

Sheffield City Council
**Our Statement of Climate
Commitments**

December 2023



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Our Commitment to Addressing Climate Change

On 11th December 2023, the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee approved the first Annual Climate Progress Report since Sheffield City Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and set an ambitious target to be a net zero city by 2030.

This report highlighted that progress has been made, however it is not at the pace and scale needed to meet our 2030 target:

- 12.03% reduction in Sheffield City CO₂e emissions between 2017 and 2021
- 3% reduction in Sheffield City Council CO₂e emissions between 2019 and 2022
- Sheffield is expected to exceed its recommended carbon budget for 2018-2022

The climate emergency is one of the biggest challenges we will face as a city, region, country and global community. Following the announcement from Government in September 2023 to delay key climate change related legislation, we face a period of uncertainty around the policy levers that will be available in the coming years to support us to deliver our climate action at pace and at scale. Further to this, significant additional resources from central government will be required to help us to meet our ambitions and realise the opportunities that climate action brings. We will continue to work with government and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to influence this.

We, as elected Members, wish to restate our support and commitment to the targets that Sheffield has set around addressing climate change. We remain committed to tackling challenges that can be addressed by this council, using the opportunities and levers that are available to us. We also commit to developing council-wide climate adaptation plans within each of our service areas. By working together with Sheffield's communities, businesses, institutions and partner organisations to reduce our carbon emissions and adapt to our changing climate, we can minimise the impact of change, realise the widespread benefits of investing in homes and new technologies, and address issues around social justice.

How Climate Change Relates to Our Committees

It is stated in the Sheffield City Council Constitution under the council functions of each committee that 'when devising policy, evaluating service delivery and taking decisions the committee must consider...climate and biodiversity'. In relation to climate change, each of our committees' work is impacted and affected by other committees' decisions, and we will only succeed if we take a cross-committee approach to climate action.

The following pages set out how climate change relates to the nine policy committees and highlights key activity on the current work plans and service plans that support net zero and address climate change.

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Policy Committee Statement

Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee

It is difficult to quantify the emission that our adult health and social care services contribute to the city's emissions, however Sheffield public sector as a whole contributed 127.5 ktCO₂e (5%) of Sheffield's carbon emissions in 2021 and has increased by 7.7% since 2017.

Our performance data along with the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, highlights that demand for social care will continue to rise. The recent COVID-19 pandemic showed how reliance on social care services can increase exponentially in the face of a public emergency. While adult health and social care is not a major contributor to emissions in the city, the negative impacts of climate change are disproportionately and more severely felt by vulnerable groups reliant on our adult health and social care services as was the case with COVID.

If the city doesn't act further to adapt our adult health and social care services in readiness for a changing climate, we could see the severity of these impacts increase further. In particular:

- climate change impacts such as extreme weather events such as heatwaves and flooding, poor air quality, food and water shortages and changes in ecology increases climate-sensitive health risks, particular for those already in poor health, such as:
 - malnutrition
 - heat-related illnesses
 - serious noncommunicable diseases such as cancers, cardiovascular disease and lung diseases
 - mental and psychological health conditions
 - injury and mortality from extreme weather events
 - water-borne, vector-borne and animal-to-human (zoonotic) transmitted diseases.
- rising costs, such as for energy, food and water, will exacerbate existing poverty and push more citizens below the poverty line further increasing inequalities in the city
- the rising costs for energy, food and water also affect providers of care services and voluntary sector ability to meet these costs. This risk destabilising our market and reducing the options for support, should funding not be provided to adult social care services to meet these costs
- increased reliance on adult health and social care services, facilities and providers will lead to an increase in operational cost and the necessary resources to meet demand
- increase in frequency and severity of extreme weather events, as well increased power outages from reduced energy security, will cause delays in response, disruption and reduced access to care and services and more

reliance on ensuring effective business continuity and agility of social care services across all sectors to meet demand

- widen social division and exclusion – those who can participate and those who can't – pollution tends to be higher in less affluent areas, food and water scarcity driving up prices, trip-chaining (time-poverty), reliance on car ownership (transport poverty)

This committee will contribute to the council's net zero ambitions and to adapting to climate change, at the same time as supporting adult health and social care, by taking decisions which ensure adult social care is:

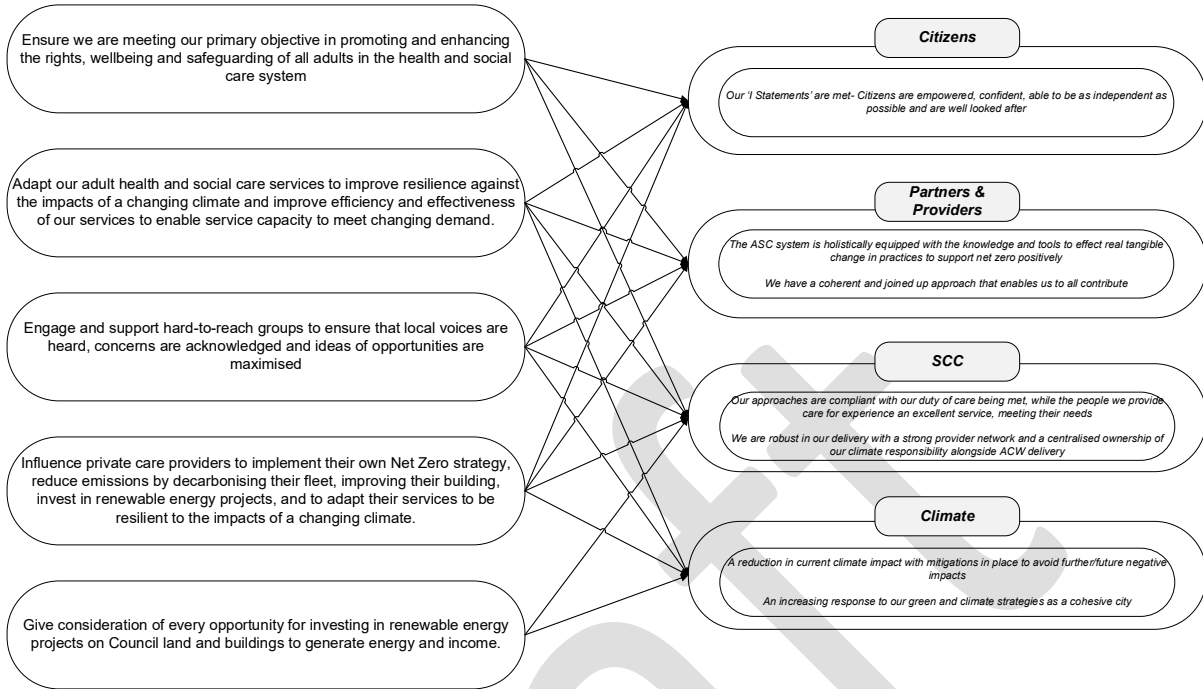
- meeting our primary objective in promoting and enhancing the rights, wellbeing and safeguarding of adults
- adapting our adult health and social care services to improve resilience and agility against the impacts of a changing climate
- openly discussing the impact of climate change with individuals, family members, providers, faith and voluntary sector so that we are working collaboratively to mitigate effects of climate change as well as contributing to net zero
- through our commissioning and strategic planning actively including our ambitions about net zero, so that any provider funded through the council is contributing to climate change
- influence private care providers to implement their own net zero strategy as part of their own corporate strategies, reduce emissions by decarbonising their fleet, improving their building, invest in renewable energy projects, and to adapt their services to be resilient to the impacts of a changing climate
- give consideration of every opportunity for investing in renewable energy projects on council land and buildings to generate energy and income.

The benefits of this approach:

- for citizens and unpaid carers, our 'I Statements' are met 'I have aspirations in my life and achieve my goals'
- providers of social care are holistically equipped with the knowledge and tools to effect real tangible change in practices to support net zero positively and can respond effectively to impact of climate change, ensuring continuity of service delivery
- we have a coherent and joined up approach across care providers that enables us to share best practice and learn from each other
- our approaches enable people to live the life they want to live, are compliant with our duties and enable individuals, families, and unpaid carers to experience an excellent service and satisfaction with our delivery, no matter who the provider.
- we are robust in our delivery with and a centralised ownership of our climate responsibility alongside delivery
- a reduction in current climate impact with mitigations and adaptations in place to avoid further/future negative impacts
- an increasing response to our green and climate strategies as a cohesive city.

Decisions

Benefits



Key Actions

Milestone	Benefit	Priority
<p>1. Through our contract monitoring arrangements ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All commissioned providers have effective business continuity arrangements are in place to respond to impacts of climate change. We have agreed with providers our climate expectations and opportunities for development. 	<p>Providers are holistically equipped with the knowledge and tools to effect real tangible change in practices to support net zero positively and can respond effectively to impact of climate change, ensuring continuity of service delivery.</p>	<p>Outcome 4: Effective and Efficient - Priority 12- Climate & Net Zero</p> <p>Outcome 1: Safe and Well - Priority 2 – Quality and Continuity of Care</p>
<p>2. Review through our internal arrangements that all council providers have effective business continuity arrangements are in place to respond to impacts of climate change</p>		
<p>3. Embed through our recommissioning programmes, a requirement for providers funded by Adult Care to work to net zero and ensure that providers</p>		

can respond to effects of climate change.		
<p>4. Organise dedicated climate focused workshops during 2024 with providers and voluntary sector funded via Adult Care to identify opportunities for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • innovation projects which support and can realise net zero • mid to longer-term projects in which we can pool or share resources to reduce our overall carbon footprint • 'buy and use local' as using local resources has a substantially better impact on our climate than importing from other areas; • introducing climate champions who will be responsible for holding us to account, providing a climate steer, horizon scanning and identifying opportunities for improvements • a move towards fleet vehicles and/or electric vehicles for our workforce. 	<p>We have a coherent and joined up approach across care providers that enables us to share best practice and learn from each other.</p> <p>We are robust in our delivery with and a centralised ownership of our climate responsibility alongside delivery.</p> <p>An increasing response to our green and climate strategies as a cohesive city</p>	<p><i>Outcome 4: Effective and Efficient - Priority 12- Climate & Net Zero</i></p>
<p>4. Through implementation of Adult Care Target Operating Model – specifically homecare, residential, supported living and care management - embed locally community-based and connected working to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enable travel necessary to reduce our carbon footprint • launch an inter-agency car share scheme, promote the use of bicycles and walking route • optimise the use of assistive technology or wider digital applications, enabling more remote working, a reduction of risk and transport emissions. 	<p>A reduction in current climate impact with mitigations in place to avoid further/future negative impacts.</p> <p>Our approaches enable people to live the life they want to live, are compliant with our duties and enable individuals, families, and unpaid carers to experience an excellent service and satisfaction with our delivery, no matter who the provider.</p>	<p><i>Outcome 4: Effective and Efficient - Priority 12- Climate & Net Zero</i></p> <p><i>Outcome 3: Active and Independent Living – Living and Ageing Well, Mental Health and Disability Friendly City.</i></p>
<p>5. Through our Strategic Planning Partnerships have open discussions about climate change and agree actions</p>	<p>Our 'I Statements' are met- I aspire in my life and achieve my goals.</p>	<p><i>Outcome 4: Effective and Efficient - Priority</i></p>

which will support people to achieve their own goals.

12- Climate & Net Zero

Outcome 3:
Active and Independent Living – *Living and Ageing Well, Mental Health and Disability Friendly City.*

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