



17 December 2020

## **CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY COMMISSION**

Dear Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP and members of the Climate and Biodiversity Commission,

Since our collective declaration of a climate and biodiversity emergency in September 2019 we have followed the work and the Commission with interest and would like to thank the Climate and Biodiversity Commission for their work over the last year to produce such an informative report. The broad stakeholder engagement and expert opinion obtained has provided valuable insight into a range of complex environmental topics. This has been essential to developing our understanding of the issues we face and the options we have to respond to them.

Team Doncaster therefore welcomes the report and the commission's recommendations. We will seek to take forward these recommendations through our individual organisational and collective Team Doncaster actions. We commit to working with local, regional and national partners including central government to implement those recommendations that are not within our direction control.

Team Doncaster's strategy will include a target for the Borough to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 – recognising that this equates to a uniform 13-14% year-on-year reduction of emissions and an 85% reduction by 2030. It will also seek to support greater biodiversity by increasing the proportion of land given over to woodland, wood pasture, and wildflower grassland.

It is reassuring to see that the Commission's recommendations are consistent with a lot of the work that numerous partners have or are currently undertaking already, such as electrifying fleet (e.g. Council and SY Police), improving energy efficiency of buildings (e.g. housing developers and retrofitters), developing flood prevention measures (e.g. Environment Agency and Planning Authority), and the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste (e.g. Doncaster households and businesses).

The public engagement that has taken place alongside the Commission meetings has identified a clear message from Doncaster residents, businesses and elected representatives that addressing climate change should be a priority. Many people are already taking action to tackle the emergency, but there is a need to do more and to support people to be able to do more.

Various engagements have shown that young people in particular are very passionate about this agenda. This was evident in the results of the 2019 Make Your Mark engagement campaign which showed that both primary and secondary school-age children think the environment should be a top priority for the borough. There are various student-led initiatives in a number of schools across the Borough to do their bit for the environment - from reducing single-use plastic through installation of refill stations and roll out of reusable water bottles across the school, to researching and reducing the disposal and processing of waste from school cafeterias. Recently, the Junior Civic Mayor published a video about being eco-friendly with 5 top tips on how to look after your environment.

The strategy development work undertaken so far has shown that much of the required interventions are already being implemented to a certain degree. What has become clear though is that more people, businesses, and organisations need to make changes and investments, and we all need to do so on a greater scale in order to make more significant impacts than we have so far. There is a clear message on the need to work in partnership to ensure everyone is able to make the contributions required and realise the broader benefits that tackling environmental issues will bring.

The Environment and Sustainability strategy is planned to be formally launched in early 2021, and Team Doncaster will ensure that a suitable governance arrangement is in place to implement the proposals and be accountable for delivery. Development work is underway to determine the appropriate membership and remit of this delivery group,

and representation from different parts of the private and public and voluntary sector will be essential, as is the involvement of elected representatives.

We would like to invite the Chair and members of the Commission to provide an independent assessment of Doncaster's progress toward the implementation of the recommendations within two years.

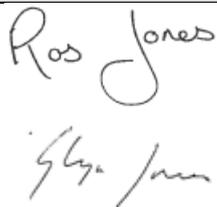
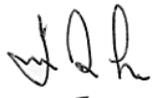
Team Doncaster commitments include:

1. Approval of the Environment and Sustainability Strategy by Full Council	Jan 2021
2. Establish appropriate implementation governance arrangements	Feb 2021
3. Develop a Communications plan for raising awareness of issues and potential solutions amongst different parts of our residential and business communities.	April 2021
4. Undertake individual partner-level baseline assessments of progress made so far, and short, medium and long-term plans for further activity and investments.	Summer 2021
5. Development a new Borough Strategy with the Environment as a central focus	Summer 2021
6. Regular updates to Team Doncaster Gold on progress and achievements.	Every Six Months
7. Invite the commission to review our progress at report back to Team Doncaster	By Autumn 2022
8. Continue to lobby Government for funding to support strategic interventions.	Ongoing

We will support members of the Commission to exercise their influence within their organisations to maintain engagement and commitment to our environmental ambition and would welcome their ongoing involvement in our collective efforts to improve the lives of Doncaster residents now and in the future.

Regards

*Team Doncaster*

<b>Elected Representatives</b>		
Elected Leadership		Mayor Ros Jones, Mayor of Doncaster Cllr Glyn Jones, Cabinet Member for Housing & Equalities
<b>Private Sector</b>		
Doncaster Chamber		Dan Fell, Chief Executive
Mirata Ltd		Ian Mayer, Managing Director
<b>Voluntary &amp; Community Sector</b>		
Voluntary Action Doncaster		Cath Witherington, Chief Executive
Age UK Doncaster		Heather Boyce, Chief Executive
Inclusion & Fairness Forum	<i>Dolly Agoro Akeela Mohammed</i>	Dolly Agoro and Akeela Mohammed
Club Doncaster Foundation	<i>John Davies</i>	John Davies, Chief Executive
<b>Education/Learning Sector</b>		
DN Colleges		Mick Lochran, Chief Executive

National College of High Speed Rail	<i>Sue Dare</i>	<i>Sue Dare, Chief Executive</i>
New College, Doncaster	<i>Brendon Fletcher</i>	<i>Brendon Fletcher, Principal</i>
<b>Public Sector</b>		
Doncaster CCG	<i>J Pederson</i>	Jackie Pederson, Chief Officer
Rotherham, Doncaster & South Humber NHS Foundation Trust	<i>Kathryn Singh</i>	Kathryn Singh, Chief Executive
Primary Care Doncaster	<i>Laura Sherburn</i>	Laura Sherburn, Chief Executive
Doncaster & Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals	<i>Richard Parker</i>	Richard Parker, Trust Chief Executive
South Yorkshire Police	<i>M Palin</i>	Melanie Palin, Borough Commander
South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue	<i>Shane Tottie</i>	Shane Tottie, Doncaster District Command
Doncaster Culture & Leisure Trust	<i>Michael Hart</i>	Michael Hart, Chief Executive
Doncaster Children's Services Trust	<i>James Thomas</i>	James Thomas, Chief Executive
St Leger Homes of Doncaster	<i>Dave Richmond</i>	Dave Richmond, Chief Executive
DWP / Job Centre Plus	<i>S. Thorpe</i>	Sharon Thorpe, District Manager
Doncaster Council	<i>Damian Allen</i>	Damian Allen (Chair), Chief Executive