

Extract from Doncaster Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2020 - 2030

- 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 1.5oC 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

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- 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
Remove the 'Air Quality Management Area' status of the eight Doncaster areas with high nitrogen dioxide levels.	Improved air quality across the borough.
Reduce vehicular emissions, by reducing the emissions from the vehicles using our roads and reducing the number of vehicles on the road.	

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- 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

(The list includes the following extracts)

- Consider, and where possible, prioritise longer-term benefits and savings against short-term costs.
- Invest in electrification of fleet vehicles.

Residents

(The list includes the following extracts)

- Consider the environment when making transport choices: cycling, walking, using public transport, car sharing, and investing in Ultra Low Emission Vehicles where possible.