for Social Housing Residents**", has the following seven themes:

- I. **To be safe in your home** – bringing together key aspects of building safety
- II. **To know how your landlord is performing** – involving new tenant satisfaction measures, better access to information on how a landlord is performing and spending their resources and compliance with consumer standards
- III. **To have complaints dealt with promptly and fairly** – creating new links between the Regulator for Social Housing and the Housing Ombudsman and removing the democratic filter currently in place before complaints are referred to the Ombudsman
- IV. **To be treated with respect** – backed by a strong consumer regulator for tenants and including new risk based inspections of landlords every 4 years,

- measures to enable local authorities to be held to account for ALMO performance, a new code of practice on consumer standards
- V. **To have your voice heard by your landlord** – improving tenant engagement and empowerment
 - VI. **To have a good quality home and neighbourhood to live in** – including a proposed review to see whether the Decent Homes standard should be updated.
 - VII. **To be supported to take your first step to ownership** - expansion of shared ownership options, and more voluntary Right to Buy pilot schemes for housing associations

The Council and St Leger Homes will respond proactively and quickly to act on any new responsibilities and requirements that we are not already meeting which result from the legislation to follow.

The Government has legally binding targets under the **Climate Change Act 2008** to reach ‘net zero’ carbon emissions by 2050. Meeting this target will require a wide range of far-reaching actions across all sectors of the UK economy that are responsible for emissions. Housing is one such area as it is currently responsible for around 14% of UK carbon emissions.

The Government’s **Clean Growth Strategy**², published in October 2017, includes several targets to improve energy efficiency in homes. The Government is:

- Currently consulting on changes requiring all private rented sector homes to meet to EPC band C between 2025 and 2028
- Due to publish a new **Heat and Buildings Strategy** in late 2020, to reduce emissions from buildings
- Due to implement changes to **Part L of the Building Regulations** seeking to prepare new homes to be ready for low carbon heating systems, with a Fabric plus technology approach. These changes aim to secure a 31% reduction in carbon emissions compared with current standards
- Considering consultation responses on a **2025 Future Homes Standard**, based on low carbon heating and high levels of energy efficiency

In late November 2020, the Government announced a **10 Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution**. This included proposals for Greener Buildings, including seeking to implement the Future Homes Standard on the shortest possible timeline, consulting in the near future on increased energy standards for non-domestic buildings and aiming for 600,000 heat pump installations per year by 2028. It also announced the extension of the Green Homes Grant scheme to March 2022, Homes Upgrade Grants for homeowners living “off-gas” and further funding for the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. It also signalled its intention to strengthen energy efficiency requirements for private rented homes, and to extend the Energy Company Obligations scheme to 2026, so that energy suppliers will continue to provide funds for upgrading cold homes.

2

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/700496/clean-growth-strategy-correction-april-2018.pdf

New buildings standards are being introduced via the Buildings Safety Programme, with the Building Safety Bill expected to be implemented in the near future and consultation on going on improving Fire Safety. Improved safety measures are based on the recommendations set out with the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety following the Grenfell Tower fire in 2017.

The Government's recent **Planning White Paper**³ makes a series of recommendations that could change the delivery of new homes in the borough, and would overall reduce the scope for local decision-making and prioritisation, if they were enacted following the consultation process. It proposes:

- A change to the national standard methodology for calculating housing need, which would change the numbers of new homes deemed necessary compared with our current needs assessment
- The prioritisation of a new affordable home ownership product, First Homes, for a quarter of all developer contributions via s106 affordable housing agreements. This would reduce Council's local decision making autonomy on how best to meet local housing need
- To exempt housing sites, for up to 50 homes, from the requirement to deliver new affordable homes, as a time limited measure to stimulate the economy and encourage more small and medium sized developers to build. The consequence would be that fewer new affordable homes would be provided
- The expansion of the Permission in Principle for housing development, to cover sites for up to 150 new homes. This could result in the Council having fewer opportunities to influence the nature of the housing developments that come forward.

3.2 The Regional strategic context

The Sheffield City Region (SCR) is a partnership of Local Authorities, businesses, communities and other partners to support economic growth across South Yorkshire and the wider city region. Priorities focus on transport, business growth, housing and infrastructure and, skills and employment across the region.

Local authorities in SCR share some common challenges as well as a common desire to address issues such as Future Homes standards, flood risk and tackling poor design and property condition. A **SCR Housing Review** completed during 2020 identified a series of propositions to address key housing issues.

1. **Densifying Urban Areas with more homes:** which in Doncaster could support existing urban centres threatened by economic change and digitisation, by re-using space in urban areas like town centres as places to live
2. **A new regional Housing Investment Fund:** using the public sector's borrowing ability and supported by the devolved funding which has been agreed for the city region, to enable more homes to be built at scale and speed
3. **Private Rented Housing Sector:** proposals to improve the quality and affordability of homes in this sector

³ Planning for the Future, White Paper August 2020, MHCLG

4. **Housing Design and the Right to Beauty:** increasing expertise and capacity to deliver well designed homes and attractive places, and updating the South Yorkshire Residential Design Guide.
5. **Spatial Planning:** ensuring that each local authority's planning for their area, comes together into a cohesive and effective region-wide approach
6. **Net Zero and Renewal:** working together to assess and improve the condition of current housing stock, and develop a long term, comprehensive housing retrofit programme, in line with the complementary SCR Energy Strategy

SCR have agreed to bring forward investment to help kick start work on nine critical flood protection schemes across South Yorkshire. This includes working across the whole River Don catchment area to address the root causes of flooding. Housing and regeneration investment decisions by the SCR moving forward will deliver on these key objectives, and the Council will work proactively to secure new resources to invest in the borough

The SCR **Renewal Action Plan** (RAP) was launched in autumn 2020 in response to the very significant economic challenges arising from the Covid-19 pandemic. The RAP includes a commitment to accelerate investment in infrastructure, including building retrofit, to stimulate business and employment opportunities in the green economy, also benefitting residents at a time when many households' budgets are under greater pressure.

The updated SCR **Strategic Economic Plan** (SEP) is also currently being finalised, setting out the longer term economic aspirations for the city region. Key to the delivery of the RAP and the SEP is the Devolution Deal agreed with the Government in 2020, which brings certainty over long-term resources available to invest in the area, some of which will help to tackle key housing issues.

In August 2020, the SCR **Brownfield Sites Fund** was announced, using £40m of Government funding over 5 years to help unlock complex and costly sites for housing development. We have submitted seven new affordable housing schemes in the Council House Build Programme for funding. We will pursue further resources to help deliver new homes in our principal towns across the borough, helping to revitalise our town centres, and as part of regeneration schemes in Doncaster town centre.

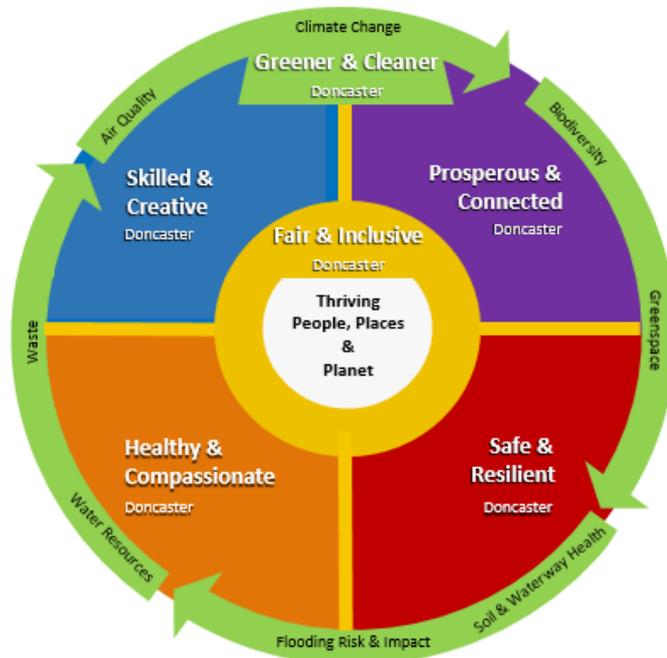
3.3 The Local Strategic Context

A revised **Doncaster Borough Strategy** will be launched in 2021. It will build upon the successes of the Doncaster Growing Together Plan to deliver a transformation in the well-being of Doncaster people and places over the next 10 years. The Strategy will focus on the local quality of life issues residents have identified through 'Doncaster Talks' and global shared challenges like the climate change and biodiversity crisis.

Six emerging **well-being goals** include creating a greener and cleaner borough, improving the safety and resilience of places to challenges like flooding and developing a more compassionate Doncaster. Alongside these will be creating quality jobs, improving education and skills, tackling inequalities and supporting culture and creativity.

Delivering the Borough Strategy will require closer working with communities, shared responsibilities and a more regenerative approach to development.

The Housing Strategy will have a significant impact on the following Borough Strategy well-being goals:



- Greener & Cleaner**
 - Increase energy efficiency of new and existing homes
 - Improve household’s resilience to future flooding events
- Prosperous & Connected**
 - Delivering new homes
 - Helping to revitalise town centres
- Safe & Resilient**
 - Improving standards and safety
 - Preventing homelessness
- Healthy & Compassionate**
 - Tackling poor property conditions
 - Improving health
- Skilled & Creative**
 - Carbon reduction and housing retrofit programme that boosts the local economy
 - Unlock people’s capacity to future proof their homes
- Fair & Inclusive**
 - Reducing health inequalities
 - Reducing fuel poverty
 - Housing that meets changing needs

The Housing Strategy is just one of a number of key strategies that will support the delivery of the Borough Strategy and achievement of our wellbeing goals. Each is consistent and complementary to the Borough Strategy and to each other.

Doncaster’s new **Local Plan** contains the planning policies and proposals that will replace the ‘Local Development Frameworks Core Strategy’ (2012) and the ‘Unitary Development Plan’ (2007). It is currently being examined by an independent inspector, to see whether it meets the ‘soundness and legal test’ set out in Planning legislation, and should be adopted in 2021.

The new Local Plan will shape how Doncaster develops over the coming years: how the area will look and feel; and the policies and proposals needed to guide development to the right places whilst protecting and improving the environment and people's quality of life. It will be used to decide planning applications and guide investment into the Borough. It will aim to ensure that the new homes, businesses, jobs, shops and infrastructure needed over the next 15 years can be delivered. There are a range of requirements and guidance for new housing schemes, including on:

- Flood risk mitigation
- Provision of open spaces
- Good design and housing standards
- Restrictions on the numbers of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)

Ambitious targets for new homes are included in the Local Plan, which acknowledges housing growth as a crucial part of growing Doncaster's economy. Housing delivery levels have exceeded targets for the last four years.

More people living in the borough creates more footfall and potential spend for local business and the town centre. This helps sustain, and attract new, local businesses, which in turn add to the economy. Housing development is at **the heart of all the key regeneration schemes** in Doncaster and housing growth is proposed across the borough.

Doncaster's **population** has continued to grow, however within the coming decade the make up of the Borough's population will change significantly. According to the ONS Population Projection data, from 2028 for the first time there will be more older people than younger people living in the borough. The data also indicates that this gap will grow to a 17% difference of younger to older people by 2041, with a 30% increase in the number of over 65s. Over the same period there is projected to be a 7% decrease of the 0-19 year population. This very welcome trend in more people living for longer will necessitate a change in the housing offer, bringing more options and choice to the borough.

The **2019 Housing Needs Survey** provides an evidence base for planning and housing policies, including the Local Plan. The research provided an up to date analysis of the social, economic, housing and demographic situation across the borough. See section 6.2 later for more details on this survey, and the **new 5 Year Housing Delivery Plan** Cabinet Report which sets out the Council's approach to meeting this need.

Since the Homelessness Reduction Act came into force in 2018, Doncaster continues to experience a wide range of reasons for homelessness. The **Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2024** sets out the activity that will prevent homelessness and rough sleeping, and how progress will be measured. This includes:

- Delivering a "whole system" wide plan for homelessness prevention, working very closely with partner agencies in the housing, health, care and voluntary and community sectors
- Maximising opportunities for people who have experienced homelessness to live independently through a range of suitable housing options

- Providing effective and joined up care and support services for those most in need of support to secure and maintain a tenancy

The Mayor's **Restart, Recovery, Renewal Plan**, agreed in July 2020, looks to build upon the borough's achievements and to opportunities beyond the immediate COVID-19 crisis. It details work to 'build back better' for the longer term, towards a greener, cleaner, more resilient, prosperous and inclusive borough. The Plan provides a focus on Housing actions for the first 12 months of this Strategy, to:

- Deliver our council house build programme, and
- Working closely with the Private Rented Sector, prevent as many people as possible from becoming homeless.

St Leger Homes of Doncaster (SLHD) - SLHD manages over 20,000 homes on behalf of Doncaster Council. It provides award-winning services in respect of buildings, extensive tenancy support, homelessness and safeguarding. Decent property standards have been maintained and extensive housing safety improvements implemented. SLHD is a key partner in the Council's move towards a Localities model of service delivery, working closely with other local agencies and partners, to better support our residents. Looking forward over the next five years SLHD have identified six priorities:

1. Maximising Safety - Building safety, staff and resident safety and compliance
2. Making best use of the existing affordable homes they manage
3. Supporting existing and prospective tenants' wellbeing, including those with specific vulnerabilities, and working hard to make a positive difference to reduce poverty, domestic violence and improve safeguarding. At the same time, seeking to provide more opportunities for tenants through the World of Work scheme, promoting ambition and economic prosperity.
4. Ensuring the best Value for Money, delivering benefits for our tenants and the Council
5. Listening to and acting on the needs and concerns of our customers
6. Ensuring neighbourhoods are safe and pleasant places to live and in which people feel proud to live

Doncaster's integrated **Locality approach** will also support our work with residents to enable and support people to plan, act and invest in their homes. This approach combines asset based community development; integrated strengths based delivery and locality commissioning in a 'whole system' way of working. Community networks, trusted information sources and local VCFS organisations are key partners in designing solutions that work at a local level.

The **Doncaster Flood Recovery** report (September 2020) said that the borough is at the forefront of the climate emergency, and is particularly vulnerable to longer term flooding. An **Independent Review of Flood Insurance** also established that there were poor levels of coverage in Doncaster.

Doncaster's '**Local Commission on Climate and Biodiversity Crisis**' was established in 2019 in response to our declaration of a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency. Its recommendations have informed a new **Environment and Sustainability Strategy**, which outlines how improving the energy efficiency of both

new and older housing stock will help people to heat their homes more sustainably, and reduce fuel poverty.

3.4 Local engagement

Doncaster Talks, a large-scale public consultation in the summer of 2019, gathered the views of 3,610 local people and formed the basis for the development of our new Borough Strategy (Doncaster Talks public consultation). Residents indicated that they like their area due to it having good community spirit, easy access to green spaces, being well-connected, good local amenities and quiet. For improvements and future focus, the main responses included ensuring that the environment where people live is clean, quiet and safe, with community based factors such as more activities and a range of different amenities. This indicates that people are interested in the wider community context of where they live.

A Doncaster Talks **Environment Survey** 2020 was performed to determine which aspects of improving the local environment remained a priority for residents, particularly in light of the uncertain times that 2020 have provided. There were 459 respondents:

- 63% of respondents indicated that the Council should focus on improving the energy efficiency of its existing Council houses and building new homes to high environmental standards and
- The same percentage indicated that the Council should say ‘no’ to building developments that are not of the highest environmental standards, even if this results in those developments not going ahead.

The findings of the Support Education and Engagement Project (SEE Project) which aimed to identify members of the community who need additional support and those that live in poor housing conditions have informed the strategy.

During the development of this updated strategy, engagement activities have included

- Consultation seminars with internal and external partners
- A session with elected members
- Consultation with Minorities Partnership Board and the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Workers Group

4. Vision and Priority Aims to 2025

4.1 Vision

Our vision is for homes that enhance the wellbeing of our residents and our place

Our vision includes:

- Residents live in safe and healthy homes, in communities that are resilient and prosperous
- Agencies and residents share responsibility and work together to make our homes fit for the future
- Homes will change over time to meet everyone's changing needs, with adaptable design, greater digital connectivity, higher energy efficiency whilst remaining affordable
- New homes are at the heart of economic growth plans, helping to build back better

4.2 Priority Aims

Short term priority: Response and recovery from Covid-19 - a rapid and effective response is needed to the pressures caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, as identified in the Mayor's Restart, Recovery and Renewal Plan. Many of our residents need immediate support to cope with loss of income, potential loss of their tenancy and home, ill health and isolation during lockdown periods. In the short term we will focus on housing measures which:

- Offer better solutions to homelessness, with a better connected network of housing providers working at a local level. This will address pressures on evictions and poor property conditions that are affecting health during lockdown
- Improve how the range of housing and support providers work together, to become a unified homelessness prevention and response system

However, we must also look to the longer term, to 2025 in this revised strategy but also with an eye on 2030 and beyond.

Long term priority aims are to:

- Enhance the safety and condition of homes, the main setting for our wellbeing throughout our lives
- Meet housing need and aspirations, support our local economy and help revitalise town centres and communities
- Make homes greener and more energy efficient to reduce carbon emissions and keep energy costs affordable
- Enable and support people to plan, act and invest in their homes, to protect their independence and wellbeing for the future

5. Meeting long term priority aims

5.1 Enhancing the safety and condition of homes, the main setting for our wellbeing throughout our lives

5.1.1 Homes and Health

Housing is not simply a roof over our heads. Our home is the place we raise families, socialise, eat, sleep and take refuge from the world. Our homes should always promote health by being safe and comfortable, and providing security and stability. Our homes should meet our diverse needs whether that is accessible housing for people who are older or have a disability, affordable housing so that everyone can afford a home to live in or supportive housing for people who need extra support to be independent and thrive. Our homes should always be of decent quality, regardless of age or tenure, should also be affordable and efficient to run, and well connected to vibrant, active communities.

Improving housing in Doncaster provides a range of opportunities to improve residents' lives, public services and the local economy. According to the King's Fund (2018) every £1 spent on improving homes saves the NHS £70 over 10 years.

Whether a house is healthy or not depends on:

- Cost (Affordability)
- Conditions (Quality)
- Consistency (how stable your housing situation is), and
- Context (your neighbourhood and Environment)

If people are unable to access healthy housing, this will lead to inequalities in health. Health inequalities are due to the conditions in which we are born, grow, live, work and age. These conditions influence our opportunities for good health, how well protected we are from risks to health and how we think, feel and act. This shapes our mental health, physical health and wellbeing far more than the individual decisions we make. In Doncaster, where we live and the conditions of our lives will affect how long we live and how healthy those years are (PHOF, 2020).

The Covid-19 pandemic has not only shone a light on inequalities, but has also increased the economic, social and health differences between us.

"We may all be in the same storm, but we are not all in the same boat"
(JRF, 2020)

Many people have spent more time in their homes, increasing the impact of home quality, size and any lack of facilities, such as a garden or space for privacy to work or study. Many of the basic necessities that many of us have taken for granted during 2020, such as privacy, space and basic facilities, have not been available to others. Some residents are living in overcrowded, insecure or temporary accommodation; in housing with shared facilities; cold, damp or dangerous homes. Some residents may be worried that they can no longer afford their home.

Evidence is now emerging of the substantial impact of poor or unsuitable housing during COVID-19. The autumn 2020 report from the Northern Housing Consortium

and Huddersfield University, “Lockdown, Rundown, Breakdown” examined the impact of the Covid-19 lockdown on people who live in poor condition homes in the north of England. The research found that:

- Existing poor property conditions had worsened during lockdown, and Covid will have resulted in a backlog of repair work
- Private rented sector tenants are under-reporting repair issues in their homes, out of fear of eviction and rent increases
- People are spending more time at home, increasing their energy use, and energy costs are causing increased anxiety to a wider range of households than before the pandemic
- Households are feeling financially insecure and some renters feel insecure in their tenancies

The lockdown has worsened existing anxieties and problems facing low-income households living in poor condition homes. It has brought into even clearer focus the need to tackle poor property condition in all tenures, improve energy efficiency to minimise fuel costs and encourage and educate all landlords to manage Private Rented Sector (PRS) tenancies with understanding and compassion, and use the Councils’ enforcement powers to protect tenants where this does not happen.

Case Study: COVID 19 information for shared housing

In April 2020, Public Health responded to local intelligence that people living in shared housing, including refugees and asylum seekers, could be finding it hard to keep themselves safe when using shared areas, such as kitchens. They worked in partnership to produce and share a simple, pictorial guidance poster that could be easily understood so that landlords and housing providers could support their tenants to keep safe and well.

Living in a **cold, damp** home has a significant impact on health and wellbeing. Estimated costs vary, but it is suggested cold homes cost the NHS about £1.4 billion per year (BRE, 2015).

There is a substantial body of evidence to show that cold homes are harmful to problems such as heart conditions; lung conditions and poor mental health can be made significantly worse. Children living in cold homes are more likely to develop symptoms of asthma, suffer from chest and breathing problems, experience mental health problems and do worse at school (PHE, 2014).

A number of factors lead to cold homes and fuel poverty, including property age, condition, size, low income and high-energy prices. The latest fuel poverty figure (2018) for Doncaster is 9.6%, meaning an estimated 12,728 households are living in fuel poverty (PHE, 2020). Fuel poverty unfairly affects poorer households, older people and, people with disabilities and long-term health conditions. Gypsy and traveller communities also face inequalities in relation to access to affordable fuel.

Tackling fuel poverty and cold homes can save lives. In 2018 -19 there were 163 excess winter deaths in Doncaster; the previous year there were 349 (possibly, because 2018–19 was a mild winter). Most excess winter deaths are due to diseases of the heart, lungs and circulatory system especially in older people.

Case Study: The Affordable Warmth Programme.

The Affordable Warmth Programme has been working locally since 2015 to tackle fuel poverty, cold homes and the health issues that they cause. Funded by the Better Care Fund, the programme improves the health of Doncaster residents by reducing the number of people living in cold homes and fuel poverty. In 2019/20, it helped provide new boilers or central heating for 31 local households, whose residents had serious health problems and disabilities, and who were facing winter in a cold home. The programme delivers training for professionals and volunteers, awareness raising and advice for residents, and supports winter campaigns, as the weather gets colder. In 2019, a Winter Booklet aimed at older people and people with health needs was created with our Communications team, 5,000 were distributed throughout the borough. In 2020, the booklet also provides advice and information to keep people safe during COVID-19.

5.1.2 Poor property conditions

Homes in **poor condition** can be hazardous to health, particularly as a cause of accidents in the home. One of the major causes of injury, decline and death among older adults is falls in the home. Disabled and older, or frail, residents with poorly accessible homes are at greater risk of injury, and are more likely to suffer from stress and isolation. Year on year, there are in excess of 6,000 deaths in the UK as result of injuries sustained from an accident in the home. Old unsafe electrical systems, uneven steps, damp and condensation, and structural disrepair can all result in serious health and safety issues for residents.

Empowering the workforce and the voluntary and community sector: There are many opportunities to prevent homes being harmful to health, whether that is through the work of environmental health officers, care workers or health visitors, or through the wider work force and the voluntary, community and faith sector (VCFS). Anyone who visits someone in their home, and the resident themselves, should be empowered to spot and take action to improve their health and prevent harm.

Case Study: Healthy Homes Project

The Healthy Homes Project is a partnership between Public Health, Strategic Housing and the Health Visitors at RDASH. Health Visitors have developed a Healthy Homes video to support the workforce to have “Healthy Homes Conversations”. The video will be shared with a range of partners including:

- Local housing organisations
- Social Care
- Healthcare
- Voluntary and Community Sector

Security of tenure can reduce the risk of homelessness and poor mental health. Having an affordable, secure home can reduce financial worries, allowing people to make better decisions about their and their family’s health and lives

For a home to be healthy, there should be enough room for everyone who lives there to thrive, be healthy and socialise, whilst having their own space and privacy. **Overcrowded** housing poses a significant health risk and is more common among people who are already experiencing other disadvantages. Overcrowding affects education, and health and wellbeing. It is associated with poor mental health, and infectious diseases and respiratory diseases.

The Housing Needs Study for Doncaster in 2019, found an estimated 3,734 households living in overcrowded conditions. Of households with people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicity (BAME) backgrounds in Doncaster, 13.8% were assessed to be in some form of housing need, with overcrowding affecting 28.2% of those households.

Data collected in the **‘Support, Education and Engagement Project’** showed that in Doncaster, people born outside of the UK are more likely to be living in rented accommodation or a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) than those who were born in the UK. 71% of those living in HMOs in Wheatley and Hyde Park were born outside the UK but in Balby and Hexthorpe that figure drops to 25%. Of rented accommodation in Doncaster, 2.75% of properties occupied by people born outside of the UK were assessed to be overcrowded. This compares to 1.33% of rented accommodation in Doncaster occupied by people born in the UK.

5.1.3 Enforcing better standards

The **Homes (Fitness for Human Habitation) Act 2018** came into force in March 2019. Its aim is to drive up standards of homes in both the public and private rented sectors, by giving a new power to tenants to seek redress from their landlord if their rented home presents a risk of harm to their health and safety. We will support any tenant who comes forward with concerns about the condition of their rented home, and will offer advice and guidance to landlords to ensure the homes they own are safe and fit for habitation.

We will explore all opportunities to expand our capacity to work proactively on engagement, education and enforcement with the Private Rented Sector. This will include training for landlords and options for an accreditation scheme. We will also offer more support to tenants to ensure they are aware of their rights and responsibilities, and that their views and experiences are heard and responded to. To update the information we have on property conditions in private sector housing, we aim to commission a new Private Sector Housing Stock Condition Survey. This will include an assessment of flood resilience and energy efficiency.

The Council’s Enforcement Service works to protect residents from the potential impacts of poor condition housing. It uses the ‘Housing, Health and Safety Rating System’ and statutory powers to identify hazards to health, and take action to ensure they are dealt with. In recent years, the size of the private rented housing sector has expanded significantly in the borough, and there are now over 20,000 households who rent their home from a private landlord. Whilst many landlords offer good quality, well managed homes, some fail to meet the required standards for property condition and tenancy management. This affects the safety, health and security of the people who live in these homes.

Case study – Emergency Prohibition

Regulation & Enforcement helped a single mother and two young children living in dangerous conditions in Balby. A survey of the property discovered hazards:

- Excess Cold: Malfunctioning boiler, smashed windows
- Falling on stairs: No handrail to stairs, spacing of guarding to first floor hallway too wide, such that a toddler could fall through.
- Fire: Missing smoke alarms.
- Electrical Hazards: By pass of main circuit breakers to the property causing a fire risk

Despite negotiations with the landlord, most of the repairs were not carried out and an Improvement Notice was served. This requires works to be completed over a period of three months but a further inspection found that the bulk of the work had not been completed.

Under these circumstances, Regulation & Enforcement has the authority to carry out the work and bill the landlord. Trades from DMBC were deployed to complete the repairs but their electrical tests revealed a serious fault with the main circuit breaker to the property, which had been tampered with. The National Grid deemed the installation so dangerous that they had to terminate the supply immediately.

As this would have left the tenant without electricity for an unknown period, an Emergency Prohibition notice was served. Home Choice staff successfully rehoused the tenant.

The landlord was subsequently issued a civil penalty for the sum of £22,000, the biggest civil penalty that has been issued.

In areas where there are high concentrations of privately rented homes, **Selective Licensing** can be a useful tool to tackle poor standards, for the greater good of the area and the wider community. Five-year Selective Licensing schemes were introduced in Hexthorpe and Edlington to tackle a number of issues including:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Low demand for homes and a general decline in the area
- Supporting inexperienced landlords
- Engaging with those landlords whose management activities were unsatisfactory.

The Selective Licensing scheme in Hexthorpe ended on 30th June 2020. Whilst in place the scheme identified serious hazards and defects, and led to improved housing conditions without formal enforcement action being taken. There was also a significant reduction in complains of Anti-Social Behaviour. It is hoped that the scheme will be renewed; however, delays to the statutory consultation process, due to Covid-19, mean that it will run from 2021-2026.

5.1.4 Building Safety and Fire Safety

The vital importance of building safety and fire safety was brought into the sharpest possible focus by the tragic events at Grenfell Tower in June 2017. St Leger Homes

immediately embarked upon a range of measures to improve and enhance safety in their high-rise homes, and other homes at greater risk from any incident of fire. This included:

- Removal of aluminium composite material (ACM) decorative capping from Silverwood House, and another form of cladding made from high-pressure laminate. This work was completed by December 2017
- A sprinkler retrofit programme was completed in all nine high rise blocks owned by Doncaster Council (incorporating 603 flats), along with a programme of wider fire safety improvement works focusing on fire doors, fire stopping and improving signage and ventilation.

High-rise homes

Some properties are at higher risk should a fire occur, depending for example on the type of construction, occupancy levels or use. Properties over 18 metres in height are usually classed as higher risk. Fire risk assessments of St Leger Homes properties that are at a higher risk continue annually, and are undertaken by external, independent, nationally recognised fire engineers. Any resultant recommendations are managed and followed up as part of an ongoing fire safety programme. All fire risk assessment actions are managed and monitored through a specialist database (Riskhub). This is supported via a wider programme of fire risk assessments across all accommodation covered under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety Order) legislation, which now includes low-rise blocks of flats.

The Grenfell Inquiry has instigated a number of new national safety initiatives, and work is already ongoing here in Doncaster to prepare for the emerging new legislation expected through the Fire Safety Bill and Building Safety Bill. This will see new responsibilities placed on landlords and building owners, including the introduction of an **Accountable Person** for each local authority, new **Building Safety Managers** and more stringent requirements relating to improvement works within existing buildings. **A new Building Safety Regulator** will oversee the implementation of the new legislation and building owners will need to obtain certification for their accommodation. In preparation for this, work is already underway to prepare **Building Safety Cases** wherever one is required. Greater emphasis will be placed on tenant and resident engagement, giving a greater voice in issues of safety. **A High-Rise Forum** has already been established to engage tenants and residents on building and fire safety issues. The Council and St Leger Homes continue to work closely with relevant stakeholders on all aspects of fire safety, including South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.

St Leger Homes continues to meet all other areas of safety compliance, covering gas, electricity, water, lifts and asbestos, through ongoing and regular inspection and cyclical maintenance programmes, as well as wider health and safety generally. In 2020, St Leger Homes achieved the British Safety Council five star award for the ninth consecutive year, alongside being one of the first organisations to achieve ISO45001 health and safety management accreditation.

The Social Housing White Paper and proposed “Charter for Social Housing Residents” places further emphasis on tenant engagement and on how information is shared. We will work with St Leger Homes to meet any new responsibilities and requirements resulting from subsequent legislation.

5.1.5 Accessible and inclusive design

Homes should be **accessible and inclusive** in their design and should meet our residents' current and future housing needs. They should suit the requirements and support of inhabitants including those with disabilities or long-term conditions and older people allowing them to remain as independent for as long as possible. Homes should also be able to support discharge and re-ablement for those leaving hospital and care, enabling people to get back home and stay at home.

Adaptability and accessibility should be built into the design of new housing. For those who live in existing homes, people should be supported to adapt and improve their homes to ensure they meet their needs as they age. In some cases "rightsizing" by changing to a smaller or more suitable home or move into specialist housing, such as Extra Care housing will be the right option for maintaining independence, health and wellbeing.

A home itself should not be viewed in isolation. Homes should be part of **healthy, safe and vibrant communities** where people feel safe, are supported to socialise, travel by foot, cycle or public transport, and access the shops and community facilities they require. Healthy communities promote good health through physical activity, social interaction, good facilities, play and recreation. Access to quality outdoor green space is extremely important for physical and mental wellbeing and social inclusion and housing development can be used as part of spatial planning (planning and shaping our communities) to increase health, community cohesion and connectedness. **Health Impact Assessments (HIAs)** are carried out at the earliest possible stages by developers in order to maximise the health impact of a housing development.

Long term empty properties can be a blight on neighbourhoods, they can be unsightly with overgrown gardens or become a target for anti-social behaviour or criminal activity. We will continue efforts to reduce the number empty properties, 90% of which are privately owned, to improve neighbourhoods and bring homes back in to use.

KEY ACTIONS:

- Maintain Council House decency standards at 100%
- Put in place all new Building Safety and Fire Safety measures required by new legislation
- Aim to complete a new Private Sector Housing Stock Condition Survey and use the results to target support and enforcement on tackling poor property conditions
- Explore options to expand capacity to work proactively with Private Rented Sector landlords and tenants on engagement, education and enforcement
- Implement the Social Housing White Paper and subsequent legislation
- Identify, understand and address health and social inequalities through housing
- Continue to evaluate the use of Health Impact Assessments for all housing developments
- Continue preventative approaches to tackling fuel poverty
- Increase skills and knowledge of the local workforce on healthy homes

- Take a partnership approach to reviewing and improving housing related services and housing solutions, utilising local expertise and knowledge across all sectors
- Use research and innovation to work with and understand our communities, to improve health and reduce health inequalities through the home
- Reduce the number of privately owned empty properties

5.2 Meeting housing need and aspirations, supporting our local economy and helping revitalise town centres and communities

5.2.1 The 2019 Housing Needs Survey (HNS)

An up to date understanding of housing need is fundamental to planning for the right kinds of new homes and making best use of the existing housing stock. The 2019 Survey found significant affordability issues for a large proportion of households, with most tenure options unaffordable to over a third of households. Most private market rent and purchase options are unaffordable in many areas. Other key findings were:

- 209 new affordable homes were needed each year
- Demand for homes in the Private Rented Sector is increasing in the borough, however supply is not keeping up
- A significant number of the settlement areas in the Borough have more affordable housing need than supply, and different sizes and types of homes are required in different areas
- Aspirations and expectations show a marked shift towards a need for smaller homes and a reduced emphasis of houses in favour of flats and bungalows. This is mostly related to the changing demographic of household numbers with increased numbers of single people and couples, rather than families, and an aging population.

The Housing Need Survey also provided information on the housing needs for older people, and those with physical and learning disabilities and other specific housing needs. The key findings were:

- For older people looking to move, the demand is largely for 1, 2 or 3 bedroom bungalows
- 8 out of 10 older people would like to stay in their existing home
- People over 65 who felt unable to move did so because of affordability issues and what they felt were unsuitable alternative options in their desired areas
- For people living with physical or learning disabilities, or long term health conditions, the main barriers to re-housing are lack of suitably adapted or ground floor properties in individuals' chosen locations. A mixture of 1 and 2 bedroomed, accessible or adapted properties are needed to meet these needs
- Adaptation of family homes is required to enable families with a disabled family member to remain in the same property
- It is difficult for families with children who have health needs or disabilities to find a suitable adapted home
- Home care provision can be difficult in rural areas and villages; finding support providers is an issue as well as housing
- There is a need for more support to enable independent living skills; particularly for people with mental health problems leaving hospital and young people leaving care with support needs or behavioural issues.
- Residents in 4% of all properties need them to be accessible for a wheelchair user. It is estimated that 665 more wheelchair accessible dwellings are needed

An updated Housing Needs Assessment will be completed by 2025, to ensure our evidence is up to date.

5.2.2 Accessible and flexible housing stock

Although the HNS identified gaps in the provision of some kinds of adapted or supported homes, the Council's guiding principle is that the general housing stock should be as accessible and flexible as possible, to allow the vast majority of people to continue to live in their existing homes and communities. To support this the Council needs to:

- plan and invest in aids, adaptations and new technologies which support independent living
- be clear about how wrap around support is provided to individuals and families including floating support, domiciliary care, more innovative models like Shared Lives, and also access to education, skills, employment opportunities
- make the best use of the existing specialist housing in the borough

The new **National Statement of Expectations (NSE) for Supported Housing** places further duties on local authorities to be transparent and accountable on delivery against local plans. The Council is required to have a clear strategic plan setting out the housing need for vulnerable groups. It sets suggested minimum standards for:

- Assessing local need and planning effectively
- Ensuring safe and good quality supported housing
- Ensuring supported housing provides value for money

Assessments of the specific housing needs of vulnerable groups have been undertaken and we are now planning how best to respond to this evidence.

For those people and families living with learning or physical disabilities, autism and on-going mental health conditions the approach will be to:

- Step people down from institutional "care" that restricts their liberty and does not give the best outcomes. To do this we'll maximise links to the NHS Transforming Care programme
- Consider "supported living" or other specialist housing with support for people when general needs housing, even with support, feels insufficient to meet their needs

A new in-depth assessment of the accommodation requirements of people with learning disabilities, autism or mental health issues over the next 10 years has been carried out on behalf of the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System. For Doncaster, this has found:

- 225 additional homes will be needed over time, mainly using a supported living model, some of which can be created by using existing properties differently
- There are also people with learning disabilities with children who are housed by the Council and some may be better accommodated in a supported living scheme

For people with mental health issues who could potentially move from a residential care home to supported living:

- An additional 58 homes will be needed over time, mainly using a supported living model, some of which can be created by using existing properties differently

- Limited supported accommodation is available, and many people are placed in residential care, some out of area, or in specialised placements
- There is a need to increase the number of people provided with tenancy support in private rented accommodation and to work with private landlords to achieve this

For older people our approach will be to:

- Grow an attractive, accessible housing offer for later living, which will also help to free up larger homes for families
- Ensure new homes are of high quality design with resident wellbeing the primary concern
- Link new housing developments for older people with tailored care and support models, including Extra Care Housing for older people who would otherwise be at risk of losing their ability to live independently and having to move into a residential or nursing home

For **young people leaving care** a Supported Independent Living (SIL) scheme that prepares them for independent living, Cantley House, was completed in 2018. To expand the provision for this group, smaller, two bedroomed properties are now being purchased from the open market and refurbished before being registered as care homes with OFSTED.

Guidance on the Joint Housing Protocol for Care Leavers, updated in October 2020, aims to ensure that local accommodation meets needs and that the Council is meeting its Corporate Parenting Responsibilities. The existing Joint Protocol for Care Leavers in Doncaster will be reviewed to ensure it is reflective of the updated guidance. It will also be considered in the review of the 16/17 year old Homeless Protocol. Support mechanisms for **young homeless and young people with complex needs** will be developed as part of the Homelessness and Rough Sleepers project. This project will also review the housing needs of **single people** and **prisoners** on release.

For Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show People communities, the latest need assessment (2018) showed that the borough has a surplus of pitches and yards, and therefore does not require any further sites or new allocations. However, we will continue to work with these communities to ensure their accommodation requirements are met, including appropriate extensions to existing sites, and advice, guidance and support on, for example, energy efficiency improvements, home adaptations and fire safety.

Access to housing and to “housing wealth” is unequal and the issues with the UK’s housing market do not affect the population equally (The Equality Trust, 2016). The **Support, Education & Engagement (SEE) Project** in 2018/19 identified community members that required additional support and were likely to live in poor quality housing. Homelessness is more likely to affect those in society who are most at risk of experiencing other inequalities.

5.2.3 Reducing Homelessness

A Homelessness Review by the Imogen Blood social research consultancy⁴ in 2019 informed the Council's **Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2024**. The review found that there is a wide range of reasons why people are becoming homeless, or are at risk of becoming homeless. Relationship breakdown is a major cause of homelessness. Although there has been significant success in preventing private sector housing evictions, there is more to do to prevent people facing the trauma of losing their home

The 2019 review found that those accessing the Housing Options Service in 2018-19 had a high level of additional support needs:

- 72% had additional support needs, compared to 50% nationally and regionally, with higher numbers of people with multiple, complex needs
- Mental health issues are the most frequently additional need
- Relationship breakdown had often triggered homelessness, and was linked to substance use and or mental health issues
- Increased numbers of women presenting as homeless, especially those at risk of or experiencing rough sleeping
- People released from the four prisons within the borough were also presenting for assistance

We will continue work with our partners to implement the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, which has three objectives:

- Deliver a “whole system” wide plan for homelessness prevention
- Maximise opportunities for independence through a range of housing options
- Effective and joined up care and support services

Given the complex causes of homelessness and the additional support needs of those experiencing or at risk of it, a whole system approach is being taken to improving prevention, including the development of a housing led model of rapid rehousing with tailored support transition to independent living.

The overall rate of **repossessions and evictions** in Doncaster have been constant overall since 2017, with an average of around 1,600 per year up. The rates are slightly higher than our neighbouring local authorities in Barnsley and Rotherham, and significantly higher than the national average of 984 per year. More work is needed to understand why rates in the borough are higher, and to reduce these where possible, working more proactively with private landlords and through the regional Breathing Space project that supports homeowners who are struggling to pay their mortgage.

In March 2020, the Government introduced financial forbearance measures to help homeowners and renters during the COVID-19 pandemic. These are, however, time limited and there is real concern that when these measures are removed there will be a rapid increase in people losing their homes, some of whom will become homeless. The Council will work proactively with households affected, to keep them in their home wherever possible.

⁴ Doncaster Homelessness Review 2019, Imogen Blood & Associates (IBA)

During the first Covid-19 Lockdown, people who were rough sleeping or presenting as homeless were accommodated in emergency accommodation as part of the ‘**Everyone In**’ initiative. In total, 524 households had been accommodated by October 2020.

The Council has subsequently made a successful bid to the Government for **Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP)** funding. This will help us continue to provide support for rough sleepers during the Covid-19 response until March 2021, improving access to private rented housing and expanding the provision of Housing First supported tenancies. However, sustained levels of increased funding are needed to help sustain new tenancies and ensure everyone who needs a home can be supported.

5.2.4 The local Housing Market in 2020

The housing market across Doncaster has recovered and grown significantly following the 2008 recession. Market confidence remains high and although there are potential short-term risks arising from Covid recovery and Brexit, recent site availability research indicates the appetite for housing development opportunities from house builders is still positive.

Over the past five years, the number of annual completions of new homes have consistently been above 1,000, often performing ahead of regional and national trends. A number of positive factors including has driven this, including:

- Doncaster increasingly offers attractive housing at affordable prices within commutable distance of larger cities
- The Borough is perceived as ‘Open for Business’ and a place where house builders are supported and welcomed by the Local Authority
- Housing affordability, with the local house price to earnings ratio of 4.74, compares favourably with 5.8 regionally and 7.7 nationally
- High levels of inward investment, from new and existing employers, are sustaining employment levels and confidence in the local economy
- Planned improvements in rail, road and air connectivity
- Planned investment in purpose built private rented new home developments

The 2020 pandemic has caused some families to re-evaluate their lifestyles and work/life balance, and has increased the demand for more spacious homes with gardens and access to attractive open space. Doncaster has many locations that meet these needs.

5.2.5 Meeting the need for new homes - The Council’s new Five Year Housing Delivery Plan 2020-25

The new **Five Year Housing Delivery Plan** is a key complementary report to this updated Housing Strategy. It builds on the success of previous housing delivery programmes and includes the following activity:

- The Council House Build Programme (CHBP)
- Housing Association Development Programme (HADP)

- Maximising delivery of affordable housing through S106 planning agreements and other contributions
- Engagement with private developers to maximise opportunities for mixed tenure delivery

The Council has invested £59m of its own resources to deliver more than 400 new affordable homes since 2015. In the next phase of the **Council House Build Programme**, a further £100m will be invested, and to better respond to the pressing need for affordable housing, the programme will be accelerated to deliver over 5 and not 10 years. Key principles for the new programme are to:

- Be an early adopter of higher energy efficiency standards, working towards those recently proposed for 2025
- Deliver mixed tenure developments wherever we can, bringing different kinds of homes and people to live together
- Ensure a suitable geographical balance of building across the borough to meet housing need
- Maximise the investment from our partner, Homes England, to ensure we deliver the most new homes we can with our combined resources
- Explore our options for partnerships, to increase the scope of the new build programme.

Case study: Council House Build Programme – Improving wellbeing

There have been positive impacts on the wellbeing of residents who have moved into new council homes:

- A resident who moved into a two-bedroom house on Christabel Crescent, Conisbrough, said he could not believe his luck, “the house is twice the size of my old private rented place” and he also said, standing in the living room where big sliding glass doors lead out to the garden, “and it’s so much lighter and warmer too”.
- Another resident moving into a three-bedroom property on Bristol Grove, Wheatley, said, “We are over the moon to move into such a high quality development, with great amenities and are delighted with our new home”.
- A couple who moved into a two-bedroom bungalow in Scawsby stated it had made their lives’ so much easier. One of the couple is disabled and their old property had a very steep drive, but now everything was on one level. Also, “access to bathing facilities which was difficult in our old property is just wonderful now”.
- A family who moved with their disabled daughter into a four-bedroom house in Wheatley with the additional downstairs room built on said, “We can now live as a family again and all spend quality time together”.

Partnership working with housing associations - Partnerships with Housing Associations are essential to provision of new affordable housing at the level that meets the borough’s needs. Housing Associations are crucial to meeting the needs of residents with more specialist and bespoke accommodation needs. Developments by Housing Associations will continue to make a significant contribution to reducing the social housing waiting list over the next 5 years.

Supporting choice and affordability in the private housing market - The Council will continue to work with developers and investors to help shape the local housing offer. The majority of new homes built in recent years in Doncaster have been owner occupied dwellings delivered by house builders. The Council's Local Plan guides house-builders to deliver where new homes are needed and appropriate, and prevents inappropriate development. The framework for developers set out in the Local Plan provides detail on current and future needs to create mixed and balanced communities, link new homes to jobs and help deliver better infrastructure.

New homes and the economy - Enabling new homes to be built creates job and business opportunities for local companies, bringing investment into the borough. The planned growth of the economy within Doncaster, and at wider regional and national levels, will stimulate significant housing demand alongside the ambitions to grow employment, tourism and other forms of inward investment. Quality of a place is a key driver to inclusive, economic growth. Improving Doncaster, as a place to live, work, visit and invest, requires us to invest in culture, housing, infrastructure, multi-modal connectivity and the environment.

Housing development is at the heart of all the key regenerations schemes in the borough such as Unity at Stainforth and Hatfield, Doncaster Sheffield Airport and in Doncaster town centre.

Case study: The Unity regeneration scheme, Stainforth and Hatfield

One of the largest mixed-use regeneration schemes in the UK, the privately led Unity scheme brings huge opportunities for commercial, industrial, manufacturing and logistics development, and already has outline planning permission for 3,100 new homes. It is expected that around 1,000 new homes will be completed by the end of the Local Plan period in 2035. These are likely to be located on the 'Unity Living' (to the north of Hatfield) and 'Unity Life' (Stainforth Marina), with works on the first houses as part of 'Unity Living' due to commence in 2021 with around 245 new homes built by April 2024. The Unity scheme is complementing the investment proposals being developed for Stainforth as part of its Towns Fund bid.

New homes in re-imagined town centres

Two areas in Doncaster were identified in 2019 as being in scope for a Town Deal: Doncaster town centre and Stainforth. Each area may be able to access funding of up to £25m. In Doncaster town centre, the initial Towns Fund funding is being used to review the Doncaster Urban Centre Masterplan, including plans for Doncaster Waterfront, the Minster Canalside and the City Gateway. Plans for investment in Stainforth are also under development.

The Covid 19 pandemic has accelerated the decline of retail businesses in town centres, increasing the urgency to find new uses for commercial premises. There are opportunities to support the future vibrancy of our town centres across the borough by bringing more people to live in them, close to transport hubs, community facilities, leisure activities and employment. If town centres are to attract more residents, the new homes built must have good design quality, attractive green space, feel safe and welcoming and play host to people of all ages. Over the coming five years the Council

will explore the opportunities to bring new homes into town centres across the borough, including carrying out master planning activities.

KEY ACTIONS:

- Maximise the delivery of new homes through the new Five Year Housing Delivery Plan 2020-25, including an accelerated Council House Build Programme
- Complete a new Housing Needs Assessment by 2025
- Develop and implement a Specialised Housing Delivery Plan
- Review supported housing provision against the new National Statement of Expectations and identify any opportunities to improve local standards
- Implement the recommendations of the Accessible Housing Service Review (2019) to modernise services, including the Accessible Housing Register and, Aids and Adaptations
- Lobby central Government to deliver a housing led recovery to deliver more energy efficient, affordable houses and support local supply chains
- Adopt Doncaster's Local Plan, to provide certainty to housing developers on the land available for new housing
- Review the opportunities for residential development in our main town centres and complete town centre housing master planning
- Improve the prevention of homelessness by continuing to implement the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2024

5.3 Making homes greener and more energy efficient to reduce carbon emissions and keep energy costs affordable

Carbon emissions from heating existing homes are the single largest contributing factor to the UK's carbon footprint and there is a growing focus on decarbonising home heating systems. This must be combined with better energy efficiency for all homes, to both make the maximum beneficial impact on climate change and to protect the affordability of fuel costs for households in the future. The Council has been delivering home energy efficiency improvements for a number of years, working with new technologies.

Case Study: Solar Photovoltaic (PV)

Solar PV tiles on homes is a good example of how Doncaster is making progress towards a zero carbon future. By 2018, 7,049 homes in the borough had solar PV. **Doncaster is ranked 8th highest out of 406 Councils for the number of homes with Solar PV.** Not only does this reduce resident energy bills, it increases the level of zero carbon electricity in the fuel mix and exports unused solar generated electricity into the local electricity network.

5.3.1 Planning for and investing in lower carbon homes

The Government is currently consulting on “**Improving the Energy Performance of private rented homes in England and Wales**”. The consultation proposes that all private rented sector (PRS) homes meet Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) level C by 2025 for new tenancies and 2028 for existing tenancies. The Government estimates that this would save the average PRS household £220 a year on their fuel bill. The consultation also proposes:

- Requiring EPCs to be provided by landlords
- Strengthening councils' powers to inspect properties and enforce compliance, and raising the fines which could be imposed on landlords to a maximum of £30,000
- Strengthening PRS tenants powers to request energy improvements to their rented homes

In late November 2020, the Government announced a **10 Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution**. This included proposals seeking to implement the Future Homes Standard on the shortest possible timeline, consulting in the near future on increased energy standards for non-domestic buildings and aiming for 600,000 heat pump installations per year by 2028. It also announced the extension of the **Green Homes Grant** scheme to March 2022, **Homes Upgrade Grants** for homeowners living “off-gas” and further funding for the **Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund**. It also signalled its intention to strengthen energy efficiency requirements for private rented homes, and to extend the Energy Company Obligations scheme to 2026, so that energy suppliers will continue to provide funds for upgrading cold homes.

The Government is also due to publish a new **Heat and Buildings Strategy in late 2020**, setting out the immediate actions it will take for reducing emissions from

buildings, and has said it will consult on proposals to change the energy efficiency and ventilation requirements for existing homes in new Building Regulations.

The Government's 2019 Manifesto pledged to invest £9.2bn on improving energy efficiency in domestic and public buildings. This included £3.8bn on a Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and £2bn on a new Green Homes Grant Scheme for fuel poor homes. As these funds are being released, the Council is bidding to bring greater investment into the borough, with the first successful bid for the **Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme (LAD)** round 1 now being delivered on privately owned homes across the borough. Bids are also being developed for LAD rounds 1B and 2.

St Leger Homes received a Gold Award in the SHIFT (Sustainable Homes Index for Tomorrow) accreditation scheme in 2020. This provides an independent assessment of how housing organisations are performing against challenging environmental targets. It looked at the 20,000 council homes managed by St Leger Homes, as well as their offices, and supply chain, and measured them against 21 environmental factors including carbon dioxide emissions, landfill waste generated, and water use.

The **Doncaster Climate Change Commission** report advocates a “green transition” that is fair and just. This transition should be based on fairness, shared responsibility, inclusion and changing behaviours. The Council's new **Environment and Sustainability Strategy** describes how it will contribute to this green transition. A new **Sustainability Unit** will be established to lead the delivery of this new Strategy, and the Housing Strategy will support that work by:

- (i) **Natural Environment** – working to ensure that new homes are more flood resilient and existing homes have flood resilient repairs. We will continue to prioritise brownfield sites for development, and will reinvest in more and better biodiversity through the **Bio-diversity Net Gain** proposals in the Government's draft **Environment Bill**
- (ii) **Built Environment** – the Five Year New Housing Delivery Plan will apply higher standards for insulation, low carbon heating and renewable energy for homes built by the Council, and encourage other developers to do the same in advance of legislation. A long term **Housing Retrofit Programme** will improve the energy efficiency of homes and increase the use of energy from renewable sources
- (iii) **Economy** – there is significant scope for the Housing Retrofit Programme to create new jobs, training and new opportunities for local businesses

(i) The Natural Environment - Flood recovery and resilience

The devastating **floods of November 2019** directly affected 897 homes in Doncaster and was the focus of national attention. One year on, some people have still not been able to return to their homes and others continue to suffer hardship or distress.

The Council has been working with South Yorkshire Community Foundation to help the flooded households most in need. From initial assistance with essential household goods and costs, there has since been a focus on support with housing restoration. Our Localities approach has proved invaluable, allowing staff from different organisations to collaborate and share information so that all residents received the help they needed.

The Council, Environment Agency and other partners, have completed large amounts of recovery and remedial works. Further flood alleviation schemes are planned and a 'catchment area' approach has been adopted. Both national and local planning policy require inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding to be avoided, by directing such uses to areas at lowest flood risk. Where this is not possible, for wider development needs and sustainability reasons, it must be demonstrated that any residual flood risk will be managed and mitigated, and that the development will not increase the flood risk elsewhere. The Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authority are statutory consultees to planning applications.

Access to sufficient, and affordable, **building and contents insurance** is essential for Doncaster's households. A review of flood insurance in 2020 found that

- The vast majority of owner-occupiers had buildings and contents insurance, but the majority of tenants were poorly protected
- A worrying proportion of insurance policies held by Doncaster residents did not cover floods
- There were signs of a lack of confidence in insurance as the best way to protect residents or businesses.

The Council will respond to the report's recommendations, including working with all landlords to ensure tenants are notified of the buildings insurance that is in place, and ensuring tenants are given guidance on putting adequate insurance cover in place.

Following the 2019 floods, the government opened access for residents affected by the flooding to a **Property Flood Resilience Grant** of up to £5,000 to fund measures that would reduce damage if flooding re-occurs. Across Doncaster, 810 properties were identified as eligible for the grant, but only 210 households have applied. The Council will continue to encourage the other households to apply. A number of areas across the borough have been identified that could benefit from a **community flood resilience scheme**. The feasibility of the schemes are being assessed, but could improve the flood resilience of 139 properties.

(ii) The Built Environment:

The drive to decarbonise heat will require new and existing housing stock to have higher standards of insulation, to reduce heat consumption, and a level of onsite energy generation to meet much of that demand. With over 12% of Doncaster households unable to properly heat their homes, **fuel poverty** is a major issue in the borough. With ever-increasing energy prices, we need to act to make homes more energy efficient and protect households' budgets.

For the Council's housing stock, St Leger Homes is currently working towards ensuring that all their homes reach Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) level C by 2030. In 2021, they will complete a **new Environmental Strategy**, refining their targets and considering how the very significant ambition of a zero carbon position can be achieved over time.

A long-term Housing Retrofit programme

The Doncaster Climate Change Commission report identifies the massive impact that homes have on carbon emissions in the borough. There are 136,460 dwellings in Doncaster, 80% of which, some 109,000 homes, will require some level of retrofit to

become low carbon. The Council will develop a long term **Housing Retrofit Programme** setting out its approach to securing a deep retrofit on 80% of all homes in Doncaster over the next 15-20 years. The approach will include providing advice and guidance to homeowners and landlords, identifying and promoting opportunities for financial support where it is available, such as **Green Homes Grants** and **Green Mortgages**, to ensure nobody is left behind. High performing insulation will be a priority, followed by renewable energy and low carbon heating.

As the foundation of this Housing Retrofit Programme, we aim to complete a new Private Sector Housing Stock Condition Survey, to give the Council up to date evidence of existing property condition and energy performance.

(iii) Economy

Investment in housing energy efficiency can play a key role in supporting the economic recovery and creating jobs, training opportunities and work for local businesses across the borough. Government policy requires greener infrastructure, in terms of building standards and energy supply. We will ensure those standards are met, while using it to encourage increased investment in Doncaster, provide high value jobs, improve skills and support local supply chains.

5.3.2 Sustainable Consumption and Behaviour change

Everyone needs to contribute towards creating a net zero carbon emission world: individuals, families, businesses, community groups and public organisations. The Council will support the transition to greener homes. New skills and processes are needed to help homeowners, landlords, tenants and developers to take greener decisions and adopt greener habits.

KEY ACTIONS:

- Build highly energy efficient new homes through the Council House Build Programme
- Design and start to deliver a long term borough-wide Housing Retrofit programme
- Produce a new Environment Strategy to identify options and plan carbon reduction actions in council housing stock
- Assess and act on all options for new ways of funding and delivering carbon reduction in homes
- Maximise the uptake of Green Homes Grants by residents
- Support and enforce higher energy efficiency standards in private rented homes
- Develop information, advice and guidance to support people to make their homes more energy efficient
- Ensure housing retrofit schemes or recommended actions improve flood resilience where possible
- Promote the take up of adequate household insurance against flood damage

5.4 Enabling and supporting people to plan, act and invest in their homes, to protect their independence and wellbeing for the future

5.4.1 Our shared responsibilities

Rising to the challenges presented by climate change and demographic change are a shared responsibility, and cannot be met by councils working alone. There is huge potential in residents, community organisations, public agencies and businesses that needs to be unlocked and harnessed towards achieving progress on these long term challenges.

People make decisions about their homes based on a range of different factors, including their knowledge of local housing options and services, their past experiences and ideas of what a good home is, and their confidence to take action. Other factors are external, such as their available equity and savings, and the cost and availability of housing. People's individual circumstances are further complicated by countless other factors such as family pressures, attachment to their neighbourhood and caring responsibilities.

Simply making information available is not enough to enable people to plan and act to support their own independence and wellbeing for the future. An approach is needed that helps us understand the circumstances of people's lives and act in a way that best empowers them as individuals, taking into account the resources that are available.

St Leger Homes' **Support to Sustain** model is a risk based approach to provide tenants with a level of support appropriate to their needs. As at September 2020, over 9,000 tenancies had been assessed and appropriate support provided to those households who require it. The Tenancy Sustainability team has worked with over 2,700 households since 2018, who have been offered intensive support to manage their tenancy, finances and other aspects of their life. Currently over 96% of those who receive intensive support are still in their tenancy six months after support has ended.

Case Study: Tenancy Sustainability and exploitation

Ms S was a care leaver who had taken up her tenancy in July 2017 at the age of 18. She was on Universal Credit and wanted the opportunity to manage her own rent account; her Social Worker advised that up to now Ms S had been good at managing her money.

Shortly after moving into her property, her engagement with her social worker became sporadic and eventually stopped. Within a few months of her tenancy, she got friendly with a group of young people who began to call around to her flat and stay over. Before long, they were bringing more people around and things began to get out of control. Housing staff began to receive complaints from neighbours and Ms S had rent arrears of £400.

Staff had the distinct impression that Ms S was being exploited and was afraid of the young people she was letting into her home. A Tenancy Support Officer worked closely with colleagues from Estates and Income Management and before

long, it was clear that the young people who had virtually taken over her home had financially abused Ms S.

Ms S was helped to apply for a housing transfer and moved to an area closer to extended family. They supported her and she was able cut her ties with the people who were exploiting her. She was put on to a Managed Payment and a Third Party deduction to pay her rent arrears, as well as applying to charities to furnish her new home. The Tenancy Support Officer continued to support her and she is now on a childcare course with a view to becoming a nursery nurse.

Case Study: Tenancy Sustainability and safeguarding

The Tenancy Sustainability team (TS team) met Mr A by chance on 22nd December 2019. Aged 70, Mr A has learning difficulties; is unable to read and write, and has various medical conditions.

Mr A was living in a run-down caravan, with no kitchen or bathroom facilities. There was no electricity or hot water, and the only heating was a tiny gas fire. A standard extension cable came through the window from a neighbour's home to power the TV and a light. He had been living like this for at least 2 years. The TS Team had concerns for Mr A's safety over the Christmas period, not least of all as the gas fire he was using had never had a service and there was clutter all around.

The TS Team involved staff from Adult Safeguarding, Home Options, South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue, and Environmental Health. As Christmas was just days away, Mr A was placed in temporary accommodation and everyone mobilised to get the flat ready with everything he would need for the next few weeks. Mr A was delighted that he did not have to go back to the caravan and that a Christmas dinner would be provided by the local homeless shelter.

Mr A stayed in the temporary accommodation for a few weeks and then moved into his own bungalow in Hexthorpe. The Tenancy Support Officer (TSO) worked with the Local Assistance team to get the new bungalow kitted out with basic essentials. The TSO also visited the doctors with Mr A to get help with his health and medication, and helped him set up utility accounts for the new property.

Mr A's living conditions and quality of life were improved beyond measure.

5.4.2 Unlocking the capacity for everyone to contribute

Appendix 1 provides details of COM-B, the evidence-based behaviour change framework. We want to enable people to make the best decisions for themselves and their families, empowering them to remain independent for as long as possible and to plan for life events and changes in health, and to respond to climate change challenges, rather than reacting to them. We want to:

- Release the **capability** of many of our residents to act independently, by informing and guiding them, giving them the confidence to make changes to their homes,
- **Motivate** people to plan for their own continued wellbeing by helping them understand the need for changes to their homes, for example the end of new gas central heating installations, or how fitting a level access shower could help them stay independent as they become older
- Work hard to provide **opportunities** to help people take these steps, such as sourcing and providing funding where we can, or advising on the specification of works and products.

The Council will continue to assist people who, for whatever reason, cannot resolve issues themselves. We will modernise housing related services, such as the Accessible Housing Register and, Aids and Adaptations so that they consider the circumstances and challenges of people’s lives, and adopt an evidenced based behaviour change approach. We will also provide information, guidance and sign posting to financial support to help people improve the energy efficiency of their own homes

Our Localities approach is a key method for the Council and our partners to get closer to our communities. We acknowledge the success of Doncaster’s Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector organisations and other partners in engaging with local communities on complex issues. Our VCFS organisations are not only trusted by our residents, they are also often well placed within local communities. Each organisation has a unique range of skills and specialisms that help them understand, empower and meet the needs of local residents. In order to benefit from their expertise and engagement we will seek out opportunities to link up with the VCF sector, working alongside them as trusted information sources.

Case Studies: VCFS working with communities

Bentley Town End Tenants and Residents Association was established following the November 2019 floods when the community came together to try to protect and recover their properties. The TARA have worked for the last year in partnership with The Hygiene Bank to ensure houses are provided with appropriate cleaning products following the damage caused by the floods. Covid-19 has halted some of the work to renovate the damaged properties so the TARA have been supporting the community through emergency food parcels, craft kits for children, and carer’s packages. The group members are a point of contact and advice for those in the community who are unsure where to turn to, and assist with problems regarding homes, insurance, and flood action.

Citizens Advice Doncaster Borough works locally to provide free, independent, confidential and impartial advice to everyone on their rights and responsibilities. Some of the most common housing issues include private rented tenancies, property conditions, and managing and preventing housing debt.

Doncaster Refurnish aim to provide affordable furniture to local people and have a combination of social, environmental and economic objectives. Refurnish work in partnership with Doncaster Council and provide a free collection service for

furniture and goods that are suitable for reuse or recycling. They also supply and retail new furniture, hardware, DIY components, electrical and household goods. Assisted relocations are also provided for vulnerable people and families.

Live Inclusive is a charity that supports and advocates for people with disabilities and long term conditions. They are currently using their expertise to tackle fuel poverty and cold homes, using strengths-based conversations to support people who have health conditions and are struggling with their fuel bills. Although the service is relatively new, they have already started to help community members. They aim to support over 300 households in Doncaster over the next two years, with potential savings for residents of £238 per year.

KEY ACTIONS:

- Take a whole systems approach involving the VCF sector and community members to understand how organisations work together locally on complex issues such as climate change and independent living
- Understand the capabilities, opportunities and motivations that influence all our behaviour, in order to improve the success of policies and interventions
- Develop evidence-based, public facing information, advice and guidance, reaching and supporting everyone, and unlocking their capacity to future proof their homes

6. Key actions to 2025

Enhance the safety and condition of homes, the main setting for our wellbeing throughout our lives	Homes are safe, warm and secure	• Maintain Council House decency standards at 100%	January 2021	December 2025	Chief Executive, SLHD
		• Put in place all new Building Safety and Fire Safety measures required by new legislation	January 2021	March 2022	Chief Executive, SLHD Assistant Director for Strategic Housing, DMBC
		• Aim to complete a new Private Sector Housing Stock Condition Survey and use the results to target support and enforcement on tackling poor property conditions	April 2021	March 2022	Assistant Director for Strategic Housing, DMBC Assistant Director for Environment, DMBC
		• Explore options to expand capacity to work proactively with Private Rented Sector landlords and tenants on engagement, education and enforcement	April 2021	March 2022	Assistant Director for Strategic Housing, DMBC Assistant Director for Environment, DMBC
	Tenants will 'be heard'	• Implement the Social Housing White Paper and subsequent legislation	January 2021	December 2025	Chief Executive, SLHD Assistant Director for Strategic Housing, DMBC
	Homes support everyone who lives there to thrive, be healthy and socialise, whilst having their own space and privacy	• Identify, understand and address health and social inequalities through housing	January 2021	December 2025	Head of Service - Strategic Housing, DMBC Public Health Housing Lead
		• Continue to evaluate the use of Health Impact Assessments for all housing developments	January 2021	December 2025	Public Health Housing Lead Head of Planning, DMBC Head of Service - Strategic Housing, DMBC
		• Continue preventative approaches to tackling fuel poverty	January 2021	December 2025	Head of Sustainability, DMBC Public Health Housing Lead
		• Increase skills and knowledge of the local workforce on healthy homes	January 2021	December 2025	Public Health Housing Lead
	Homes are in healthy, safe and vibrant communities	• Take a partnership approach to improving housing related services and housing solutions, utilising local expertise and knowledge across all sectors	January 2021	December 2025	Head of Service - Strategic Housing, DMBC Public Health Housing Lead Chief Executive, SLHD
		• Use research and innovation to work with our communities, to improve health and reduce health inequalities through the home	January 2021	December 2025	Head of Policy, Performance & Intelligence, DMBC Public Health Housing Lead
		• Reduce the number of privately owned empty properties	January 2021	December 2025	Assistant Director for Strategic Housing, DMBC Head of Service - Strategic Housing, DMBC
	Meet housing need and aspirations, support our local economy and help revitalise town centres and communities	We have new affordable homes in Doncaster	• Maximise the delivery of new homes through the new Five Year Housing Delivery Plan 2020-25, including an accelerated Council House Build Programme	January 2021	December 2025
Homes are more accessible and inclusive in their design, able to meet residents' current and future housing needs		• Complete a new Housing Needs Assessment by 2025	January 2025	December 2025	Assistant Director for Strategic Housing, DMBC Head of Service - Strategic Housing, DMBC
		• Develop and implement a Specialised Housing Delivery Plan	April 2021	March 2022	Head of Service - Strategic Commissioning, DMBC Head of Service - Strategic Housing, DMBC
		• Review supported housing provision against the new National Statement of Expectations and identify any opportunities to improve local standards	January 2021	March 2022	Director of Public Health, DMBC
		• Implement the recommendations of the Accessible Housing Service Review (2019) to modernise services, including the Accessible Housing Register and, Aids and Adaptations	January 2021	March 2022	=A1:F18Director of Economy & Environment, DMBC

Aims	Outcomes	Actions	Start Date	End Date	Responsibility
	New Homes will have higher energy efficiency standards and use more renewable energy	• Lobby central Government to deliver a housing led recovery to deliver more energy efficient, affordable houses and support local supply chains	January 2021	December 2025	Director of Economy & Environment, DMBC Assistant Director for Strategic Housing, DMBC
	New residential opportunities are developed in our town centres	• Adopt Doncaster's Local Plan, to provide certainty to housing developers on the land available for new housing	January 2021	March 2021	Assistant Director for Development, DMBC Head of Planning, DMBC
		• Review the opportunities for residential development in our main town centres and complete town centre housing master planning	January 2021	March 2023	Head of Service - Strategic Housing, DMBC
	As many people as possible are prevented from becoming homeless, and those who are vulnerable are supported to break the cycle of homelessness and rough sleeping	• Improve the prevention of homelessness by continuing to implement the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2024	January 2021	March 2022	Head of Service - Strategic Commissioning, DMBC
Make homes greener and more energy efficient to reduce carbon emissions and keep energy costs affordable	More homes are more energy efficient and fewer households find energy costs unaffordable	• Build highly energy efficient new Council homes through the Council House Build Programme	January 2021	December 2025	Assistant Director for Strategic Housing, DMBC Head of Service - Strategic Housing, DMBC
		• Design and start to deliver a long term borough-wide Housing Retrofit programme	January 2021	March 2022	Assistant Director for Strategic Housing, DMBC Head of Sustainability, DMBC
		• Produce a new Environment Strategy to identify options and plan carbon reduction actions in council housing stock	January 2021	December 2021	Chief Executive, SLHD
		• Assess and act on all options for new ways of funding and delivering carbon reduction in homes	January 2021	December 2025	Head of Sustainability, DMBC
		• Maximise the uptake of Green Homes Grants by residents	January 2021	March 2022	Head of Sustainability, DMBC
		• Support and enforce higher energy efficiency standards in private rented homes	January 2021	December 2025	Head of Sustainability, DMBC Head of Service, Regulation & Enforcement, DMBC
	More households will be more resilient to flood damage.	• Develop information, advice and guidance to support people to make their homes more energy efficient	January 2021	March 2022	Head of Sustainability, DMBC
		• Ensure housing retrofit schemes improve flood resilience wherever possible	January 2021	December 2025	Director of Economy & Environment, DMBC
		• Promote the take up of adequate household insurance against flood damage	January 2021	March 2022	Chief Executive, SLHD Director of Economy & Environment, DMBC
Enable and support people to plan, act and invest in their homes, to protect their independence and wellbeing for the future	People are better able to plan and make choices about their homes	• Take a whole systems approach involving VCF sector and community members to understand how organisations work together locally on complex issues such as climate change and independent living	January 2021	March 2023	Director of Economy & Environment, DMBC
		• Understand the capabilities, opportunities and motivations that influence all our behaviour, in order to improve the success of policies and interventions	January 2021	March 2023	Director of Economy & Environment, DMBC
		• Develop evidence-based, public facing information, advice and guidance, reaching and supporting everyone, and unlocking their capacity to future proof their homes	January 2021	March 2023	Director of Economy & Environment, DMBC

7. Monitoring and reporting on progress

Monitoring will take place against the following key measures:

- Council House Decency standards maintained
- Access or use of Greenspace
- Council House Build new dwellings completed
- Improving energy standards for new and existing homes
- Number of new homes delivered
- More private sector homes have Category 1 hazards removed
- Number of people rough sleeping
- Number of people homeless
- Access to Private Rented Sector for homeless
- Council homes rent arrears
- Number of evictions and repossessions
- Faster provision of a suitable settled home to all those accepted as homeless

Monitoring and reporting against Action Plan progress and indicators

- Monthly updates to the Housing Renewal Group and Renewal Board
- Reported quarterly as part of the Council's Performance Management framework
- Quarterly Portfolio Holder briefings
- Six monthly reports to Executive Board.

Glossary of terms

ACM	Aluminium Composite Material
BAME	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicity
Brownfield Sites	Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land and any associated fixed surface infrastructure
CHBP	Council House Build Programme
COM-B model	'Capability, Opportunity, Motivation and Behaviour' Model of Behaviour Change
DGT	Doncaster Growing Together
DSA	Doncaster Sheffield Airport
EPC	Energy Performance Certificate
FCA	Financial Conduct Authority
GVA	Gross Value Added
HADP	Housing Association Development Programme
HIAs	Health Impacts Assessments
HMO	House in Multiple Occupation
IoT	Internet of Things
Main Towns	Large urban coalfield or market towns, with high levels of service provision and larger populations, that are outside the Main Urban Area of Doncaster <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dunscroft, Dunsville, Hatfield and Stainforth • Thorne and Moorends • Mexborough • Conisbrough & Denaby • Armthorpe • Rossington • Adwick and Woodlands
MEES	Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards
MHCLG	Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government
NSAP	Next Steps Accommodation Programme
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills
PFR	Property Flood Resilience
PHE	Public Health England
PRS	Private Rented Sector
PV	Photovoltaic
RAP	Renewal Action Plan
Retrofit	Changing a buildings systems or structure after its initial construction and occupation
RDaSH	Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust
SCATTER	Setting City Area Targets and Trajectories for Emissions Reduction; a local authority focussed emissions tool, built to create low-carbon local

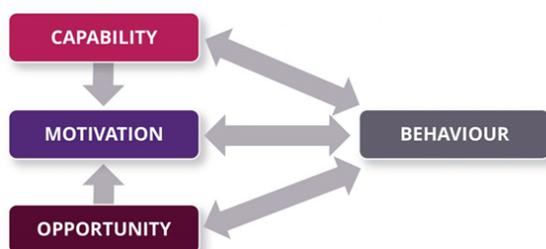
	authorities
SCR	Sheffield City Region
Section 106 (S106)	A legal agreement between an applicant seeking planning permission and the local planning authority, which is used to mitigate the impact of a new home on the local community and infrastructure
SEE	Support, Education and Engagement
SEP	Strategic Economic Plan
SHDF	Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund
SIL	Supported Independent Living
SLHD	St Leger Homes Doncaster
Supported Living	A service designed to help people with a wide range of support needs retain their independence by being supported in their own home
SYFR	South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
Town Deals	A Government fund to develop innovative regeneration plans to transform a town's economic growth prospects
UCMP	Urban Centre Masterplan
VCFS	Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector
WHO	World Health Organisation

COM-B Model of Behaviour Change

Behaviour change approaches can be applied to a range of housing including older people's and specialist housing, energy efficiency improvements, housing management and tenancy sustainment and homelessness. Individual behaviour change takes place within complex systems and is supported and restricted by environmental, social, and economic factors. Although it is important to ensure that people can easily access and understand the information required to make proactive decisions in relation to meeting their housing, it should be acknowledged that each person's internal and external resources can significantly affect people's ability to do so. Often those who should be benefiting from information or a service may lack the efficacy or access, whilst those who have the skills, resilience and resources are better able to access available support, this is called an inequalities paradox and is increased by interventions that only aim to educate or that create barriers to access in order to manage demand.

In order to account for the complex internal and external factors that influence decision making the COM-B Model (Mitchie et al.) of behaviour change can be used. This model is the foremost model for behaviour change currently and represents a systematic review of over 1200 behaviour change studies. It can enable us to understand the influences, and also to plan effective and fair strategy. COM-B enables us to explore and understand an individual's capabilities, opportunities & motivations, how they interact and how they are framed within, and influenced by, their environment. COM-B will work best in a housing context when there is a good understanding of the complex housing system including services and local barriers/challenges and assets.

Figure: The COM-B Behaviour Model (Mitchie et al., 2011)



Example: Housing for older people/changing needs/home adaptations

For some older people or people with additional needs, the move to residential care or more supportive housing occurs too late or follows a moment of crisis. It would be better if decisions about housing and support needs were made with the time and space to make a good decision; with full the involvement of the person and their support network. Whether that involves a planned move into more supportive housing, “rightsizing” into a new home, or adapting their home to better suit their changing needs in the long-term. In order to facilitate earlier, more considered decision-making we must not only provide better quality information and more

support, we must have a better understanding of behaviour change and why people make the decisions they do.

A behaviour change approach could be used help people plan and make choices earlier without the pressure of immediate need or a crisis. A service/approach or system that takes this into account would have to consider all aspects of a person’s life.

The table below provides examples of housing decision making against the COM-B model:

<p>Capability: the attributes of the individual and how this impacts on their capacity (all can be affected by health, poverty and physical resources)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to read, understand information/language and access technology • Disability and sensory impairment • Ability to remember, comprehend make decisions • Ability to navigate a system or service • The language and clarity of information, where it is found • Support from services and advocates to explain and support decisions • Barriers to access and utilisation • Ability to apply for grants or use phone systems • Understanding of own future needs: for example, the need for a handrail or level access shower in the future
<p>Opportunity: The extent to which our behaviour is restricted or supported by the “system” or environment we live in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources available to the individual e.g. equity in your house or a deposit for a property • Savings to buy adaptations and have them fitted • Rented property- up to the landlord whether to adapt the home • Social/family pressure and support • Systems: how easy is it to use a system such as the Accessible Housing Register? • Availability/waiting lists for support or assessments • Support to move house or to decorate • Declining income or debt issues • Universal credit • Knowledge and attitudes of carers and staff • Suitability of house for adaptations • Online systems/information • Support to apply for grants and funding

	or to access equity
<p>Motivation (reason to do it): Reflective processes and (evaluation, assessment and reasoning) and emotional (Impulses, emotions and habits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong emotional ties to home and community • Fatalism- seeing a poor-quality old age as unavoidable • Experience of “older people’s housing” or other people’s experiences/stories • Life goals • Poor experiences of services in the past • Fear of change • Fear of humiliation/receiving help/being dependent • Cost/benefit analysis

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Executive Summary - Doncaster Housing Strategy Update 2020 to 2025

Doncaster's Housing Strategy 2020 to 2025 describes how we will help our residents to access good housing. Our homes have a powerful influence on our health and wellbeing and we want everyone to have a healthy home that is secure, in good repair, warm, comfortable, and free from hazards.

Our refreshed vision is for

Homes that enhance the wellbeing of our residents and our place

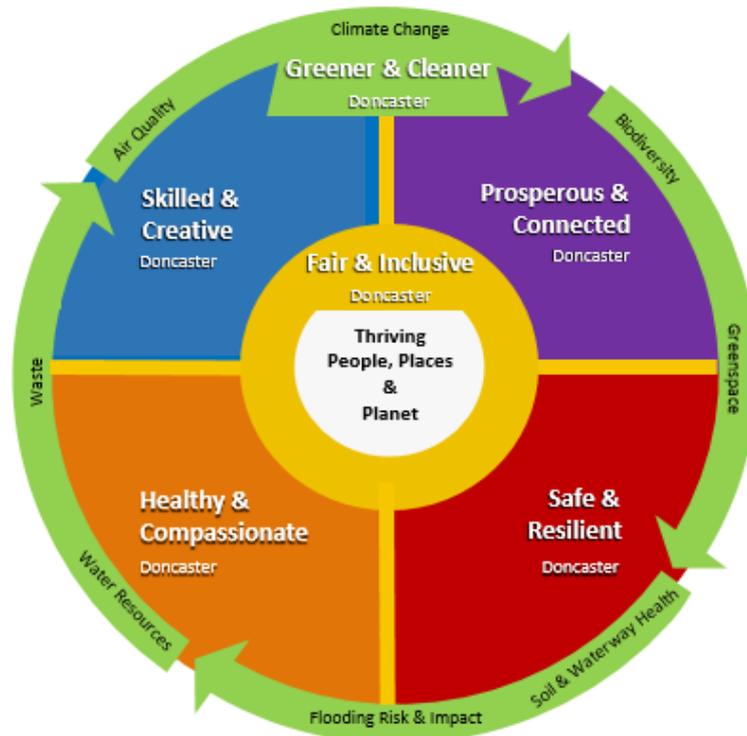
We aim to

- Enhance the safety and condition of homes, the main setting for our wellbeing throughout our lives
- Meet housing need and aspirations, support our local economy and help revitalise town centres and communities
- Make homes greener and more energy efficient to reduce carbon emissions and keep energy costs affordable
- Enable and support people to plan, act and invest in their homes, to protect their independence and wellbeing for the future

The Strategy has been reviewed in 2020 because we want to make sure that we are using the latest information, working towards the right priorities and using our resources in the best way that we can. We are helping to deliver the 'Wellbeing Goals' that will be described in Doncaster's new Borough Strategy and are shown in this diagram.

We have considered the

- Effects of the Covid 19 pandemic, with many of us spending much more time in our homes
- Need for our homes to be able to support us as our needs change
- Impact of extensive flooding in November 2019
- Climate change emergency, and the impact of housing on carbon emissions
- Role that housing can play in economic regeneration
- Need for new affordable homes and how to prevent people becoming homeless
- Vital importance of building safety and fire safety



How will we do this?

To enhance the safety and condition of homes, we will

- Work with all our partners and residents to address health and social inequalities in housing
- Look at ways of working more proactively with private rented sector landlords and tenants – to engage, educate and enforce when needed
- Maintain the decency standards of all our council homes
- Respond to new responsibilities on Building and Fire Safety

To meet housing needs and aspirations, we will

- Develop a Five Year Housing Delivery Plan, which includes
 - A £100m+ Council House Build Programme, with plans to provide 500 new homes with high design and energy efficiency standards
 - Work with our local Housing Associations to build more affordable homes - our initial work suggest this could give us up to 900 more homes
- Try to make sure that all homes are able to meet changing needs, for example as people get older, but also plan how we will deliver new specialist housing for the people who need it
- Look for opportunities for residential developments in our main town centres and deliver new homes in key economic growth locations
- Keep working with all our partners to stop as many people as possible from becoming homeless and supporting those who are vulnerable to get a settled home

To make homes greener and more energy efficient, we will

- Implement the housing recommendations from Doncaster's new Environment and Sustainability Strategy
- Aim to complete a new condition survey of privately owned homes
- Use the survey's findings to design a long term Housing Retrofit Programme to raise energy efficiency standards for all homes
- Develop information, advice and guidance to support people to take action to make their own homes more energy efficient and affordable to heat
- Promote the wider take up of adequate household insurance against flood damage

To enable and support people to plan, act and invest in their homes, we will

- Work with our residents, voluntary sector and other partners to understand how we can all help tackle complex housing issues and tackle those things that might stop us being successful
- Use the shared skills and capacity of all our residents and local organisations to improve homes and lives for the future

For more details, see the full 'Doncaster Housing Strategy Update – 2020 to 2025'.

Vision	Homes that enhance the wellbeing of our residents and our place			
Aims	Enhance the safety and condition of homes, the main setting for our wellbeing throughout our lives	Meet housing need and aspirations, support our local economy and help revitalise town centres and communities	Make homes greener and more energy efficient to reduce carbon emissions and keep energy costs affordable	Enable and support people to plan, act and invest in their homes, to protect their independence and wellbeing for the future
Outcomes	<p>Homes are safe, warm and secure</p> <p>Tenants will 'be heard'</p> <p>Homes support everyone who lives there to thrive, be healthy and socialise, whilst having their own space and privacy</p> <p>Homes are in healthy, safe and vibrant communities</p>	<p>We have new affordable homes in Doncaster</p> <p>Homes are more accessible and inclusive in their design, able to meet residents' current and future housing needs</p> <p>New Homes will have higher energy efficiency standards and use more renewable energy</p> <p>New residential opportunities are developed in our town centres</p> <p>As many people as possible are prevented from becoming homeless, and those who are vulnerable are supported to break the cycle of homelessness and rough sleeping</p>	<p>More homes are more energy efficient and fewer households find energy costs unaffordable</p> <p>More households will be more resilient to flood damage</p>	<p>People are better able to plan and make choices about their homes</p>
Key Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council House Decency standards maintained • More private sector homes have Category 1 hazards removed • Access or use of Greenspace • Council House Build new dwellings completed • Improving energy standards for new and existing homes • Number of new homes delivered 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people rough sleeping • Number of people homeless • Faster provision of a suitable settled home to all those accepted as homeless • Access to Private Rented Sector for homeless • Council homes rent arrears • Number of evictions and repossessions 	

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EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

DONCASTER METROPLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Due Regard Statement for the Updated Housing Strategy 2020-2025

How to show due regard to the equality duty in how we develop our work and in our decision making.

Due Regard Statement

A **Due Regard Statement** (DRS) is the tool for capturing the evidence to demonstrate that due regard has been shown when the council plans and delivers its functions. A Due Regard Statement must be completed for all programmes, projects and changes to service delivery.

- A DRS should be initiated at the beginning of the programme, project or change to inform project planning
- The DRS runs adjacent to the programme, project or change and is reviewed and completed at the relevant points
- Any reports produced needs to reference “Due Regard” in the main body of the report and the DRS should be attached as an appendix
- The DRS cannot be fully completed until the programme, project or change is delivered.

1	<p>Name of the ‘policy’ and briefly describe the activity being considered including aims and expected outcomes. This will help to determine how relevant the ‘policy’ is to equality.</p>	<p>Updated Housing Strategy 2020-2025</p> <p>The updated strategy set out the updated vision and aims building on the progress made in the first five years of the Housing Strategy 2015-2025. The strategy sets out the housing provision, housing-related support provision and the provision through partnership working that will be undertaken taking in to account the change in external influences on housing for residents. For example, changes in legislation, EU exit, Climate Change and emergencies (i.e. floods, Covid-19).</p> <p>In this review, we have refreshed the vision for homes in Doncaster, updated our key aims and outlined the key actions that will be taken over the next five years.</p> <p>These include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. the delivery of new homes in all tenures, including accelerated investment in the Council House Build Programme to deliver more new affordable homes, more quickly II. the development and start of implementation of a borough-wide housing retrofit programme to improve property condition, and reduce carbon emissions III. increased preventative work on homelessness and rough sleeping, and the expansion of our Housing First accommodation IV. a comprehensive response to new legislation on Building and Fire Safety V. improving our understanding of and more proactive involvement in raising the standards of homes and tenancy management in private rented housing VI. supporting our town centres as shopping and working habits change, with new homes to raise footfall and improve liveability
2	<p>Service area responsible for completing this statement.</p>	<p>Strategic Housing</p>

<p>3 Summary of the information considered across the protected groups.</p> <p>Service users/residents</p> <p>Doncaster Workforce</p>	<p>The strategy has been produced building on the progress made in the first five years of the initial Housing Strategy (2015-2025). A comprehensive evidence base on the progress of the original objectives has been collected to inform the updated objectives and delivery plan actions for the next five years of the strategy.</p> <p>Housing Needs Survey included analysis at borough-wide level to ward areas, different household sizes, types, incomes, ages and specific analysis on the needs of BME groups, disabled, elderly residents etc. Household surveys, web surveys, focus groups and public consultation events were used to gather input from as diverse range of residents as possible.</p> <p>Following the Housing Needs Survey further in depth analysis of specific groups took place, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older Peoples Needs Assessment • Physical Disability Needs Assessment • Accomodation Assessment for people with learning disabilities, autism or mental health issues: South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System • Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show People Needs Assessment
<p>4 Summary of the consultation/engagement activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doncaster Talks 2019 – community engagement; 3610 responses from across all Doncaster borough’s asking residents what residents like about where they live, what they would like to see improve and what Doncaster should focus on in the future. Response analysis included age and ethnicity break down. The most common responses were related to environmental factors including cleansing and green/open spaces; highlighting the importance of the wider community of where people live. • Stakeholder workshops (including partners, representatives from Voluntary Sector, developers/house builders, planning department, enforcement, public health, St Leger Homes, Doncaster Children’s Services Trust); two workshops were held, the first one to understand the progress so far in the first five years and to determine whether the proposed vision describes what is wanting to be achieved taking on board the drivers driving the update. The second workshop discussed the activities that should be

	<p>included within the updated strategy which emphasized on empowering people in their own homes, particularly those with protected characteristics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consultation with Minorities Partnership Board; proposed vision and objectives were presented with original vision and objectives for comparison. The group felt the changes were sensible. They also highlighted the need to specifically mention BAME communities, which has been included in the strategy.• Consultation with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Workers Group; the group highlighted that there are specific issues that GRT communities experience that other communities do not i.e. some may be excluded from normal communication routes, different ways of engagement will need to be undertaken. These have been factored in to the strategy.• Support Education and Engagement Project (SEE Project); aimed to identify members of the community who need additional support and those that live in poor housing conditions. The findings have been included in the strategy as many identified fall under having protected characteristics.• Elected member engagement via presentation at Regeneration and Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel; the proposed updated vision, objectives and plans/activities were presented to elected members. Members highlighted a number of factors in related to those with protected characteristics that have been addressed in the strategy e.g. veterans• Engagement with SLHD Executive Board to ensure that the strategy reflects housing management priorities and the issues identified by tenants• Engagement with DMBC Directors Leadership team and Cabinet to confirm the review's approach and agree the focus for the next five years
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<p>5</p>	<p>Real Consideration:</p> <p>Summary of what the evidence shows and how has it been used</p>	<p>The analysis from the needs assessments, external influences and progress to date of the original aims have been combined in order to ensure protected characteristics have been considered in the development of the updated aims.</p> <p>Summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic growth forecasts indicate the population growth will be over and above the baseline expected growth and subsequent analysis shows the amount of additional housing required. • Population projections show increasing proportions of older people highlighting the need for homes to remain suitable for us as we grow older and our needs change • Analysis of disability/Life Limiting illness data shows a need for adapted or adaptable properties. • Affordability analysis shows a need for affordable housing, with a range of house prices and tenures. • Assessment of current gypsy pitch provision and demand shows the need to improve condition and quality of pitches. • SEE Project utilised local community data about housing conditions & and living environment, with specific emphasis on over-crowding and BAME households. This also informed the approach for the Private Rented Sector (PRS). • Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Workers Group Consultation led to an increased focus on addressing inequalities in relation to affordable energy and maintaining a good quality, safe and healthy environment. • Minority Partnership Board were generally positive about the vision and objectives within the refreshed strategy and suggested some amendments that have since been incorporated, for example ensuring the wording of the strategy will allow readability for all (computer-assisted reading). The consultation raised the importance of Private Rented Sector conditions and an increased focus on ensuring tackling housing inequalities faced by BAME communities.
<p>6</p>	<p>Decision Making</p>	<p>A summary of the assessments completed in relation to the protected groups has been included in the strategy; and is included within the ‘progress so far’ section. An overview of</p>

		<p>the analysis from wider consultations have also been included within the strategy.</p> <p>Representatives of some protected groups have been involved leading to amendments in the strategy to ensure the needs and opinions of protected groups are considered.</p>
7	Monitoring and Review	<p>Progress against the Housing Strategy aims and actions, will be monitored on a regular basis. Progress at an operational level is assessed as part of the council's standard performance management framework, and will be delivered and progress managed by individual teams within services.</p> <p>As part of monitoring and review of the strategy and associated action plans, consultee groups will be re-visited.</p>
8	Sign off and approval for publication	<p>Karen Lythe Assitant Director for Strategic Housing</p> <p>15.12.20</p>

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Outline Communications Plan Updated Doncaster Housing Strategy 2020 to 2025

Background

Doncaster's Housing Strategy has been updated to reflect changes in the external strategic environment and issues that have emerged since 2015. The Strategy's Vision and Aims have been refreshed to reflect the current strategic environment and highlight responses to prominent issues. It also incorporates the learning from studies, needs assessments and other strategies undertaken since 2015.

The draft updated Strategy is due for approval at Cabinet on 12 January 2021. Once approved, a public facing, fully designed summary version of the document will be developed and launched in early 2021.

Communication Objectives

To inform residents, partners and potential investors of the Vision for housing in Doncaster, the aims and focus of activity to 2025.

Target Audiences

- Doncaster residents
- Team Doncaster partner organisations and staff
- Doncaster Council staff
- Council Elected Members
- Members of Parliament
- Stakeholder groups, including Inclusion and Fairness Forum, Minorities Partnership Board and the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Workers Group
- Private Rented Sector landlords
- Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector organisations
- Housing developers and investors
- Central government departments
- Registered Social Landlords
- Sheffield City Region Combined authority and member councils

Communication Methods

- Internet - council & partner web pages
- Social Media posts
- Briefings
- Media – local and national
- Direct e-mails
- Targeted communications e.g. tenant newsletters

Key messages

- Doncaster's Housing Strategy has been updated
- Access to good housing improves health and wellbeing
- Homes need to meet our needs now and as we get older
- Our homes need to become more energy efficient
- By working with our residents, community organisations and other partners, we can help the people of Doncaster to protect their independence and wellbeing.

Implementation

Target audience	Activity	Start	End	Notes	Who?
All	On line publication of Cabinet Report, draft strategy & supporting documents	05.01.21	12.01.21		Democratic Services
All	Press release following publication of Cabinet papers	05.01.21	12.01.21	Reference Environment & Sustainability Strategy	CC, SA, KL
All	Social media posts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Cabinet approval of Strategy 	12.01.21	15.01.21		CC
All	Intranet & Internet news stories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Cabinet approval of Strategy 	12.01.21	15.01.21		CC
Team Doncaster partners, Stakeholder groups	Direct e-mail with link to draft strategy & Cabinet report	05.01.21	12.01.21		SA, KL
Team Doncaster partners, Stakeholder groups	Direct e-mail confirming approval of Updated Housing Strategy	12.01.21	15.01.21		SA, KL
Team Doncaster partners, Stakeholder groups, MPs, SCR, VCFS organisations	Direct e-mail with link to approved Strategy and Executive Summary on council website	12.01.21	31.01.21		SA, KL
All	Publication of approved Strategy and Executive Summary on council website	12.01.21	31.01.21	Supporting text on web page will need updating	KL
All	Intranet & Internet news stories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On publication of approved Strategy and Executive Summary on council website 	12.01.21	31.01.21		CC

APPENDIX 4

Target audience	Activity	Start	End	Notes	Who?
All	Social media posts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On publication of approved Strategy and Executive Summary on council website 	12.01.21	31.01.21		CC

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Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 12 January 2021

To the Chair and Members of Cabinet

Doncaster's Housing Delivery Programme 2020 - 2025

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Cllr Glyn Jones	All	Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Council has ambitious plans to build on the success of delivering new homes in Doncaster to date, including much needed new affordable homes. Developed in conjunction with the updated Housing Strategy 2020-25, and in line with the emerging Borough Strategy, this 5 Year New Housing Delivery Plan sets out how the Council's priorities for new homes across the borough will be delivered over the coming 5 years, to support the wellbeing of our residents.
2. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the 5 Year Housing Delivery Plan (HDP) 2020-2025, which will provide a range of new homes for all members of the community. The principal focus of the Plan is to ensure the delivery of new affordable homes, to meet the needs for housing identified in the 2019 Housing Needs Study. Appendix 2 sets out the forecast delivery across all housing tenures.
3. This report covers:
 - 1) Achievements in delivering new homes in the borough over the last 5 years,
 - 2) The foundations for the delivery of new homes over the next 5 years, and
 - 3) Our aspirations for 2025
4. The development of the new Housing Delivery Plan has been informed by the findings of the 2019 Housing Needs Study. The proposals and recommendations within the HDP have also been produced in conjunction with emerging thinking from the new Borough Strategy, the refreshed 2020-25 Housing Strategy, the new Local Plan and new Environment and Sustainability Strategy.

This HDP has four key components for the delivery of new homes:

1. **Council House Build Programme (CHBP)** - setting out an ambitious development programme with potential to deliver circa 534 new affordable and mixed tenure homes over the next 5 years, to be built to very high energy efficiency standards in response to the climate change carbon reduction targets

set by the Council; The report seeks agreement on the next 7 sites in Phase 2 of the programme, subject to consultation with local members and communities

- II. **Housing Association Development Programme (HADP)** – a pipeline estimated to contribute circa 467 new affordable homes on Council and housing association land. Those developments will also respond to demand for older persons housing and by the key delivery route for homes to address specialist housing need in the Borough;
 - III. **S106 Planning agreements and other contributions for affordable housing** - 457 new affordable homes are currently projected to be secured by housing associations through agreed S106 agreements with private housing developers and by direct purchases. Local Plan allocated sites indicate a potential further circa 693 affordable homes via S106 agreements by 2025;
 - IV. **Engagement with private developers** to maximise the provision of new homes for sale – providing a strategic enabling and support role and exploring new delivery mechanisms, to expand the choice and quality of new homes. Local Plan allocated sites indicate a potential further circa 4,157 homes for market sale by 2025, although we recognise that the pace and scale of delivery may be affected by the uncertain economic conditions.
5. The HDP 2020-25 will be funded from a range of sources, including the Council's Housing Revenue Account and borrowing to fund the Council House Build Programme. Additional investment will come from Housing Association capital investment and borrowing to finance their schemes; Grant funding from Homes England will be vital to support the programme; Sheffield City Region (SCR) funding where available; S106 Planning contributions for affordable housing and investment by housing developers in homes for sale.
6. The HDP will bring many benefits to the Borough and its residents including:
- providing more choice and opportunities for people to live independently, whatever their needs;
 - providing exemplar homes with high levels of energy efficiency and design standards;
 - a new model of accommodation for those people affected by homelessness;
 - improved resident wellbeing;
 - reducing the waiting time for a new affordable home and reducing homelessness;
 - offering more choice of homes for sale;
 - ensuring a suitable geographical balance of building across the borough; and
 - improving the quality of our places as a key driver to inclusive economic growth.
7. Over the five year period to 2025 new homes built should have increasingly higher energy efficiency standards, making them more affordable to heat and reducing carbon emissions. The Council will lead by example through the CHBP, increasing the already high standards further towards proposed standards for 2025. The new homes will offer scope for more people to live within the borough, attracted by new work opportunities delivered through our economic growth programme and supporting investment.

EXEMPT REPORT

8. Not exempt.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 1) Endorses the proposed approach to meeting housing need and demand as set out in this 5 Year Housing Delivery Plan 2020-25;
- 2) Agrees the accelerated pace and aspirational design standards set out for the Council House Build programme to 2025;
- 3) Agrees the seven sites identified in para 32 of the report as Phase 2 for the CHBP, subject to consultation with local elected members and communities and further reports to Cabinet for each scheme;
- 4) Agrees the proposal to identify suitable innovative options for meeting housing need across the borough and introducing mixed tenure development into the CHBP for Phase 3 onwards, subject to a further report to Cabinet;
- 5) Agrees to utilise resources already earmarked within the Housing Revenue Account to expand capacity to deliver the accelerated CHBP and note that acceleration of the programme from 10 years to 5 years may also require external expert support and additional capacity to achieve

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

10. The Council aims to work with its partners and developers to respond to both the current and future housing needs and aspirations of all the residents of Doncaster. The planned growth of the economy both locally within the borough and at wider regional and national levels will stimulate significant housing demand alongside the ambitions to grow employment, tourism and other forms of inward investment. The changing profile of our local residents means we need more homes suitable and attractive to us all in later life and homes that enable more residents to live independently whatever their personal needs.
11. The Councils ambition with the HDP is to help provide a housing offer that meets the needs and aspirations of all residents. Informing where those new homes are required is the 2019 Housing Need Study data and the Local Plan; along with market demand from buyers and house-builders alike which will encourage the development of a wider choice of homes for rent and sale.
12. The Council has high ambitions for its own Council House Building Programme (CHBP). In order to try and best meet the need for new, well designed, energy efficient affordable homes we aim to:
 - I. Accelerate the delivery of the next phases of the programme to complete them in 5 years, rather than 10;
 - II. Be an early adopter of the proposed 2025 Future Homes Standard (when fully confirmed);
 - III. Innovate to bring new sites to the programme and provide mixed tenure development where possible from Phase 3 onwards to meet the range of our resident's needs and create mixed communities;
 - IV. Meet housing needs where they have been identified in the 2019 Housing Need Study across the borough;
 - V. Maximise the investment from Homes England to deliver as many affordable homes with the resources available as possible; and
 - VI. Explore appropriate options for partnership working to increase the programme
13. All residents of Doncaster will benefit from the drive to provide many more affordable homes over the next 5 years. This will include family homes along with more supported and bespoke dwellings built for residents with specific housing needs such as older people

and those with learning disabilities and autism; severe mental health; physical disabilities; who are homeless; and who are leaving care.

14. The new homes built by the CHBP will meet Nationally Described Space Standards (NDSS) and be more energy efficient, provide people with more inside and outside space, as well as helping them spend less of their household income on fuel bills. Housing Associations will continue to make significant investment in good quality, affordable homes. The Council relies on housing associations to provide housing for specialised needs that it is not able to provide via the CHBP but which are essential in contributing to improved health and wellbeing, promoting independence, choice and reducing health inequalities. This will, in turn, help to reduce demand on health and social care services.
15. Our homes have a powerful influence on our health and wellbeing. Having a healthy and stable home allows families to thrive, contribute better to society and help people to stay independent at home for as long as possible.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT POSITION

16. The Delivery Plan will play a key part in contributing to, and complementing, the wider strategic plans the council is looking to set for the future. It will have consideration for the Council's wider aspirations set out within the emerging and new strategies which include:
 - 1) New Borough Strategy;
 - 2) New Environment and Sustainability Strategy;
 - 3) Updated Housing Strategy 2020-2025;
 - 4) The new Local Plan; and
 - 5) The Mayor's Covid-19 Restart, Recovery and Renewal Plan.
17. The HDP plays a key role in delivering on the aims of the updated Housing Strategy 2020-2025 which has a vision for the provision of **"Homes that enhance the wellbeing of our residents and our place"**
18. The updated aims for the Housing Strategy are:
 - 1) Enhancing the safety and condition of homes, the main setting for our wellbeing throughout our lives;
 - 2) Meeting housing need and aspirations, supporting our local economy and helping revitalise town centres and communities;
 - 3) Making homes greener and more energy efficient to reduce carbon emissions and keep energy costs affordable; and
 - 4) Enabling and supporting people to plan, act and invest in their homes, to protect their independence and wellbeing for the future.
19. The new Local Plan sets out that new housing development will be focussed in and around existing urban areas - primarily Doncaster's Main Urban Area, its' 7 main towns, 10 Service Towns & Villages. The annual housing requirement in the Local Plan aims to see 920 new homes (net) per annum over the Plan period.
20. The Affordable Housing Planning policy, currently applicable on sites of 15 or more homes (or 0.5Ha) aims to deliver 23% affordable housing in high value housing market areas or 15% elsewhere. Affordable Housing will be delivered on site in the first instance or, where appropriate, off-site via a Section 106 commuted sum payment. There are also numerous supporting policies in the Local Plan relating to matters such as open space provision, housing standards, sustainability, parking provision, access to broadband etc, which will be taken into account when sites come forward with detailed planning applications.

The Local Plan annual target of delivering 920 new homes has been exceeded in recent years with 5,425 new homes delivered since 2015. The number of new affordable homes needed is 209 per year, to meet identified housing need, and between 2015-2019 702 new affordable homes were delivered by all providers including the Council, and in the current year 2019-20 a further 223 will be completed. This delivery has placed Doncaster on a 'per capita' basis as the best performing Council across Yorkshire for 3 of the last 5 years. As set out in Appendix 1 and 2, this delivery includes:

- **Council House Build Programme** – 407 new affordable council homes built since 2015, with over £53m invested from the Council's Housing Revenue Account and from Homes England grant funding;
- **Housing Association Development Programme** - 196 new homes built for families, older people and to meet other specialised housing needs with c£30m of investment by housing associations and Homes England;
- **Other Housing Association Delivery (Section 106 agreements and direct purchases)** – 322 new homes provided, plus commuted sums in lieu of affordable homes on site taken to finance more affordable homes in the future

21. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on how people use their homes, and thrown the spotlight on how homes are designed and their functionality and condition. There has been new learning about home-working practicalities. The quality and space available to people has a major impact on how people are managing with new working arrangements
22. Covid 19 has not only impacted upon how we use our homes but also on housing delivery especially in the shorter term. Issues include the availability of building materials, construction industry capacity, the timeframe of builds extended by new safe working practices; the availability of mortgage finance; and the speed and strength of the housing market recovery, which is inextricably linked to wider economic conditions.

What we know about the need for new homes over the next 5 years

23. As the number of households in the Borough grows, we need more homes for those households to live in. Every year we need 920 more new homes, of which 209 need to be affordable homes.
24. The HDP has factored in those sites that the Local Plan forecasts will come forward for development in the next 5 years. Further delivery of new homes will also come from 'windfall' sites. The HDP also aims to ensure geographic balance across the Borough to meet identified housing needs.
25. The development of the Housing Delivery Plan has principally been informed by the findings of the 2019 Housing Needs Study. By 2025 the Housing Needs Assessment will have been updated, to ensure that the Council has up to date information with which to plan its' housing delivery. In addition further data has come from:
 - I. Housing Register bidding data - as at January 2020 there were 7,300 households on the Housing Register looking for an affordable rented home with 1,662 properties advertised in the year to Jan 2020 and 82,891 bids made - an average of 50 bids per property;
 - II. New information from the Learning Disabilities, Autism and Severe Mental Health Study 2020 – this suggests 225 people will need accommodation with support over the next 10 years.

THE NEED FOR SPECIALIST HOUSING

The Council's aim is to ensure that as many people as possible can live in homes in their local communities, which are flexible and adaptable to whatever needs they have. However, in some instances, there will be the need to provide more specialised, bespoke kinds of housing.

26. **Homelessness:**

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-24 sets out the Council's commitment to a new approach which includes the provision of a greater mix of types of accommodation, including a move away from large groupings of temporary accommodation in hostel settings and an expansion of the dispersed Housing First approach. A whole system approach across housing, health and care is essential to meet the needs of people affected by homelessness or rough sleeping.

27. **Older People's Specialist Housing:**

By 2028 there will be more people aged 65 and over than under 25 in the borough. Our ageing population means we need more housing suitable for, and attractive to, older people and whilst a key objective is to enable people to remain in their own homes through better enablement services, we recognise that other types of new homes including more bungalows, flexible retirement living, and some supported accommodation will be needed. The types and locations of new homes required are being developed, and our objectives are to:

- grow an attractive, accessible housing offer for later living, which will also help to free up larger homes for families
- ensure new homes are of high quality design with resident wellbeing the primary concern
- link new housing developments for older people with tailored care and support models, including Extra Care Housing for older people who would otherwise be at risk of losing their ability to live independently and having to move into a residential or nursing home

28. **People living with Physical Disabilities:**

For those people and families living with learning or physical disabilities, autism and ongoing mental health conditions the approach will be to:

- Step people down from institutional "care" that restricts their liberty and does not give the best outcomes. To do this we'll maximise links to the NHS Transforming Care programme
- Consider "supported living" or other specialist housing with support for people when general needs housing, even with support, feels insufficient to meet their needs

The offer of accommodation for adults and families living with physical disabilities needs to be expanded to help reduce the frequency for people having to travel outside the borough and away from friends and family to find suitable housing. Data from the Accessible Housing Register and other sources, suggests a borough-wide need for new homes to be designed with flexibility and which can adapt to changing personal needs. More new homes are needed for young people with disabilities who are reaching adulthood and aspire to have their own home, either to rent or to buy.

29. **People with Learning Disabilities, Autism and Severe Mental Health issues:**

A new in-depth assessment of the accommodation requirements of people with learning disabilities, autism or mental health issues over the next 10 years has been carried out on behalf of the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System. For Doncaster, this has found:

- 225 additional homes will be needed over time, mainly using a supported living model, some of which can be created by using existing properties differently
- There are also people with learning disabilities with children who are housed by the Council and some may be better accommodated in a supported living scheme

Key groups include:

- young people in transition from children to adults;
- people currently living in residential care homes or secure hospitals; and
- those living at home with families - particularly those living with older carers

30. Young people leaving care and Looked After Children:

The way accommodation is configured for vulnerable young people is changing. This is set out within the Future Placement Strategy developed by Doncaster Children's Services Trust. The strategy sets out a number of re-modelling requirements to meet children's home needs, ranging from the purchase of a number of two bed homes, to providing more transitional accommodation to Children in Care and Care Leavers, and the provision of a mixed economy 'Mockingbird' Hub to deliver foster care.

31 We will continue to monitor the demand for all types of accommodation within wards and settlements and use this data to assist informing our housing investment decisions. By 2025 we will have completed a new Housing Needs Study to ensure our understanding of housing needs is comprehensive and up to date, and so we can work with partners and communities to identify the most appropriate locations for new homes.

KEY DELIVERY MECHANISMS

The Housing Delivery Plan has four key components for the delivery of new homes:

Council House Build Programme (CHBP)

32. The next phase (Phase 1) of delivery, previously approved by Cabinet in December 2019, will include the development on sites at Adwick Lane, Toll Bar, Athelstane Crescent, Edenthorpe, and Appleby Road, Intake. This will be followed by a second phase (the proposed Phase 2) of c.160 new homes across 7 sites which are currently subject to a bid for Sheffield City Region Brownfield Sites Funding to support development costs. These sites are:

- The former Archives site, King Edward Rd, Hexthorpe (circa 20 homes)
- The former Nightingale School site, Cedar Road, Balby (circa 60 homes)
- Plantation View, Cantley (circa 10 homes)
- Springfield Avenue, Hatfield (circa 5 homes)
- Barnburgh House site, Edlington (circa 4 homes)
- Moor view, Branton (circa 3 homes)
- Adwick former depot site, Adwick (circa 60 homes)

Further development work will take place to identify the most appropriate design, number and mix of properties for these sites, including consultation with local members and communities, with further reports presented to Cabinet and with the aim to start delivering the new homes on site by March 2022.

33. Phase 3 of the 2020-25 CHBP, which is forecast to include more than 300 new homes, will be developed during 2021 with the aim of meeting as much identified housing need as possible in settlements across the borough, and will be subject to a further report to Cabinet.

Housing Association Development Programme (HADP)

34. The Council will continue to support Housing Associations to develop in the borough, with a current pipeline of c.467 new homes over the next 5 years on Council and housing association land. Those developments will include schemes to help meet the needs for

older persons housing and other specialist homes, and are essential in the drive to deliver 209 new affordable homes each year. The HADP schemes are included in the information in Appendix 2.

Housing Association S106 and Direct Purchase Properties from Private Developer sites

35. The scope for Housing Associations to purchase affordable homes required by the Local Plan on private developments is an important part of the HDP. Current forecasts indicate that 457 affordable homes may be secured by housing associations via these routes by 2025. Additionally there are sites allocated in the Local Plan that could deliver c.693 more affordable homes by 2025, depending on the pace at which they come forward for development.
36. It should be noted however that the Government's recently launched White Paper consultation on changes to the Planning System (August 2020) contains a range of proposals which, if adopted, could adversely affect the current S106 process and reduce the delivery of affordable homes via this route in future. The Government is also introducing new affordable home ownership products through the Homes England grant programme, which will reduce resources for the provision of new affordable rented homes and prioritise affordable home ownership options.

Private Developers

37. The majority of new homes built in recent years in Doncaster have been homes for sale built by private developers. The Local Plan determines the locations for new housing development. Through working in partnership with developers, the Council is able to bring a positive influence to their contribution towards meeting the Borough's housing needs. Current estimates are for approximately 4,157 new homes for sale to be built over the coming 5 year period; however the pace and scale of house building may be affected by the very uncertain economic conditions arising from Covid-19 and the UK's exit from the EU.

FUTURE COUNCIL HOUSE BUILD PROGRAMME HOUSE DESIGNS

38. The Council recognises that designs will need to constantly evolve to meet a growing number of technical and legislative challenges and requirements. The Council already builds homes to exceed the current Building Regulations, e.g. providing electric car charging points, enhanced insulation etc. Some of the key areas of design development and technical research currently underway include:
- I. 'Future Homes Standards' consultation – we are committed to move towards early adoption once details are confirmed;
 - II. Modern Methods of Construction – we continue to explore options that best meet the Councils' needs and are working with the Sheffield City Region to better understand and navigate these new products;
 - III. Space standards – meeting as a minimum those required by the Nationally Designated Space Standards;
 - IV. Flood resilient construction and design; and
 - V. Anew concept higher density bungalow design under development to help improve scheme viability
39. **The 2025 Future Homes Standards (FHS)** - the specific requirements of the FHS have yet to be confirmed by the Government and their proposed timetable indicates the draft requirements may not be known for 2 years. However, as part of the pathway to 2025 the updated Part L Building Regulation Standards offer two options to improve energy efficiency of new homes; a 20% reduction in carbon emissions and a 31% reduction in carbon emissions. Our current estimate is that a 20% reduction in carbon emissions will add circa £1,750 per house to build costs, and a 31% reduction will add circa £4,750, achieved with a variety of specification changes. The Council is committed to building at the enhanced 31%

reduction level for new CHBP schemes now in development until the Future Homes Standard is finalised. The higher design standards to be delivered through the CHBP, combined with the small and complex sites available to the programme, mean that per property build costs are increasing, but represent good value for money in terms of liveability and future proofed design

OPTIONS FOR MIXED TENURE DEVELOPMENT IN THE CHBP

40. In order to achieve the aspiration for mixed tenure delivery through the CHBP, research into potential innovative development models has been undertaken. Whilst there are a range of potential options the most deliverable are:
- I. **The Council builds new mixed tenure homes itself as part of the CHBP** – widening the scope of the CHBP to include shared ownership homes and properties for market sale.
 - II. **The Council establishes a Local Housing Company** – a Local Housing Company would be wholly owned and funded by the Council
 - III. **The Council enters a Joint Venture or Partnership arrangement with a Housing Association or a Private Developer** – the Council could procure a partner to work via a Joint Venture or other form of partnership to build mixed tenure homes.

Including mixed tenure development within the CHBP would be a significant change for the programme and would introduce new risks to be managed. It is therefore proposed that during 2021 the options for developing a mixed tenure offer are further evaluated and a forward direction agreed at Cabinet, for Phase 3 of the proposed CHBP onwards.

FUNDING THE COUNCIL HOUSE BUILD PROGRAMME

41. The Council has made a £100m funding commitment to the next phases of the CHBP. Of this, £8.98m has been committed to 3 schemes approved at Cabinet in December 2019 and previously approved acquisitions. The remaining funding has the potential to deliver an estimated 550 new homes. The Council does expect to secure grant from Homes England towards the costs of the new affordable homes, which should increase the capacity of the programme to 600+ new homes. In order to access Homes England grant the Council must set the rents for the new homes at Affordable Rent levels.
42. The Council is currently in discussion with Homes England regarding the future approach to securing grant funding for the programme. The usual route to secure grant is through the Continuous Market Engagement (CME) process for individual scheme bids. In January 2021, however, Homes England is launching a Prospectus for new Strategic Partnership arrangements with local authorities. The Council will evaluate this new option to see if it offers useful new opportunities for securing grant funding for the CHBP.

DELIVERY CAPACITY FOR THE HDP

43. Accelerating the delivery of the CHBP and delivering the combined HDP will require additional capacity. It will need a significant and dedicated internal resource team to manage schemes and monitor progress across the Council. Specifically this will impact upon a number of service areas such as Strategic Housing, Technical Services (i.e. architects), Legal, Assets, Planning etc. As the HDP is developed further the specific additional resource needs will be identified and brought forward for consideration. It may also be necessary to employ external expertise and capacity in some instances.
44. Externally there will be implications for contractors and supply chains to ensure capacity is available. This will be a factor when recommending schemes and will influence the shape of some aspects of the plan.

THE 5-YEAR HOUSING DELIVERY PLAN

45. Across the Borough and through the delivery streams outlined below, there is a maximum pipeline capacity for development of c.6,300 new homes across all tenures up to 2025 (as per Appendix 2). This capacity consists of:
- I. c.1,000 dwellings on 40 currently available Council sites, with the £90m+ funding available capable of supporting approx. 550 of those through the CHBP. It should be noted that some of the available sites may prove to be unviable or unsuitable for development once more closely considered and consulted on. It is expected that the Council will secure Homes England grant to support the CHBP, which should increase the number of new homes that can be afforded to more than 600.
 - II. In excess of 900 new homes currently identified by Housing Associations through delivery on Council owned sites, private land, via direct purchase and through committed S106 acquisitions;
 - III. Circa 4,157 homes for market sale identified in the Local Plan on sites where the S106 affordable housing policy may deliver an additional c.693 more new affordable homes.
46. There is not a perfect match between the current availability of sites and the Housing Need profile. The programme for new affordable homes includes all currently available Council sites for housing, with their indicative capacity. It may be necessary for the Council to purchase additional sites and work with partners to bring new sites into the programme, to allow the provision of new affordable homes as required in our settlements.
47. There is continued high demand for all land for housing in the Borough. However, the option of acquiring land will be further explored, as will the options for re-purposing sites currently in use for other purposes and working in partnership with other organisations who have access to land in the right locations to meet housing need. Land for housing can be an expensive commodity, and buying sites will add costs to the CHBP.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

48. Option 1: Support the proposed Housing Delivery Plan 2020-2025 (Preferred Option)
To enable the continued development of new homes across Doncaster to help the Borough meet the various housing needs of the local community.
49. Option 2: Do nothing
This is not an option. The Borough needs to have a clear, evidence-led Housing Delivery Plan to enable the Council to prioritise investment to meet the housing needs of its residents.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

50. The HDP will provide large, modern, energy efficient, affordable and market sale new homes to help meet the housing needs and aspirations of residents across the borough. The Plan ultimately will help reduce the call on Council resources from residents requiring care and support through the provision of more adapted homes, which allow more independent living and improvements to health and wellbeing.
51. The HDP will bring private funding and public capital grant funding from Housing Associations and Homes England to help develop much needed specialist affordable

housing for the residents of Doncaster borough. It will also support key economic growth projects, attracting investment, new businesses and new residents to the borough.

52. The HDP brings in revenue through Council Tax and New Homes Bonus payments to the Council.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>Doncaster Working: Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access to good fulfilling work • Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish • Inward Investment 	<p>Increasing housing development across Doncaster supports economic growth</p>
	<p>Doncaster Living: Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	<p>Increasing the number of affordable homes across the borough will provide more good quality, affordable homes, which are energy efficient and larger in size. A new focus on repurposing sites in town centres for residential use will support the on-going vibrancy of our local economy</p>
	<p>Doncaster Learning: Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school • Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better • Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work 	<p>Providing good quality affordable homes on housing developments that build resilient communities providing a safe and secure environment for children to learn and grow.</p>

	<p>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have the best start in life • Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust • Older people can live well and independently in their own homes 	<p>Providing better quality affordable housing development schemes allowing children, vulnerable families/individuals and older people to live independently.</p>
	<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern, efficient and flexible workforce • Modern, accessible customer interactions • Operating within our resources and delivering value for money • A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents • Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	<p>Developing value for money high quality homes in consultation with residents and ward members to build resilient communities. To do this the council will be working alongside our internal and external partners.</p>

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

53. The success and delivery of HDP is subject to a significant number of risks outside the control of the Council that may impact upon deliverability and anticipated outcomes. There are a number of current potential 'known' key risks which include:
- i. Future Government policy changes
 - ii. Homes England funding priorities and conditions
 - iii. Covid-19 and EU Exit impacts affecting the wider economy and the house building sector
 - iv. Availability of land and abnormal site conditions, including flood risk
 - v. Deliverability of mixed tenure schemes in low value housing market areas
 - vi. Community willingness to support developments in their area
 - vii. Additional capacity needed to accelerate delivery
54. The management and mitigation of those risks will vary on a case-by-case basis. The HDP monitoring and reporting mechanisms will require a Risk Register to enable officers to track and highlight potential risks as they arise and assess and manage their impact on the wider programme and its specific components.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [NJD 30.11.20]

55. There are no specific legal implications relating to the Council agreeing to support the proposed Housing Delivery Plan 2020-2025.
56. Affordable rent for new homes must be set in accordance with the Direction on the Rent Standard 2019 and the policy statement on rents for Social Housing, issued by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

57. There are significant legal implications arising out of the various different potential delivery options outlined within the report. It is advised that significant early engagement takes place with DMBC legal services and Corporate Procurement in order that appropriate processes are followed and matters are not delayed or subject to further challenge. There are significant procurement, governance, property and commercial law questions to be considered.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [CA 20.10.20]

58. There are no immediate financial implications arising directly from this report. The financial implications will be set out in full when schemes contained within the Housing Delivery Plan for the CHBP are brought to Cabinet for specific scheme approval.
59. The CHBP programme has an existing funding approval of £80m from Council borrowing and £20m available in the HRA (of which £8.98m is already committed at December 2019).
60. As the best available rate on the market, the Council would take advantage of the HRA PWLB certainty rate, which is gilts plus 80 basis points (equates to 100 basis points below the PWLB rate at which the Council would normally be able to borrow). The 40 year HRA certainty rate is currently 1.52%.
61. The Council borrows from the Public Loans Works Board on a maturity basis. This is fixed term interest only borrowing with the principal repaid at the end of the term. Provision is normally made for borrowing in the general fund (Minimum Revenue Provision) to set aside an amount each year for the repayment of debt. There is no requirement to do this in the HRA, as the asset value exceeds the cost of borrowing and the debt can be re-financed at the end of the term. The Council may choose to make capital repayments annually to offset any impacts from Right to Buy sales.
62. The Councils Treasury Management Strategy includes the option to borrow up to 3 years in advance of capital expenditure. This has been considered in the context of the council house build programme and although not currently recommended, the decision will be kept under review. Borrowing in advance would only represent value for money if long term fixed interest rates were expected to increase and even then, the benefit would need to be balanced against the ability to fund the cost of borrowing within the budget until such a time that additional revenues flow from the assets.
63. The viability of each scheme will vary depending on the size of the scheme and whether the Council already owns the site. Feasibility costs, financing costs, costs relating to the transaction, site surveys and remediation costs will all need to be factored in.
64. As per the Affordable Housing Policy, the Council has secured commuted sums from s106 agreements which can be used to support HDP schemes, subject to individual scheme approvals
65. The report refers to significant and dedicated internal resources and use of some external resources being required. If additional capacity is required that cannot be met from existing budget, this needs to be identified early on and costed, so that funding options can be considered.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [KJ 26.11.20]

66. There are no HR implications specific to the recommendations in the report, however, any emerging matters that impact on the workforce will require HR engagement at the appropriate time.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [PW 13/10/20]

67. There are no specific technology implications in this report.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [KH 26.11.20]

68. Good quality, safe and well-designed housing and communities are key to the success of the Borough and essential for building a healthy, engaged and inclusive society. Our homes should feel safe, comfortable, warm and dry, and should provide security and stability. They should meet the diverse needs of individuals and families, and should be of decent quality, regardless of age, type or tenure. Homes should be also be affordable and sustainable, and well connected to vibrant, active and healthy communities. Good housing has a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of the population, both physically, mentally and from an economic wellbeing perspective.

- By providing good quality housing that people on lower incomes can afford (including running costs) we can improve the health and social circumstances of people in poverty.
- Providing enough good quality, affordable and social housing can also increase choice and thus may also have an impact on quality in other areas, such as the private rented sector.
- Climate change will affect those on lower incomes and in poorer health the worst, by building and improving our housing, using modern methods and materials, to create a more energy efficient housing stock we can not only start to tackle climate change but also improve the financial wellbeing of our population. It also very important that any development does not impact negatively on our green infrastructure and local biodiversity.
- Development can provide jobs and economic benefits locally, providing we ensure that the social value of any development is maximised and that high quality jobs and local opportunities, including training and apprenticeships are prioritised.
- Legacy: the decisions we make today can have an impact on the lives of future generations and can create the conditions for greater equality and a healthier, happier population. The legacy created by investing in good quality, affordable homes and communities could impact positively for many generations into the future.

69. It is encouraging to see that health and wellbeing features throughout the HDP. In the Plan there is a focus on affordability, high design and space standards and quality, energy efficiency and meeting the general and specialist needs of the population into the future. By acknowledging the importance of health and wellbeing as a priority, the legacy of the plan could be that it helps lay the foundations for good health and wellbeing in the long term for future generations of Doncaster citizens. We recommend that the focus on health and wellbeing continues throughout and that Public Health are involved as an active partner at every opportunity.
70. Public Health recommends the use of Health Impact Assessments (HIA) on all applicable developments and that we are involved in this process from the design and planning stages. As a council, we can demonstrate through this process that our own new build homes are designed in a way that provides every opportunity for residents to live in an area that promotes good health and well-being.
71. By providing specialist accommodation and general accommodation with good accessibility standards, we can improve the health and wellbeing and living conditions of people with physical and mental disabilities, older people and people with long-term conditions. Good quality and well-designed specialist and accessible housing can also provide people with greater independence and can thus be empowering for people with disabilities and health conditions.
72. There are a number of groups who can experience inequalities in relation to health and housing, these include people on a low income, people in areas of high deprivation, BAME communities (including our Gypsy and Traveller communities and refugee and asylum seeker population), older people, people with health conditions or disabilities and people experiencing homelessness or complex lives. Although the focus in this plan on quality, affordability, accessibility design and specialist provision will go some way to addressing inequalities, it is essential that any work undertaken during implementation promotes fairness and inclusion and aims to reduce the inequalities that face these groups at every opportunity.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [AR 20/10/20]

73. All housing developments supported by the Council will be accessible depending on individual need. Such assessments will not discriminate against any applicant in any way

and particularly due to any of the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010. All housing delivery partners must maintain a commitment to The Equality Act 2010. A Due Regard Statement for the Housing Delivery Plan is attached as Appendix 3

CONSULTATION

74. For those sites that are already within the Phase 1 of the CHBP programme consultation has been undertaken with the Cabinet Member for Housing and elected members and residents for those areas as part of the process which secured cabinet approval for the schemes. Further consultation is proposed on Phases 2 and 3 of the proposed CHBP going forward. Future Housing Association led schemes and private housing market developments will also be consulted on with local elected members and local communities as part of the Planning Application process.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

75. None

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

Karen Lythe Assistant Director for Strategic Housing
Karen.lythe@doncaster.gov.uk

Adam Goldsmith Head of Service Strategic Housing
adam.goldsmith@doncaster.gov.uk

Adrian Robertshaw Programme Manager Strategic Housing
Adrian.robertshaw@doncaster.gov.uk

Dan Swaine
Directorate of Economy & Environment

Appendix 1: Affordable Housing Delivery 2015-2019

Appendix 2: 5 Year All Housing Delivery 2020-2025

HDP APPENDIX 1 - All Affordable Housing Delivery 2015-2019

SETTLEMENT	Ward	N/hood / Locality	Parliamentary Constituency	APRIL 2015-MARCH 2019		
				Council House Build Prog	Housing Assoc. Dev Prog	S106 & HA DIRECT PURCHASE
Clay Lane	Wheatley Hills & Intake	C	DC			
Wheatley Park				4		
Lower Wheatley						
Intake						
Wheatley Hills				56		
Town Centre	Town	C	DC			
Town Moor						
Bennetthorpe						
Belle Vue						
Hyde Park						
Lakeside						
Hexthorpe	H/thorpe & Balby North	C	DC		50	
Balby	Balby South	C	DC	6		
Cantley	Bessacarr	C	DC/DV			
Bessacarr						12
Armthorpe	Armthorpe	E	DN	12		
Edenthorpe	Edenthorpe & Kirk Sandall	E	DN			6
Kirk Sandall						2
Barnby Dun	Stainforth & Barnby Dun	E	DN			
Stainforth						4
Dunscroft	Hatfield	E	DN	6		
Dunville						
Hatfield						
Lindholme			DV			
Hatfield Woodhouse						
Moorends						10
Thorne	Thorne & Moorends	E	DV	35	113	12
Tickhill	Tickhill & Wadworth	S	DC			
Wadworth						
Loversall						
Braithwell						
Stainton						
Micklebring						
Woodfield Plantation						65
Warmsworth				Edlington & Warmsworth	S	DC
Edlington	4					
Old Edlington						
Clifton	Conisbrough	C	DC			
Conisbrough					10	

Denaby	Conisbrough	S	DC				
Old Denaby							
Mexborough	Mexborough	S	DC				
Blaxton	Finningley	S	DC			14	
Branton							
Old Cantley							
Auckley							
Hayfield Green							
Finningley						4	
Bawtry	Rossington & Bawtry	S	DC				
Rossington					7		
Austerfield							
Adwick-upon-Dearne	Sprotbrough	N	DN				
Barnburgh							
Harlington							
Sprotbrough Village							
Sprotbrough East							
High Melton							
Hampole & Skelbrooke							
Hickleton							
Marr							
Hooton Pagnell							
Pickburn							
Brodsworth							
Clayton (with Frickley)							
Cadeby							
Cusworth				Roman Ridge	N	DN	
York Road							
Scawsby		57					
Scawthorpe							
Bentley	Bentley	N	DN	34		7	
Toll Bar & Almholme							
Arksey							
Adwick	Adwick Le Street & Carcroft	N	DN	10		12	
Highfields							
Woodlands							8
Carcroft				24			
Skellow							
Owston	Norton & Askern	N	DN				
Burghwallis							
Sutton							
Fenwick							
Moss							
Norton							
Campsall							
Askern					38		80
Sykehouse							
Fishlake & Fosterhouses							
Thorpe in Balne	E	DN					
Braithwaite							

Kirk Bramwith					
			293	173	236

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SETTLEMENT	Ward	N/hood Locality	Parliamentary Constituency	19/20 Affordable Delivery	CHBP	HADP		L/P SITES				
						Council and HA Land	S106 + DIRECT PURCHASE	S106 Completions	Open Market Sale			
Clay Lane	Wheatley Hills & Intake	C	DC			4			184			
Wheatley Park												
Lower Wheatley												
Intake							24	7				
Wheatley Hills				18			37		109			
Town Centre	Town	C	DC									
Town Moor												
Bennetthorpe											64	
Belle Vue											9	30
Hyde Park												
Lakeside							5	119	262			
Hexthorpe	H/thorpe & Balby North	C	DC	1	20	66	100		250			
Balby	Balby South	C	DC	25	60		150	85	240			
Cantley	Bessacarr	C	DC DV		10			20	85			
Bessacarr								14			150	
Armthorpe	Armthorpe	E	DN		34		2	106	335			
Edenthorpe	Edenthorpe	E	DN		35	60			220			
Kirk Sandall	Kirk Sandall					3		20			23	
Barnby Dun	Stainforth & Barnby Dun	E	DN					10	60			
Stainforth							9	3		8	27	
Dunscroft	Hatfield	E	DN	14		41	39		101			
Dunsville									25		70	
Hatfield							5			8	167	
Lindholme					DV							
Hatfield Woodhouse										16	54	
Moorends	Thorne & Moorends	E	DN		19		5		18			
Thorne			DV	3	16	30			69	129		
Tickhill	Tickhill & Wadworth	S	DC					17	57			
Wadworth												
Loversall												
Braithwell												
Stainton												
Micklebring												
Woodfield Plantation											70	140
Warmsworth				Edlington & Warmsworth	S	DC		10			9	84
Edlington		22	4						8	28		
Old Edlington												
Clifton	Conisbrough	S	DC		41			9	102			
Conisbrough											63	
Denaby											8	
Old Denaby											42	149
Mexborough	Mexborough	S	DC									
Blaxton	Finningley	S	DC		4							
Branton							3					
Old Cantley												
Auckley											26	79
Hayfield Green											14	56
Finningley									36			
Bawtry	Rossington & Bawtry	S	DC		4	1		4	16			
Rossington					180	3	7				340	
Austerfield												
Adwick-upon-Deerne	Sprotbrough	N	DN									
Barnburgh												
Harlington											15	51
Sprotbrough Village												35
Sprotbrough East												
High Melton												
Hampole & Skelbrooke												
Hickleton												
Marr												
Hooton Pagnell												
Pickburn												
Brodsworth												
Clayton (with Frickley)												
Cadeby												
Cusworth	Roman Ridge	N	DN		2			6	20			
York Road												
Scawsby							9		15			
Scawthorpe								5				
Bentley	Bentley	N	DN			20	11		26			
Toll Bar & Almholme							21					
Arksey	Adwick Le Street & Carcroft	N	DN									
Adwick					11	60			10		35	
Highfields												
Woodlands					34		7	31			137	
Carcroft												
Skellow					9				35			
Owston	Norton & Askern	N	DN									
Burghwallis												
Sutton												
Fenwick												
Moss												
Norton												
Campsall									20			
Askern				21	4	161	11	5	126			
Sykehouse	Norton & Askern	E	DN									
Fishlake & Fosterhouses												
Thorpe in Balne												
Braithwaite												
Kirk Bramwith												
Delivery Totals				223	534	467	457	693	4157			
Key:												
CHBP = Council House Build Programme HADP = Housing Association Delivery Programme L/P = Local Plan												

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EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

DONCASTER METROPLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Due Regard Statement for the Housing Delivery Plan 2020-2025

How to show due regard to the equality duty in how we develop our work and in our decision making.

Due Regard Statement

A **Due Regard Statement** (DRS) is the tool for capturing the evidence to demonstrate that due regard has been shown when the council plans and delivers its functions. A Due Regard Statement must be completed for all programmes, projects and changes to service delivery.

- A DRS should be initiated at the beginning of the programme, project or change to inform project planning
- The DRS runs adjacent to the programme, project or change and is reviewed and completed at the relevant points
- Any reports produced needs to reference “Due Regard” in the main body of the report and the DRS should be attached as an appendix
- The DRS cannot be fully completed until the programme, project or change is delivered.

<p>1 Name of the ‘project’ and briefly describe the activity being considered including aims and expected outcomes. This will help to determine how relevant the ‘project’ is to equality.</p>	<p>Housing Delivery Plan 2020-2025</p> <p>The purpose of this project is to set out a 5 Year New Housing Delivery Plan (HDP) 2020 - 2025, which will provide a range of new homes for all members of the community. The principal focus of the Plan is to ensure the delivery of new affordable homes, to meet the needs for housing identified in the 2019 Housing Needs Study. These include the delivery of new homes in all tenures, including accelerated investment in the Council House Build Programme to deliver more new affordable homes, more quickly</p> <p>This Housing Delivery Plan report covers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Achievements in delivering new homes in the borough over the last 5 years, 2) The foundations for the delivery of new homes over the next 5 years, 3) Our aspirations for 2025
<p>2 Service area responsible for completing this statement.</p>	<p>Strategic Housing</p>
<p>3 Summary of the information considered across the protected groups.</p> <p>Service users/residents</p> <p>Doncaster Workforce</p>	<p>The HDP has been produced building on the progress made in the last five years (2015-2025) of delivery of Affordable Homes across the Borough including the Council House Build Programme (CHBP) and the Housing Association Development programme (HADP). Evidence collected from that period, along with analysis of the 2019 Housing Needs Study and with reference to the draft Local Plan, have all helped identify and inform where development will be required and the updated objectives of delivery plan actions over the next five years.</p> <p>The 2019 Housing Needs Survey included analysis at borough-wide level to ward areas, different household sizes, types, incomes, ages and specific analysis on the needs of BME groups, disabled, elderly residents etc. Household surveys, web surveys, focus groups and public consultation events were used to gather input from as diverse range of residents as possible.</p> <p>Following the Housing Needs Survey further in depth analysis of specific groups took</p>

		<p>place, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older Peoples Needs Assessment • Physical Disability Needs Assessment • Accomodation Assessment for people with learning disabilities, autism or mental health issues: South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System • Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show People Needs Assessment
4	<p>Summary of the consultation/engagement activities</p>	<p>The HDP complements and supports the 2020-25 Housing Strategy and formed part of the consultation for that work which has engaged with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doncaster Talks 2019 – community engagement; 3610 responses from across all Doncaster borough’s asking residents what residents like about where they live, what they would like to see improve and what Doncaster should focus on in the future. Response analysis included age and ethnicity break down. The most common responses were related to environmental factors including cleansing and green/open spaces; highlighting the importance of the wider community of where people live. • Stakeholder workshops (including partners, representatives from Voluntary Sector, developers/house builders, planning department, enforcement, public health, St Leger Homes, Doncaster Children’s Services Trust); two workshops were held, the first one to understand the progress so far in the first five years and to determine whether the proposed vision describes what is wanting to be achieved taking on board the drivers driving the update. The second workshop discussed the activities that should be included within the updated strategy which emphasized on empowering people in their own homes, particularly those with protected characteristics. • Consultation with Minorities Partnership Board; proposed vision and objectives were presented with original vision and objectives for comparison. The group felt the changes were sensible. They also highlighted the need to specifically mention BAME communities, which has been included in the strategy.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Workers Group; the group highlighted that there are specific issues that GRT communities experience that other communities do not i.e. some may be excluded from normal communication routes, different ways of engagement will need to be undertaken. These have been factored in to the strategy. • Support Education and Engagement Project (SEE Project); aimed to identify members of the community who need additional support and those that live in poor housing conditions. The findings have been included in the strategy as many identified fall under having protected characteristics. • Elected member engagement via presentation at Regeneration and Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel; the proposed updated vision, objectives and plans/activities were presented to elected members. Members highlighted a number of factors in related to those with protected characteristics that have been addressed in the strategy e.g. veterans • Engagement with SLHD Executive Board to ensure that the strategy reflects housing management priorities and the issues identified by tenants • Engagement with DMBC Directors Leadership team and Cabinet to confirm the review’s approach and agree the focus for the next five years
<p>5</p>	<p>Real Consideration:</p> <p>Summary of what the evidence shows and how has it been used</p>	<p>The analysis from the needs assessments, external influences and progress with housing completions to date have been combined in order to ensure that wherever possible housing delivery will be targetted where need is highest.</p> <p>Summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HNS shows a Borough wide need of 209 new Affordable Homes per annum between 2020-25 and a further 285 homes for older people over the full 5 year period.

- The draft Local Plan shows an overall annual need of 920 new homes.
- Economic growth forecasts indicate the population growth will be over and above the baseline expected growth and subsequent analysis shows the amount of additional housing required.
- Population projections show increasing proportions of older people highlighting the need for homes to remain suitable for us as we grow older and our needs change
- Analysis of disability/Life Limiting illness data shows a need for adapted or adaptable properties.
- Affordability analysis shows a need for affordable housing, with a range of house prices and tenures.

The evidence has been brought together to set out 4 key elements for the Hosuing Delivery Plan:

- **Council House Build Programme (CHBP)** - setting out an ambitious development programme with potential to deliver circa 534 affordable and mixed tenure homes over the next 5 years, to be built to very high energy efficiency standards in response to the climate change carbon reduction targets set by the Council;
- **Housing Association Development Programme (HADP)** – a pipeline estimated to contribute circa 467 new affordable homes on Council and housing association land. Those developments will also respond to demand for older persons housing and by the key delivery route for homes to address specialist housing need in the Borough;
- **S106 Planning agreements and other contributions for affordable housing** - 457 new affordable homes are currently projected to be secured by housing associations through agreed S106 agreements with private housing developers and by direct purchases. Local Plan allocated sites indicate a potential further circa 690 affordable homes via S106 agreements by 2025;
- **Engagement with private developers** to maximise the provision of new homes for sale – providing a strategic enabling and support role and exploring new delivery mechanisms, to expand the choice and quality of new homes. Local Plan allocated sites indicate a potential further circa 4,157 homes for market sale by 2025, although we recognise that the pace and scale of delivery may be affected by the uncertain economic conditions.

6	Decision Making	<p>A summary of the assessments completed in relation to the protected groups has been included in the Strategy; and is included within that Documents 'progress so far' section. An overview of the analysis from wider consultations have also been included within the strategy.</p> <p>Representatives of some protected groups have been involved leading to amendments in the strategy to ensure the needs and opinions of protected groups are considered.</p>
7	Monitoring and Review	<p>Progress against the Housing Delivery Plan outputs, aims and actions, will be monitored on a regular basis. Progress at an operational level is assessed as part of the council's standard performance management framework, and will be delivered and progress managed by individual teams within services.</p>
8	Sign off and approval for publication	<p>Karen Lythe Assitant Director Strategic Housing</p> <p>15.12.20</p>

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