



Cheshire West
and Chester

A Sustainable and Resilient future for West Cheshire

**Cheshire West and Chester
Sustainability Commission**

December 2013



Forward

'A Sustainable and Resilient Future for West Cheshire' is based on the principle that if we are to achieve a truly sustainable community, the direction of travel set must be right. Cheshire West and Chester Council recognises its responsibilities in estate management, service provision and community leadership. The Council also recognises its influence extends to the community, local businesses and other public service providers.

In March 2009, just before Cheshire West and Chester Council was established, it adopted [Vision 2050](#) as a blue print to develop its future sustainability policies. The Council's sustainability commitment is set out in the [Statement of Intent – Sustainability](#). Over the last few years, the Council and its partners have delivered a range of exciting and innovative initiatives aimed at delivering a sustainable future and responding to the challenges of climate change.

This strategy has been developed as a result of a Borough-wide Sustainability Commission, established in September 2011 to see how we could become a carbon neutral Borough. In exploring this vision, the Commission has considered a number of key 'sustainable' themes, listened to expert witness, understood a range of programmes and developed recommendations. These recommendations have now been developed into a detailed action plan as part of this strategy. I am enormously grateful for the work of the Sustainability Commission and its Chair, Councillor Keith Board as well as the expert witnesses who gave an impressive account of the work to date and the key challenges we all face in moving forward.

In addition, since the Commission was established, work has continued in this area. In 2012, Cheshire West and Chester Council has signed up to [Climate Local](#) and has worked with partners across the sub region to ensure plans are put into place to further secure our sustainable and resilient future. We have also been recognised nationally and regionally as best practice through a range of pilot case studies.

We also must recognise and capitalise upon the opportunities through a sustainable and resilient future; energy savings, local energy generation and resilience, energy micro-grids, local employment in low carbon sector, business continuity in the face of climate change, as well as the wider sustainability benefits such as reducing fuel poverty, increase health and well being, local resourcing, community engagement and involvement. The Council must lead by example to ensure that the Council's services are being delivered with the most efficient sustainable resources with minimal environmental impact through its Carbon Management Plan and other areas. The Council also needs to work with our partners, local organisations, businesses and the wider community of Cheshire West and Chester to make the transition to a sustainable and resilient future for Cheshire West and Chester.

Cllr. Mike Jones
Leader of Cheshire West and Chester Council

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Executive Summary

There is a growing consensus that we need to undertake actions now to help us move towards a more sustainable future of a low carbon and resilient community. This report sets out the recommendations of the Sustainability Commission of Inquiry with the aim of helping us meet the Council's wish of gaining a better understand of what it would mean to become a carbon neutral Borough.

As Chairman of the Sustainability Commission I very much hope that the actions we have put forward arising from our recommendations will provide the Council and its partner organisations with a stronger steer on the measures needed to help us towards a more sustainable future.

It needs to be acknowledged that across the borough the Council and its partners are already very active delivering sustainability and climate change initiatives and not lose sight of the fact that they have been doing so over a number of years. This report builds on this existing work and provides a long term action plan to identify linkages between existing initiatives with the aim of strengthening their cumulative impact on our Borough.

This is the second report from the Commission. Last year we published our interim report setting out the evidence presented to us at each Inquiry sitting, the key lines of inquiry that we pursued and the 41 final recommendations we put forward to be considered by practitioners. I am now pleased to present this final report which is the logical progression of the recommendations towards what it might mean in terms of delivery on the ground, by us as a Local Authority and by our partner organisations.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank members of the Commission and those who presented evidence and provided support to the Commission since its inception. The high quality and standard of the evidence submitted the thoroughness of the examination as well as the highly professional and smooth operation of the Commission all needs to be acknowledged and commended.

Councillor Keith Board
Chairman, Sustainability Commission
July 2013

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Since its creation, Cheshire West and Chester, along with a range of partners has been developing and delivering a range of sustainability programmes and initiatives. In 2011, the Leader of the Council wanted to gain a better understanding of what it would mean to undertake a carbon neutral approach to the delivery of services and activities across the Borough. To examine the issues and implications of this fundamental approach and to investigate future opportunities, a Commission of Inquiry was proposed.

From the outset the Commission wanted to ensure it had an appreciation of the current situation faced by the Borough. The University of Chester was commissioned to undertake baseline data collection, to provide us with a comprehensive understanding of the current carbon emissions/ footprint.

The Commission was asked to:-

- share best practice across the organisation and sectors;
- understand new opportunities for lowering local carbon footprints;
- develop a firm plan of action to coordinate change;
- oversee implementation and to challenge progress.

This meant in the first instance looking at the Council's own operations and service functions; secondly engaging with other organisations to examine how best to work with partners and finally taking a broader look at the whole Borough approach that includes the role of the community and the private sector.

1.2 Commission of Inquiry

The Commission of Inquiry is:-

- closely based on tried and tested models such as that hosted by Hampshire County Council. It focused on the shape of future services for people in need of support and care, seeking to understand what "personalisation" means for individuals.
- built on a series of evidence gathering workshops, organised on a thematic basis, covering the specific objectives of [Vision 2050](#) – the local Sustainability Strategy.
- helping to shape and align the activities of the Authority and its Partners with environmental sustainability principles. Through well informed debate this body has identified 41 key recommendations on how the Authority and the Borough might address environmental sustainability and carbon neutrality.

1.3 Structure of the Report

This report sets out the wider context and overview of the evidence presented by experts, documents the key issues raised and sets out a detailed action plan building on the 41 key recommendations of the Commission.

To ensure the work of the Commission is aligned with other key reports and initiatives that are relevant to the Sustainability of West Cheshire, the report:-

- takes forward the specific Objectives of [Vision 2050](#),
- sets out how the recently launched [Local Government Association's initiative "Climate Local"](#) fits alongside our recommendations by highlighting which local Commitments and Actions are relevant to the draft recommendations.

1.4 Stages of the Inquiry

From the outset, the Commission had to be clear about what was to be investigated at each Inquiry sitting. The Commission wanted to “put in place a key line of Inquiry for each stage, articulate what was to be investigated, and agree a set of specific questions that the Commission would seek to have answered with the assistance of expert witnesses”.

The following themes were examined:-

- Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
- Housing and Development
- Resource Management and Waste
- Transport and Accessibility
- Climate Resilience and Adaptation

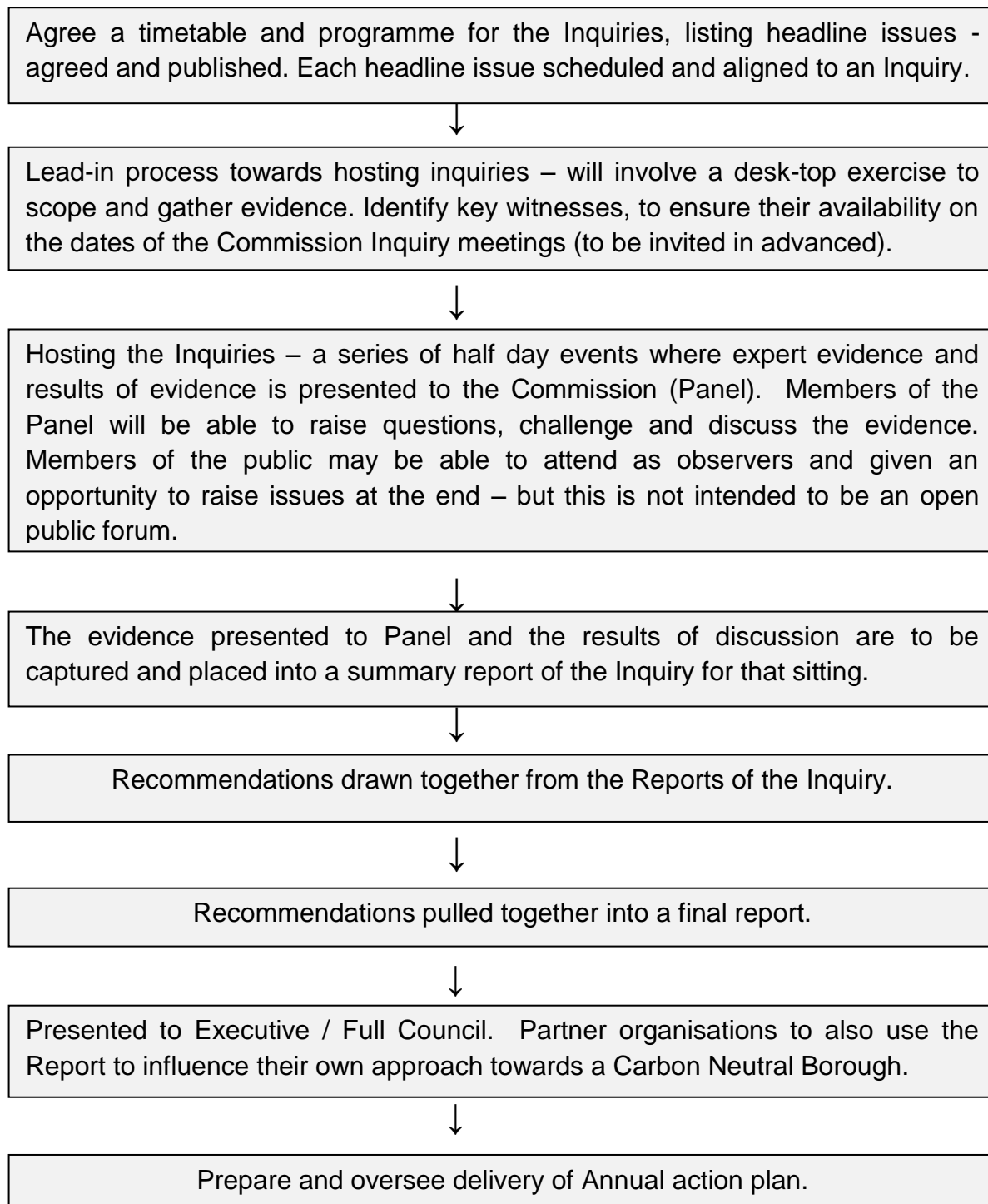
1.5 Operation of the Commission

Expert evidence was presented to the Commission who in turn asked questions and made requests for further information. Based on a common approach for each of the themes to be investigated, each Inquiry sitting was asked to:-

1. Look at the evidence to establish where we are now,
2. Challenge what could be done better
3. Identify future delivery opportunities.

In parallel to the reporting process the Commission was also asked to identify measures that could be set in motion before policy recommendations were laid out. This would allow the Authority to take advantage of any funding available from nationally based initiatives.

From the outset it was envisaged that the procedural stages through to recommendation and report writing would take the following route:-



2. International and National context

2.1 Global action on Climate Change

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was created in 1992 as the main forum for international agreement on tackling climate change. 195 countries have now joined the international treaty to participate in negotiations that focus on the following four key areas:

- Adapting to climate change
- Finance to enable action on mitigation and adaptation
- Mitigation (i.e. reduction) of greenhouse gas emissions
- Technology development and transfer to allow green development

Industrialised countries are encouraged to reduce their emissions under the UNFCCC, some have recognized their burden of responsibility for past emissions with 37 countries having now set legal emission commitments under the Kyoto Protocol in 1997.

The Kyoto Protocol set a 5% reduction below 1990 levels for the first commitment period (2008-2012). This has been achieved but has not been enough to offset the rapidly increasing emissions from other countries without legal commitments. The UK's commitment under the Protocol was a 12.5% reduction and has been achieved, with emissions being reduced by 27% by 2011.

A second Kyoto commitment period has been agreed from 2013 to 2020. Fewer countries remain signatories although the UK and the EU are participating. Many other UNFCCC countries have made voluntary pledges to cut their emissions by 2020.

Work continues on building a stronger international regime. The UNFCCC has agreed to aim for a new “protocol, legal instrument or agreed outcome with legal force... applicable to all Parties” by 2015. Countries have also recognised that reductions should be rapid enough to keep global temperature within 2°C above pre-industrial levels. The UK's 2050 target is broadly consistent with a global effort to achieve this.

The UNFCCC commits all Parties to formulate, implement, publish and update adaptation measures, as well as to cooperate on adaptation. It provides for a variety of support mechanisms for the implementation of adaptation measures in developing countries.

In 2010 the Cancun Adaptation Framework was adopted, and it was agreed that adaptation must be given the same priority as mitigation. The Framework calls for further action on adaptation including reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience in developing country Parties.

2.2 European Union Climate Change Legislation

As a member of the European Union (EU), the UK participates in EU action to tackle climate change. The EU has committed to three targets for 2020:

- To reduce emissions by 20% on 1990 levels
- To provide 20% of its total energy from renewables
- To increase energy efficiency by 20% from 2007 levels

EU leaders have also endorsed an 80-95% reduction in emissions by 2050. A low carbon roadmap has been produced to show how this target could be achieved this includes:

- EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS). The EU ETS works by capping overall emissions from high-emitting industry sectors and power stations, with a yearly decrease in the level of the cap. Within this cap, companies can buy and sell emission allowances as needed. This cap-and-trade approach gives companies the flexibility they need to cut their emissions in the most cost-effective way. The cap will lead to a 21% decrease in emissions by 2020.
- Renewable Energy Directive (RED). This was put in place to help the EU meet its renewables target. Renewables include biomass, wind power, solar power, hydropower, and geothermal energy. In addition at least 10 % of final energy consumption in the transport sector must come from renewables by 2020. Each Member State has an individual target within RED. The UK's target is for 15%.
- Energy Efficiency Directive (2012). This sets the framework for measures to promote energy efficiency across the EU and help the EU reduce its energy consumption by 20%.
- New car and van CO₂ targets. The EU has binding targets on the level of emissions allowed from new cars and vans to decrease emissions from road transport.
- Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). The EU is supporting the development of CCS technology to trap and store CO₂ emitted from power stations and other major industrial installations.
- 2030 Climate Framework. The EU plans to propose next year a framework for reducing greenhouse gases in the period until 2030 to continue the trajectory toward a low-carbon economy in the period beyond 2020

In April 2009 the EU produced an adaptation White Paper which sets out a framework of adaptation measures and policies to reduce vulnerability to climate change. The framework focuses on the following key areas: building a stronger knowledge base, considering climate change impacts in key EU policies, financing climate policy measures, and supporting wider international efforts at adapting.

2.3 The Climate Change Act and UK Regulations

The Government has taken a number of steps to limit the UK's emissions of greenhouse gases through legally binding targets, both now and in the future. The UK has been signed up to the Kyoto Protocol since 1995.

The Climate Change Act was passed in 2008 and established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. It also strengthened the UK's leadership internationally by highlighting the role it would take in contributing to urgent collective action to tackle climate change under the Kyoto Protocol. The Climate Change Act includes the following:

- **2050 Target.** The act commits the UK to reducing emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels. This target was based on advice from the CCC report: Building a Low-carbon Economy. The 80% target includes GHG emissions from the devolved administrations, which currently accounts for around 20% of the UK's total emissions.
- **Carbon Budgets.** The Act requires the Government to set legally binding 'carbon budgets'. A carbon budget is a cap on the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in the UK over a five-year period. The Committee provides advice on the appropriate level of each carbon budget which is designed to reflect cost effective paths to achieving the long terms objectives. The first four carbon budgets have been put into legislation and have been designed to run up to 2027.
- **The Committee on Climate Change** was set up to advise the Government on emissions targets, and report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It includes the **Adaptation Sub-Committee (ASC)** which scrutinises and advises on the Government's programme for adapting to climate change.
- **The National Adaptation Plan (NAP)**, which will be published later this year, requires the Government to assess the UK's risks from climate change, prepare a strategy to address them, and encourage critical organisations to do the same.

3. Our Carbon Footprint

3.1 Introduction

One of the key objectives of the Cheshire West and Chester Sustainability Commission is to support coordinated action and activities so that the borough as a whole can play a full role in helping the Government achieve the legally binding commitment to reduce carbon emissions by the targets set in the Climate Change Act (2008). However, in order to develop actions towards reducing carbon emissions, we need to have a good understanding of the current emissions for Cheshire West and Chester and the sectors that contribute to these emissions.

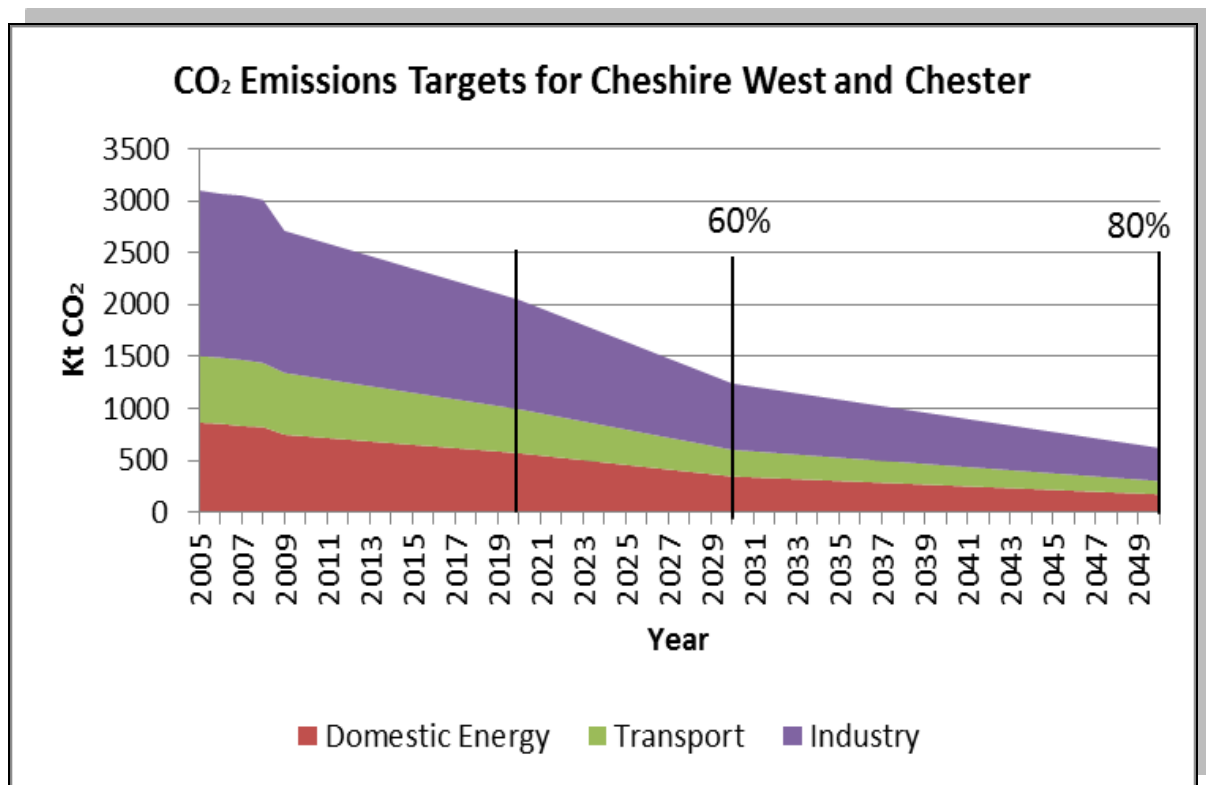


Figure 1: Emission targets for Cheshire West and Chester

3.2 Methodology

NI186, the former national indicator to demonstrate per capita CO₂ emissions, is now referred to as “CO₂ emissions within the scope of influence of Local Authorities”. The data continues to be collected with current data sets covers the period 2005 – 2009 (obtained from the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC)). The baseline carbon footprint for the Cheshire West and Chester area is presented with a breakdown of emissions from each of the three main sectors: domestic, transport and industry and commercial.

3.3 The National Picture

The Climate Change Act (2008) established a legally binding target to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050. Interim targets require reductions of 34% below 1990 levels by 2020 and 60% by 2030. Current policies suggest that the UK is on track to cut emissions by over a third by 2020 (DECC, 2011c). It is anticipated that the development and deployment of technologies is needed to meet the 80% reduction.

DECC (2011c) reported that emissions from the domestic sector have reduced by 18% despite growth in population and housing. This has largely been attributed to regulation requiring highly efficient condensing boilers, which have been calculated as making savings of £800 million per year on energy bills. To date 60% of all homes with cavity walls have now been insulated.

Emissions from the transport sector remained largely unchanged until 2007. They have since fallen due to improvements in the efficiency of new vehicles.

Industrial output has grown steadily by 1% per year since 1990. However, emissions from this sector have decreased by 46%, due mainly to improved efficiencies and a shift to more knowledge-intensive sectors.

DECC (2011c) predicts that in order to meet the 2050 targets, energy efficiency will need to continue to increase dramatically across all sectors. The oil based fuels that are used to heat and power homes, vehicles and businesses will need to be replaced by electricity, sustainable bioenergy and hydrogen (DECC, 2011c). The generation of electricity will need to be decarbonised through greater use of renewables, nuclear and carbon capture and storage.

3.4 Cheshire West and Chester emissions

Emissions in Cheshire West and Chester remained relatively constant between 2005 and 2008. Emissions from the Industrial and Commercial sector fell slightly between 2005 and 2006 and then increased by 1-2% between 2006 and 2007 (Figures 2 and 3). Emissions from the Domestic and Road Transport sector also fluctuated slightly with maximum reductions of 3% and 4% respectively. There is a geographical variation in emissions across the Borough as illustrated by Figure 4. However, between 2008 and 2009 there were greater reductions in emissions across all sectors. Figure 5 illustrates the per capita emissions during the period 2005-2009. It clearly demonstrates that all Local Authorities within the Sub Region have seen a gradual decline in CO₂ emissions from 2005 to 2008 and a much larger decrease in emissions between 2008 and 2009.

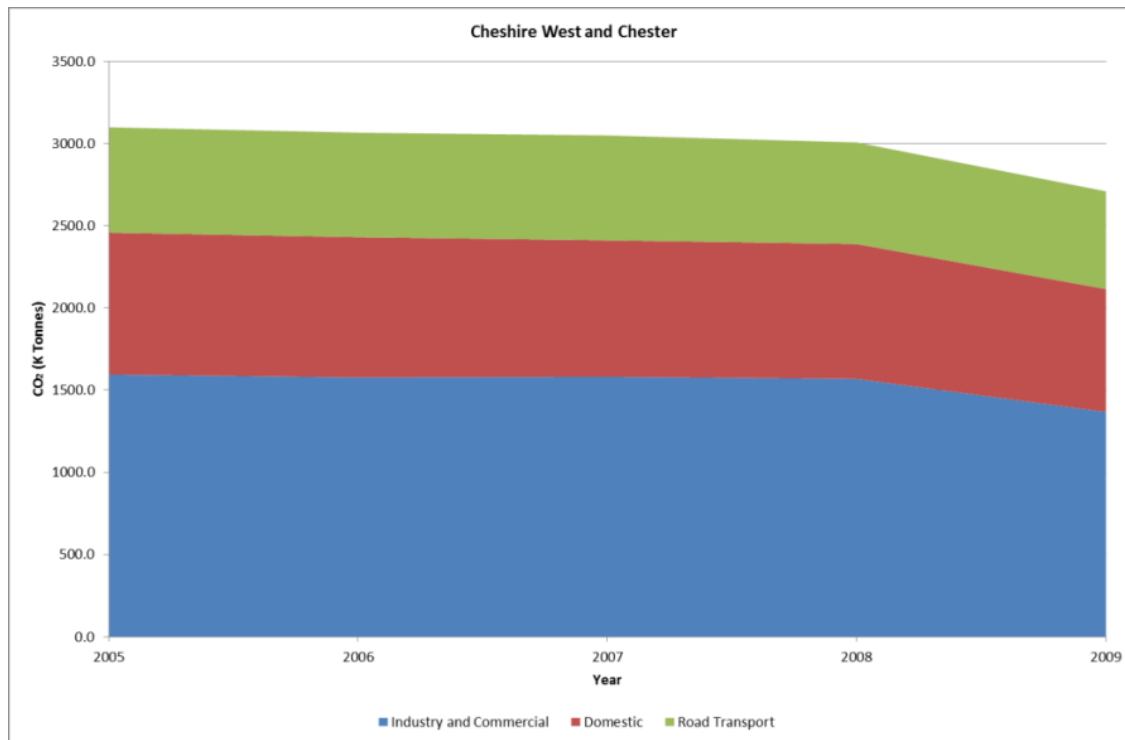


Figure 2: Cheshire West and Chester Carbon Footprint Summary

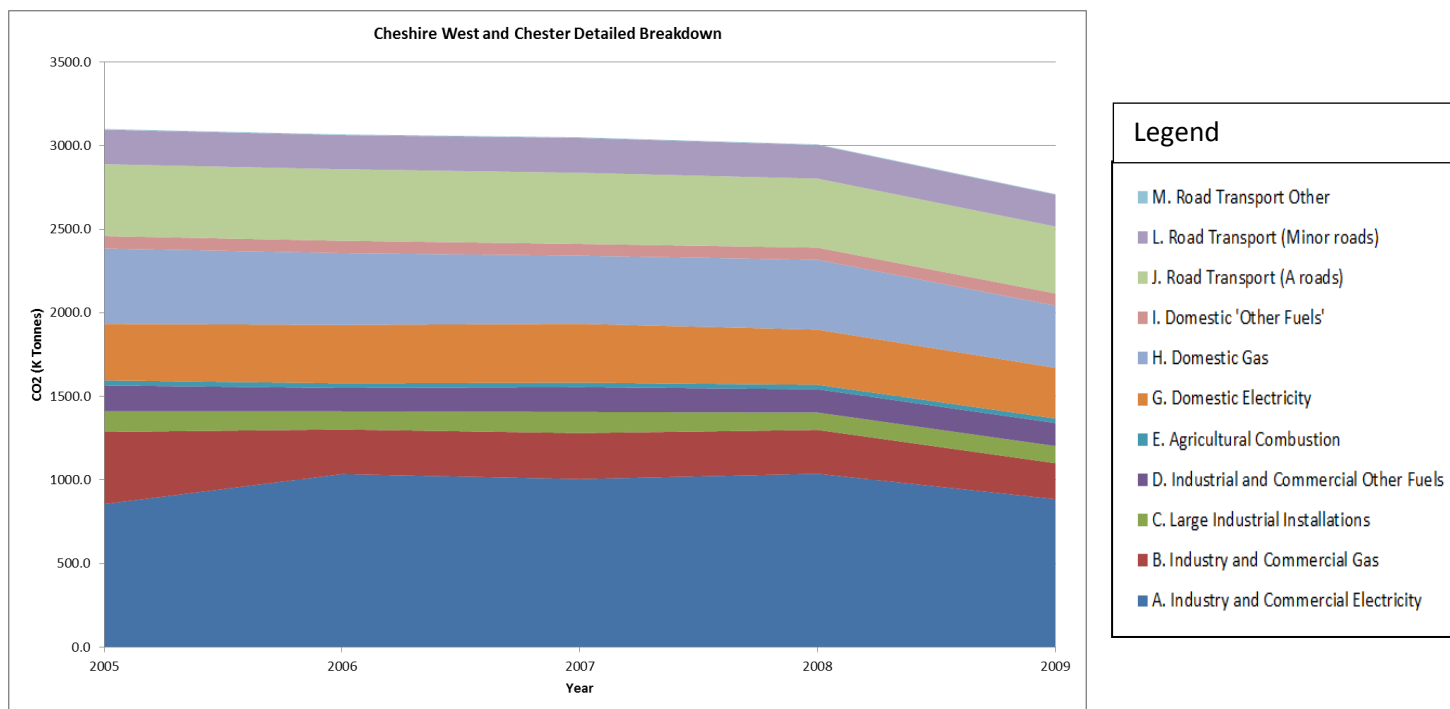


Figure 3 Cheshire West and Chester Detailed Carbon Footprint

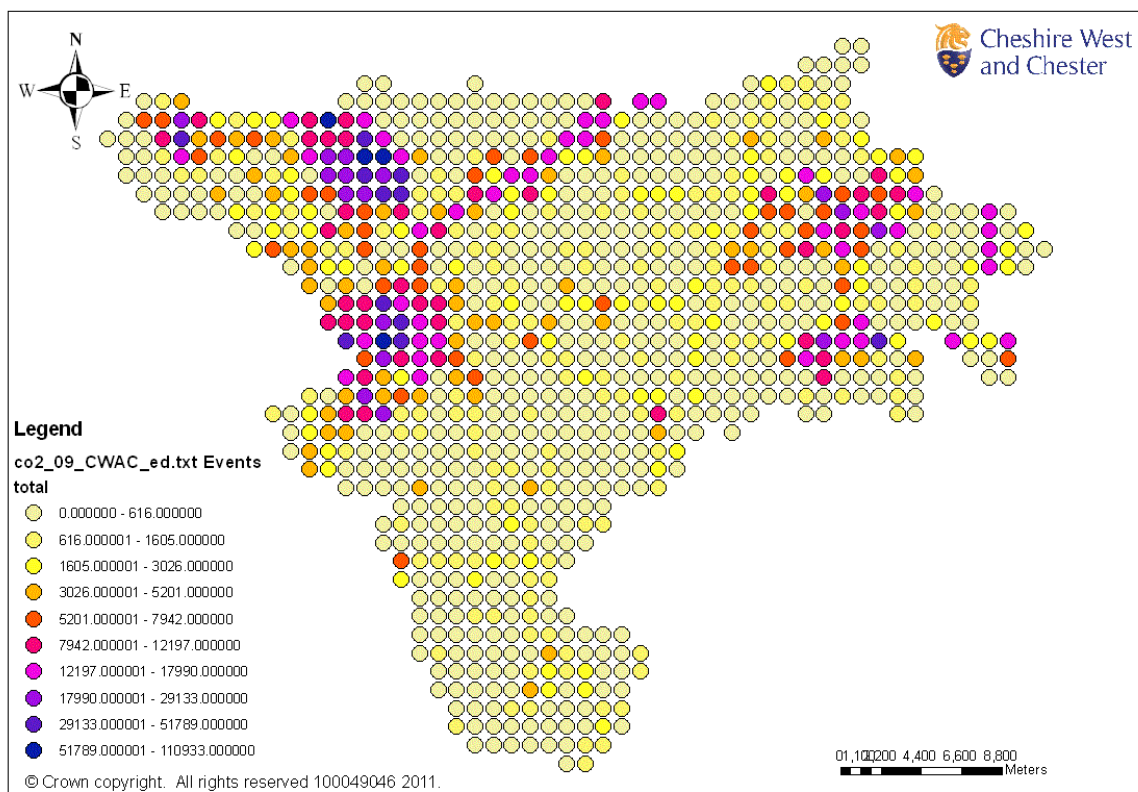


Figure 4: Emission levels across Cheshire West and Chester

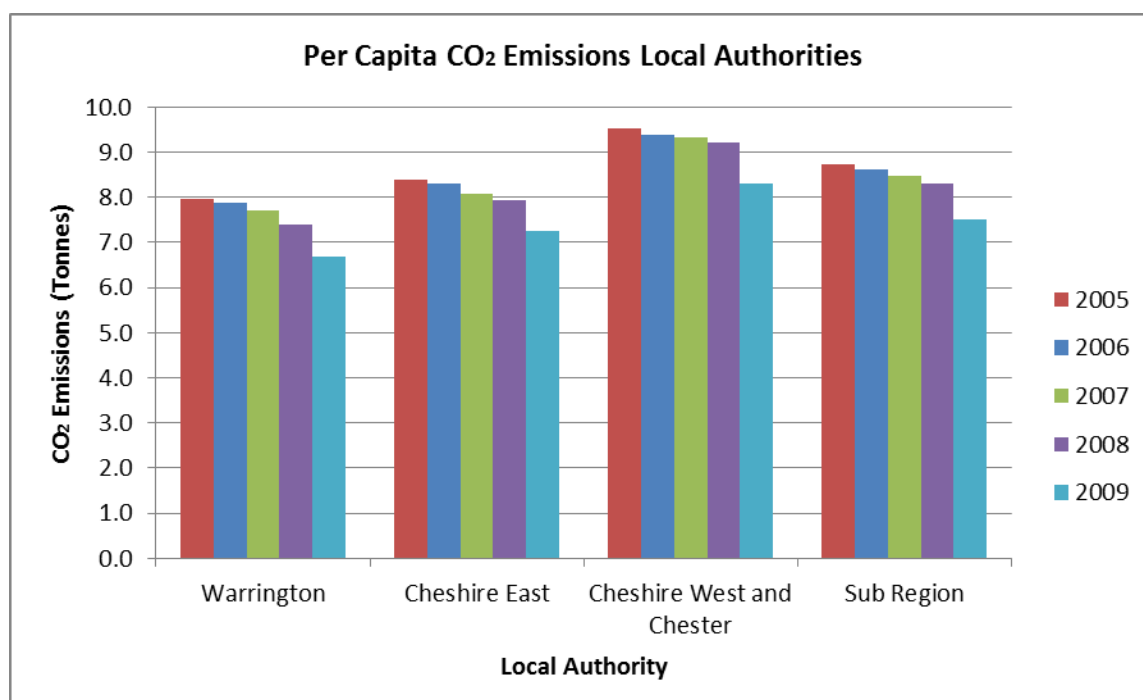


Figure 5: Per Capita Emissions for the Local Authorities in the Sub Region

3.5 Cheshire West and Chester influences and interventions

Cheshire West and Chester Council has an influence over the reduction of emissions in certain areas. For example it can exert influence through the Local Plan, housing strategies and planning policies. Certain areas under the influence of National and EU policies are beyond the remit of a local authority. However the Council can work with the local community to lobby for certain actions and policies. Concurrent interventions could include:

- Domestic Energy Use Emissions

Despite considerable effort to improve energy efficiency of domestic properties in the Borough, many properties that are suitable to have cavity wall and loft insulation, remain uninsulated.

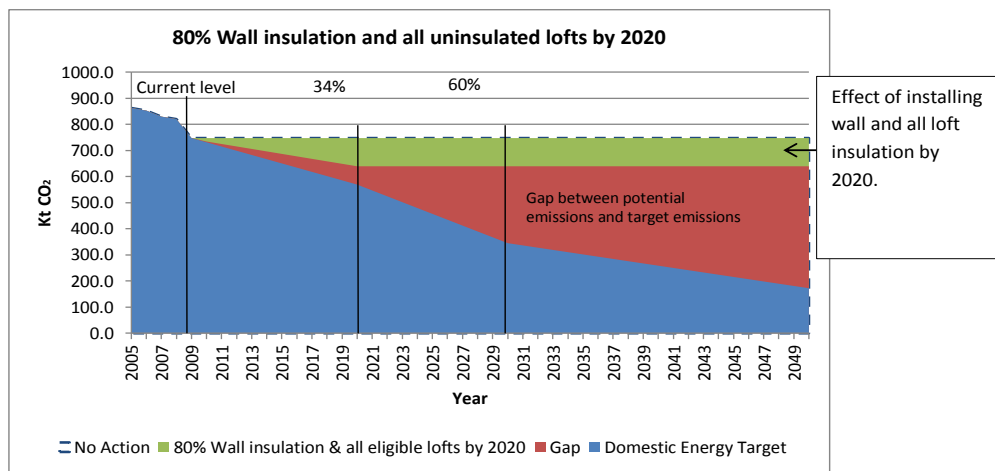


Figure 6: Savings that could be made if 80% of all properties were to have loft and cavity/solid wall insulation installed by 2020.

- Renewable Energy Generation

Further emission reductions can be achieved by introducing solar PV electricity alongside other renewable generation methods. Thus local planning policy needs not only to encourage, but actively promote and support zero carbon development and planning applications with renewable energy generation. However, even with 33% of properties in Cheshire West installing solar PV and generating over a period of 20 years, the savings are only 3 kilo tonnes and therefore difficult to see on fig 7.

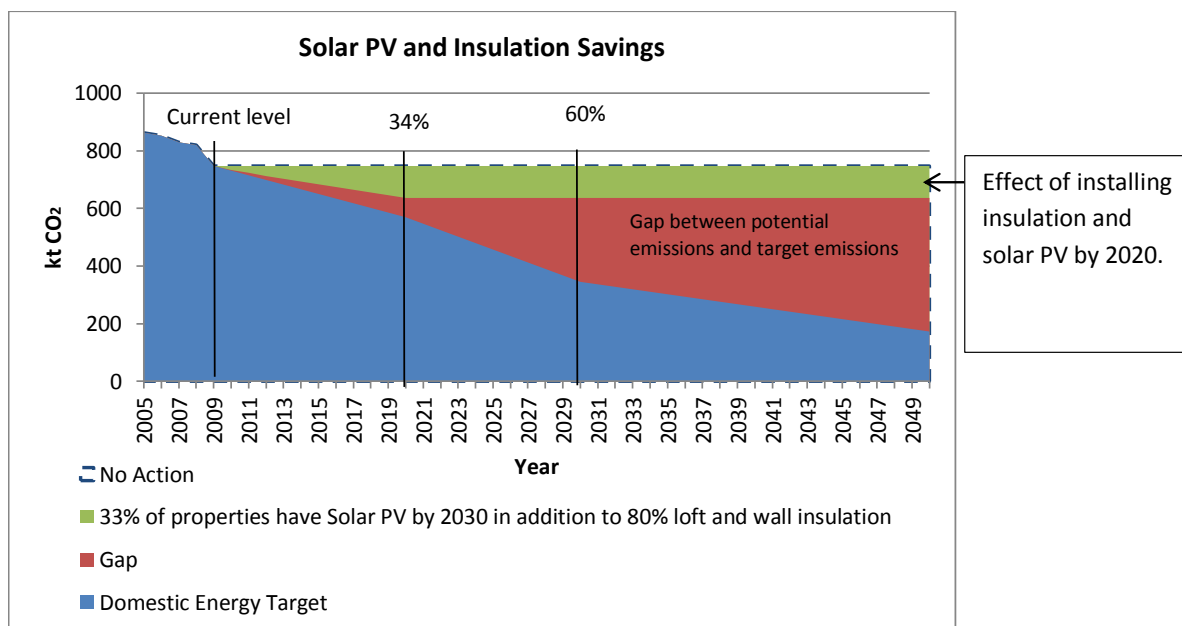


Figure 7: Savings that could be made by introducing Solar PV electricity generation to one third of private properties in the Borough by 2020.

- Integrating and Supporting Different Travel Methods working with public transport providers in the Borough to implement strategies to reduce emissions from their fleets. A co-ordinated approach is needed when developing new business parks, retail/industrial centres and residential areas to maximise the opportunities to reduce the distance needed to travel.
- Cycle Routes
An extensive cycle network exists in the Borough with links to regional and national cycle networks. The network has recently undergone development. However, cycling needs to be promoted more widely to encourage people to consider it as a viable alternative to the car for short journeys.
- Changing Behaviour
Further reduction in transport emissions can be achieved through educating drivers on how to drive more efficiently, not only saving money on fuel but reducing emissions in the Borough. Changes in behaviour in relation to choice of transport, for example appropriate to distance, necessity and options for car sharing can also make a difference.
- Low Emission/Electric Vehicles
Developing the infrastructure to enable residents to consider an electric vehicle as a viable alternative when purchasing a new car. Liaise with planners and developers to facilitate the transition to create charging points and designated parking spaces for electric vehicles.

3.6 The task ahead

Figure 8 summarises the impact the measures described above will have on the combined target for domestic and transport emissions. Contributions from some of the smaller components are almost invisible at the scale displayed but the graph emphasises that there remains a significant gap between emissions levels after savings and where targets require emissions to be by 2050 and thus significant further savings will need to be identified.

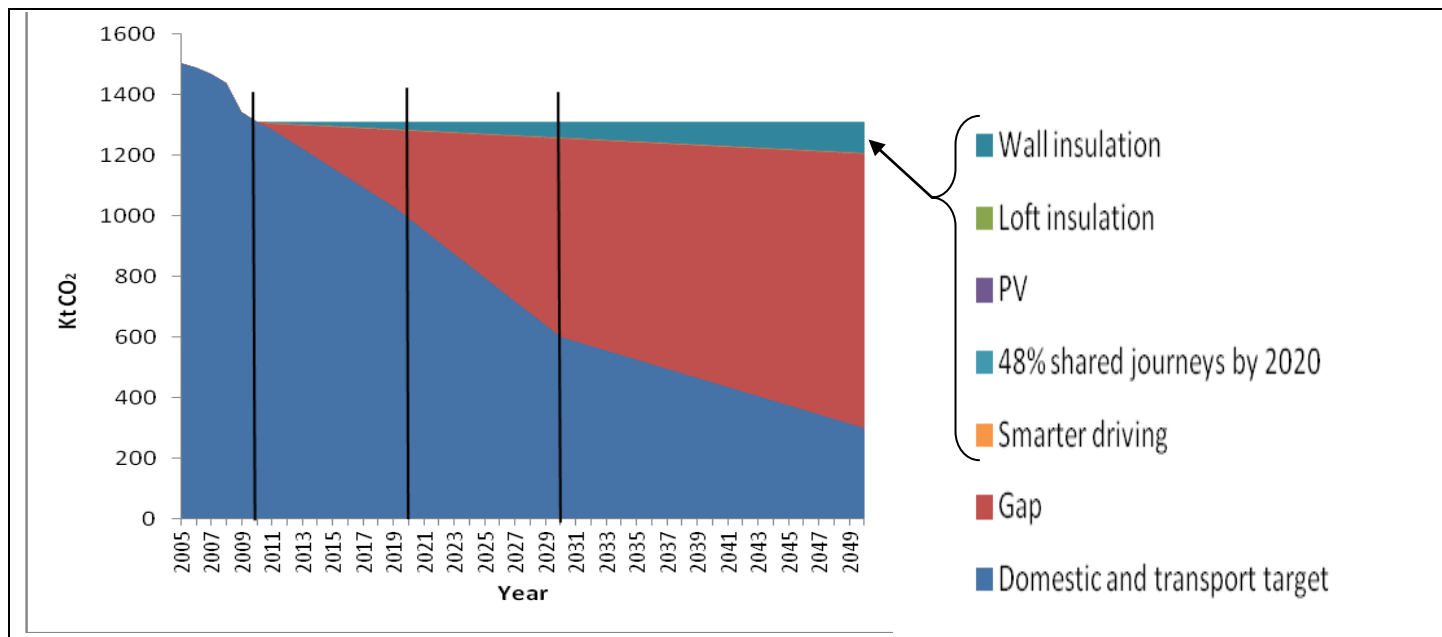


Figure 8: Summary of the impact of measures for domestic and transport emissions.

4. Inquiry Themes

4.1 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

From the presentations and discussion, the Commission has identified the following priorities to be taken forward:

- Energy efficiency and low-carbon technologies (both domestic and commercial) which includes insulation, vehicles, combined heat and power (CHP), efficient appliances and lights along with information to lead to behavioral change. Saving money is a key driver in this area in terms of savings and finance mechanisms such as Green Deal and the Energy Company Obligation (ECO), CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme.
- Fuel Poverty and Affordable Warmth. As fuel prices rise and the Universal Credit starts to impact on family budgets, it is likely that more people will fall into fuel poverty. Consequently, home energy improvements should be targeted at the most vulnerable.
- Community Energy. There is great scope to develop local community energy services to enable communities to benefit from renewables, lower fuel tariffs and collective buying/selling etc. Ashton Hayes has developed one of the first in the area; the potential now exists to roll out this approach in many other communities.
- Realising our renewable energy generation capacity. This can be developed and delivered locally by a range of mechanisms, either direct through a Special Purpose Vehicle by the Council and / or a combination of community energy services, utilising hydro, wind, solar, anaerobic digestion, waste and biomass.
- Alternative low carbon fuels for heating and for transport (including a switch to electric vehicles) to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and cut emissions. Such fuels include Biomass/ Bioenergy/ Biofuels etc, Hydrogen as well as Renewables and Nuclear. In the UK, renewables accounted for 4% of total energy consumption in 2011 while nuclear accounted for 20%.
- Smart grids and smart technology energy (District Heating Networks, and Smart Grids) to help decentralise our energy as well as make it more resilient to supply and price issues. The Local Plan along with development/ regeneration strategies are essential in the promotion of these opportunities where developers might look at 'joining up' development and energy efficiency opportunities.
- In addition, there are opportunities to explore Section 106 agreements, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), Allowable Solutions and the use of Tax Increment Finance (TIF). Also, where communities/ neighbourhoods are developing Neighbourhood Plans a further

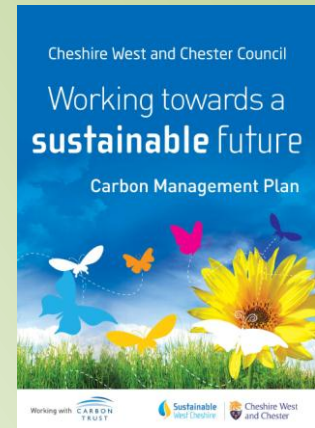
opportunity now exists for local areas to consider the introduction of energy efficient projects and proposals.

- Carbon Capture and Storage captures carbon dioxide emitted by large installations (such as industrial processes, or from burning fossil fuels or biomass) and stores it in secure spaces like geological formations, or under the seabed.
- Procurement of goods and services. Integrate energy and other sustainability criteria with financial considerations when developing tenders for services, including capital projects.
- Public Sector Carbon Management. While the Council is in the process of delivering its ambitious Carbon Management Plan, there is scope to work collaboratively across the public sector in terms of assets from energy generation, use, procurement, tariff negotiation etc.
- Water and wastewater processes. Any reduction in water or wastewater usage has a direct impact on energy consumption. Water companies acknowledge that most of their emissions are derived from the consumption of grid electricity to power water and wastewater processes. Recognising the importance of water usage the Commission has flagged this as requiring further consideration and investigation, to look more specifically at how to improve on water management and how we might influence through education, metering and policy.

Case Study: Cheshire West and Chester Council's Carbon Management Plan

Background

In March 2010, Cheshire West and Chester Council, through its Carbon Management Plan set an ambitious target of reducing its carbon emissions by 30% by April 2015, with a stretch target of an additional 10% reduction over the same period. This was set against the baseline year of 2008/09 where the Council spent £9 million on the purchase of energy and fuels associated with emitting some 53,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide. The plan also included cost efficiencies of £10.5m (cost avoidance and cost savings from reduced energy use)

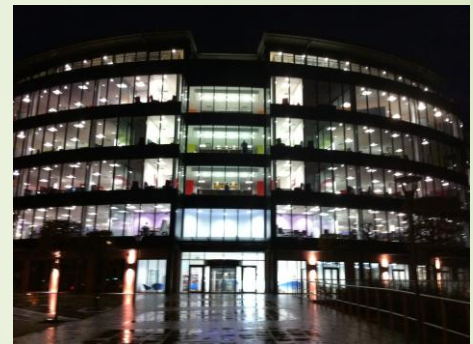


Work to date

Solar Photo voltaic panels have been installed, costing £1.35m and covering 10kWp per school at 34 Primary schools, Weaverham High School and Wyvern House, as well as a 50kWp system at Helsby High School. The total generation of these systems is 410kWp. In its first full year of operation the project has created an income to the Council of over £120,000 per year from feed-in-tariff and deemed rate including costs and index linked. This is legally guaranteed for 25 years and in addition the schools have seen an average of a 20% reduction in their consumption of electricity and its associated savings.



LED lighting has been installed successfully with motion sensors in trail areas e.g. the Chester Subways and savings off metered supplies have seen up to 90% cost and energy consumption reductions.



The Council is supporting schools in their energy savings by facilitating Salix funding loans. Bishop Heber High School was the first school to take advantage of this loan for a LED light replacement scheme. The School has shown over an 8% reduction in consumption and a 7% in costs (despite the energy price rises) reduction.

Next Steps

- Street lighting roll out of LED retrofit
- Develop the hydroelectric scheme at Chester weir in partnership with the University of Chester.
- Install The Conway Centre Biomass boiler scheme

More information

http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your_council/policies_and_performance/climate_change_sustainability/green_house_gas_emissions.aspx



Case Study: Cheshire West and Chester Council's Warm Zone

Background

Cheshire West and Chester Council adopted a proactive collaborative approach to dealing with fuel poverty and thermal inefficiency. The Council's Affordable Warmth Strategy has been developed through a process of consultation with a full range of multi-agency stakeholders including the Council and other public services, social housing partners, health colleagues, third sector partners and local communities in order to address affordable warmth, tackling fuel poverty and reducing the health impact of people due to excess cold.



Work to date

In September 2011 the Council started the Warm Zone initiative to deliver an area based scheme for loft and cavity wall insulation and heating measures for all residents across the borough using funding from Scottish Power. Funding available from the utility company under their Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT) obligation matched the Council's funding by four times, and this enabled the Cheshire West Warm Zone scheme to offer free insulation measures to all residents in the borough regardless of tenure or profile. The formal 'free to all' offer came to an end on 31 December 2013 and the scheme successfully delivered over 5000 thermal-efficiency measures during the 14 months period of operation. In delivering an area based scheme, economies of scale allowed leverage of £4 private funding for every £1 public funding. The total investment of private funding being £1.2M.



During the winters of 2011/12 and 2012/13, through the Department of Health, Healthy Homes, Healthy People fund, the Council facilitated the delivery of range of additional initiatives with Partners:

- Save Money Keep Warm (Blacon)
- Community Friends – Chester Voluntary Action
- Emergency Warmth – Warm Zone
- Spread the Warmth – Age UK / Cheshire Fire Service
- Warmth Over Winter – Mears Group
- Energy Awareness Training – Energy Projects Plus
- Snow Angels – Vale Royal CCG and Ashton Hayes areas
- Ellesmere Port and Neston Live at Home Scheme



Next Steps

The Council is seeking to develop a new domestic energy saving scheme through a single point of contact and seamless co-ordination of services for householders requiring assistance with energy saving. The new scheme will help residents to access the Green Deal and assist residents with funding available through the different strands of the Energy Company Obligation.



More information on the Council's energy efficiency offer:

http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/housing/private_housing/energy_efficiency.aspx

4.2 Housing and Development

From the presentations and discussion, the Commission has identified the following priorities to be taken forward:

- The emerging Local Plan needs to incorporate robust Carbon Reduction Targets and standards that cover the whole of the Borough. There also needs to be a clear monitoring framework to ensure the Borough is able to measure any targets set and then attempt to adjust policy accordingly.
- Information and early discussion is the key to improve energy efficiency and capitalise upon opportunities for renewable technology including the installation of District Heating systems, to serve both existing and new build properties. Cheshire West and Chester is in the best position to broker partnerships between developers and energy companies in advance of schemes being drawn up.
- Key regeneration programmes need to demonstrate a strong commitment and implement exemplar developments with innovations in architecture, building construction and standards, that can deliver energy generation through infrastructure. There is a huge opportunity to set standards in building design, layout and overall development to strive for greater energy efficiency through the key developments now being progressed in Chester, Northwich and Ellesmere Port,
- Moving towards zero-carbon standards can be assisted by using levers such as planning policy and building control to work alongside developers. Cheshire West and Chester can make best use of the planning system to help shape the promotion of energy efficiency and the implementation of best practice where possible in the Local Plan process. This will also need to include development management and the more regulatory elements of the system such as building control.
- The Borough's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) must strive to increase on-site energy efficiency and renewable energy generation. The "Energy Opportunities Map" and evidence that supports the Local Plan will help to inform policy and identify investment opportunities, particularly in terms of infrastructure that might then be articulated within the CIL list of schemes to be supported.
- In developing Neighbourhood Plans Communities should be encouraged to consider the introduction of Energy Efficient measures where development opportunities are identified. This will need to be developed through the various hand-holding mechanisms.
- Environmental and climate change constraints on developments need to be recognised within land use policy by clearly setting out where development is constrained or how we might carry out adaption to mitigate any risks.

- Community Resilience Plans need to be in place for those areas in the most deprived neighbourhoods they need to be accounted for in plans and policies such as flood risk management strategies and Health/Fire/Police emergency contingency plans.

Case Study: Local Plan

Background

Cheshire West and Chester are preparing a new Local Plan for the borough. The Local Plan (Part One) will set out the strategic planning policies to guide future development for housing, employment, retail, leisure and infrastructure.

Work to date

The emerging Local Plan includes strategic objectives in relation to addressing climate change; sustainable transport; reducing energy use and renewable energy application. This is supported by planning policies on delivering alternative energy supplies; managing waste and high quality design and sustainable construction.

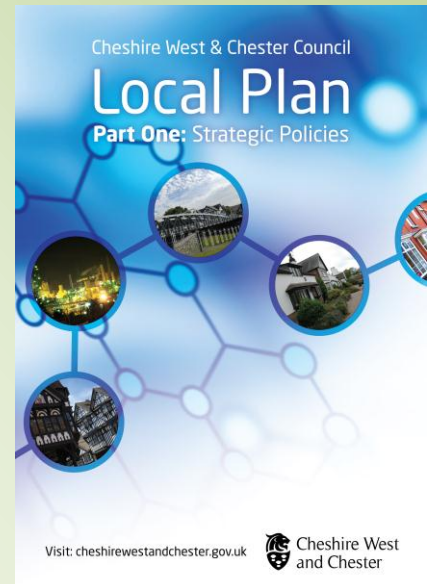
The emerging policies in the Local Plan (Part One) are supported by a range of evidence base documents including on housing, green infrastructure, transport, employment, natural environment, open space, retail and leisure, waste and renewable energy.

A low carbon and renewable energy study was prepared in 2012 to support the energy policies in the Local Plan. This assessed the opportunities for Local Carbon and Renewable Energy generation in the borough and recommended how this could be supported through policies in the Local Plan.

Next Steps

Consultation on the Publication Draft Local Plan (Part One) will begin in late summer 2013, with the Local Plan anticipated to be adopted by Spring 2014. This will be followed by the Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies. Preparation is due to begin on this in Autumn 2013.

<http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/localplan>



4.3 Resource Management and Waste

From the presentations and discussion, the Commission has identified the following priorities to be taken forward:

- Increased information to residents to inform them about where their waste goes, including the amount of waste the Borough imports and exports, the number of “waste miles” undertaken to transport waste and the geographical spread of waste in terms of its generation, disposal and treatment. School visits to recycling/ waste disposal facilities should be encouraged to provide an opportunity to educate and change behaviour
- Re-launch the Waste Reduction Volunteers programme to work closer with communities and volunteers. In addition, actively encourage Community Composting and help create greater local community ownership.
- Promote the Cheshire Furniture Reuse Forum (CFRF) to encourage greater furniture reuse and recycling of bulky waste items.
- Trade waste advisory service (Cheshire West and Chester Council, Chester University and the Chambers of Commerce) to be promoted to provide a joined-up service to Small and Medium sized businesses.
- Plan for Waste to ensure that a clear strategic Borough position is given on the approach to the allocation and construction of waste-to-energy facilities to help plan for the management of waste. There needs to be greater involvement of local communities in the shaping of proposals that might impact on their local area.
- Explore new technology for waste treatment to maximise waste-to-energy schemes as well as explore landfill gas energy extraction.

Case Study:



The Recycle First Service (household recycling and refuse collection)

Background

Before the Recycle First recycling and refuse collection service was introduced householders had different methods of collection depending upon which former district council area they lived.

In 2010, the Council went out to tender for a new waste collection contract for the whole of the Borough. In November 2011 May Gurney was appointed as service provider to deliver a new recycling and waste collection service to the borough's residents.

May Gurney focus is to develop better ways of collection in order to maximise the amount of valuable recycling from household waste and reduce the amount going to landfill.

The new fourteen year contract started in April 2012 and transformed the three existing collection arrangements into a single new service.

Work to date

The new service was rolled out in phases to the whole of the borough throughout 2012. The recycling rate for the borough increased by 6% to 56% in 2012-2013.

Service improvements have been made since the service started. For example, residents are now able to use plastic carrier bags to line the brown food caddy rather than using compostable liners.

Flats and other communal properties have been dealt with separately and ways of delivering the Recycle First service into these properties are currently being explored.

A website has been designed to give residents more information about their recycling and refuse collection, focusing especially on the collection method, reprocessing and the end market of the recycle.

Next Steps

Part of the Recycle First service is the collection of food waste. As this is a new material to be collected from residents there will be a communications campaign delivered to re-launch this part of the service and also encourage residents to reduce the amount of food they throw away.

A new education centre based at the recycling depot will open where schools and community groups can visit to learn more about the Recycle First service and the recycling process.

Flats and other communal areas will start to receive the Recycle First service but in a way that is suitable for the accommodation.

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/recyclefirst



Case Study: The Waste Reduction Volunteer project

Background

The Waste Reduction Volunteer project started in 2008. The project is run in partnership with Cheshire East Council. Enthusiastic volunteers are recruited and trained in Love Food Hate Waste and home composting. During their training they are given the skills, knowledge and tools to go out into their local community to talk to people about how they can reduce their waste.

The volunteers attend a range of different events such as workshops, roadshows, talks, schools and community projects.

Work to date

To date (Aug 2013) there have been 78 volunteers trained since the beginning of the project. We have around 45-50 active volunteers with around 23 of these being extremely active and attend events at least once a quarter.

Since June 2010 to June 2013 the volunteers have –

- Volunteered 2,430 hours
- Attended 344 events
- Engaged with 18,458 residents

Next Steps

The project is always looking for new volunteers and recruitment campaigns are held throughout the year.

Further work will take place to develop a schools pilot project where the volunteers will deliver educational sessions for children of primary school age.

The continued development of partnership projects will continue so volunteers can become involved with their local community projects, promoting Love Food Hate Waste and home composting.



Case Study: Bulky Waste Reuse and Recycling

Background

May Gurney were appointed as the Council's new Recycling Collection Contractor on 1 April 2012, with the new Recycle First service transformation taking place during 2012. The first year of the Recycle First service have seen outstanding results with recycling levels rising to 56% for 2012/13.

As part of the new Recycle First contract the bulky waste collection service was sub contracted to the Cheshire Furniture Reuse Forum (CFRF), which is made up of not-for-profit community groups that collect furniture and electrical goods for reuse. The new service will maximise reuse and recycling of all items collected through the bulky waste service.



Work to date

The first year of the bulky waste collection service has recycled or reused over 40% of all bulky waste which otherwise would have been sent to landfill.

Working with CFRF Changing Lives in Cheshire and Reviive were identified as the key partner organisation within the CFRF to take the contract forward. Changing Lives in Cheshire undertake collections and manage the materials, whilst Reviive are working on a new shop in Chester for re-sellable items.



Mattress recycling has also started for the first time, allowing even more waste to be recycled.

Next Steps

In partnership with CFRF the council are working on a new online portal where residents will be able to book and pay for their bulky waste collection on line, making using the service even quicker and easier.

Future promotion of the scheme will take place, to maximise reuse of items.



Case Study: Junior Environment Club

Background

This club is delivered to Cheshire West and Chester primary schools by the Waste Management and Streetscene departments. Climate Change staff, the Waste Reduction Volunteers and the Community Safety Wardens also utilise the club resources and promote their roles using the clubs resources.

Schools will nominate a couple of Junior Environmental Officers from years 5 or 6 to work with the Council to learn more about their environment, engage with their fellow pupils to spread key messages and show their enthusiasm to run lots of different events.

The Junior Environmental Officers are presented with a useful handbook that sets out key monthly environmental activities that they can promote in schools. The Council also engages with club members about the latest environmental campaigns that are taking place within their area.

Each year over 80% of our primary schools join this prestigious club.



Work to date

Children are requested to attend a fun packed launch event at one of three venues where certificates and club information will be given. Between October and June the JEOs carry out small environmental projects of their choosing with support from Council officers. Council projects will also be shared with JEOs. Training events will take place throughout the school year and plenty of school visits from Council officers are offered to schools when they request them.

Resources are provided free of charge to schools; these are bespoke to cover their individual needs.

At the end of the school year a Junior Environment Club of the year event is organised. This is well attended and the winning club holds the winners plaque to display at school for the forthcoming year.



Next Steps

This club continues to develop and evolve to incorporate wider environmental themes and to keep the information fresh and new.

The future plan is to officially link the Junior Environment Club to the national Eco- Schools initiative.

Discussions are taking place regarding the introduction of small environmental project funding for schools that have strong links with their local community and are willing to carry out further community engagement.

More information:

See the Junior Environment Club pages – [Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

Case Study: Business support to lower costs and tackle CO2 emissions and waste

Background

Businesses are a significant contributor towards CO2 emissions and waste arising in the Cheshire West and Chester economy. These emissions also represent a significant cost issue for companies, who are facing increased unit costs for resources, coupled with increasing taxes on carbon and waste.

Groundwork Cheshire have demonstrated through the application of low and no costs solutions that thousands of companies can become more efficient, lower their costs and minimise their business emissions and levels of waste.

Work to date

Between 2000 and 2013 Groundwork Cheshire has worked with more than 2000 companies providing support and assistance that has resulted in more than £25million of cost savings, safeguard and creating 800 jobs, whilst safeguarding and increasing company sales.

This work has been funded by a range of funders including ERDF, Development Agencies, ENWORKS, Business Improvement Districts and the private sector.

Next Steps

Groundwork Cheshire is continuing to work with businesses across Cheshire West and Chester, although access to funding from ERDF ceased in March 2013. Groundwork is using mechanisms such as the established Business Improvement Districts and private sector funded projects to sustain this activity, whilst also looking to secure future funding from the next round of ERDF

More information / web link: www.smarterbusiness.org.uk



The Sustainable Business Team from Groundwork Cheshire.



Cheshire Wellness, the spa and pool manufacturer based on Neston's Clayhill Industrial Park, has uncovered savings of £6,000 a year

4.4 Transport and Accessibility

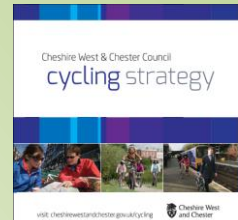
From the presentations and discussion, the Commission has identified the following priorities to be taken forward:

- Behavioural change is recognised as a key factor in helping to turn around people's travel habits. Cheshire West and Chester Council and partner agencies should continue to encourage behavioural change by delivering softer transport measures.
- Using new technology to reduce the need to travel and the distances we need to travel to access key services. New technology has to be fully embraced and rolled out across the area and be accessibility to all.
- Promote the alternatives to the car for travel through planning for higher levels of walking and cycling. Efficient and convenient alternatives to vehicle use are now more commonplace and should be better promoted where possible. Residents in residential areas should feel as though they own their roads and feel safe to walk, cycle and play in them.
- Integrate the new cycling strategy where appropriate to other policy areas where cycling can have a direct impact and deliver positive outcomes, particularly in terms of Sustainability and Health and Wellbeing. Continue to promote cycling across the Borough and investigate the potential for Bike Pool schemes.
- Continued investment in Bus and Rail needed to help manage the impact of transport emissions. Collaborative work needed with our neighbouring Authorities, particularly where there is already a great deal of good practice in place with a commitment to investment in new technology that improves passenger information and introduces smart ticketing.
- Partnerships with key employers in the area (business/industrial parks, hospitals, University) to encourage the development and implementation of travel plans for organisations.
- Increased efficiency of our transport system through low CO2, clean and efficient vehicles. Work with developers and planners to facilitate the transition in order to create charging points for a greater number of electric vehicles. Consider replacement of own and partner's fleet with low emission/electric vehicles.
- Through the planning system consideration needs to be given for the use of Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy to promote sustainable transport infrastructure such as cycle lanes and footpaths as part of development consents. Continue to reinforce the need for co-ordination and consultation with transport planners to ensure new developments have good access to sustainable travel methods.
- Transport infrastructure is important in helping to support economic growth, but in setting out its key infrastructure needs Cheshire West and Chester also needs to identify transport infrastructure that makes a contribution towards meeting carbon reduction targets and helps to build resilience to severe weather events.

Case Study: Cheshire West and Chester Council Cycling Strategy

Background

The Council published a new Cycling Strategy in May 2013. This was the outcome of a member led project to investigate and set out recommendations to increase the number of people cycling in West Cheshire.



Work to date

There has been considerable investment in the local cycling network in recent years. The strategy sets out ideas to boost levels of cycling. Overall, the strategy sets out ideas about how to make it easier, cheaper, safer, attractive and more convenient to cycle in the Borough particularly for short trips.

A series of objectives and proposed actions are set out based around four themes.

- Build – New and improved infrastructure to improve facilities for cyclists;
- Inform – Awareness and marketing campaigns and travel plans to encourage a cycle friendly culture and promote the benefits of cycling as a sustainable form of transport;
- Know-how – Education and training to improve cycle safety and security; and
- Enthuse – Measures to highlight and raise the profile of cycling in the Borough.



Next Steps

The strategy is being used to inform a range of decisions and actions. These include informing the content of the Council's new Local Plan, the delivery of the cycling elements of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund project, the preparation of new transport studies for the Borough's larger towns and the work of the Council's Health and Wellbeing Board to promote the health benefits of cycling on a regular basis.

More information / web link:

http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/transport_and_roads/cycling/cycling_strategy.aspx

Case Study: Blacon Pointer Voluntary Quality Partnership

Background

After the sale of Chester City Council's bus operations in 2007 competition ensued between bus operators on the lucrative routes between Blacon and the City Centre. Too many buses meant that nobody was making money, and lack of investment effected many other routes in the City.



Work to date

In 2010, the Borough Council became the first Authority in Britain to use provisions in the Transport Act 2008 to bring some order through a 'Voluntary Quality Partnership' between both bus operators and the Council. This saw the Co-ordination and rationalisation of timetables on the Blacon routes, inter-availability of tickets and the introduction of modern, clean, wheelchair accessible buses. The package is marketed under the 'Blacon Pointer' brand, and has been very successful.

Next Steps

The partners have recently agreed to build on the success of Blacon Pointer and plans are in hand to refresh the brand and keep improving standards to maintain a sustainable high quality public transport system in Chester.

Cheshire West & Chester Council

Blacon Pointer 

Bus Services 1, 1A, 15 and 15A
including DB6 evenings and Sundays.

Bus Timetable

Updated Edition March 2013



  Operates with low floor easy access buses

A Quality Partnership service from:

visit: cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

4.5 Climate Resilience and Adaptation

From the presentations and discussion, the Commission has identified the following priorities to be taken forward:

- Information to ensure partners are aware of the full range of actions being undertaken to ensure we are better prepared to react to the predictions currently being made.
- Clarification of partnership response working alongside each other in the event of an environmental disaster. We need to be better prepared for worst case scenarios, particularly as we are now experiencing an increase in the number of extreme environmental events, such as flooding and drought.
- Developers taking more responsibility to address future environmental impacts, through the way in which they design new developments; placing less pressure on utilities and in particular the drainage system. It should be ensured that new development incorporates Sustainable Urban Development Systems (SUDS).
- Significant additional new housing development in Northwich could increase the risk of flooding. In the event of permission being granted for new housing, mitigation measures through planning gain need to be pursued either via section 106 or Community Infrastructure Levy. A refresh of the predictions based on 2006 should be undertaken based on more recent data.
- Neighbourhood and Parish Plans need to consider community resilience issues where new development opportunities are identified. Community Resilience Plans can be used to identify issues and indicate what mitigation measures need to be put in place. Rural areas are currently benefiting from the development of Community Resilience Plan; the Commission is keen to ensure urban areas are also to be included in future as the resilience programme is rolled out.
- Private sector business continuity was identified as being critical in the event of natural and environmental impacts such as flooding, as well as exploring opportunities of renewable, energy micro grids.
- Public Sector Business Continuity is considered to be essential to ensure we are able to address future emergencies. We need to be able to identify risks and the actions to manage them. Better collaboration is recommended to ensure public services across the Borough reduce the risk and ensure service delivering in adverse weather and other emergencies.

Case Study: Community Resilience

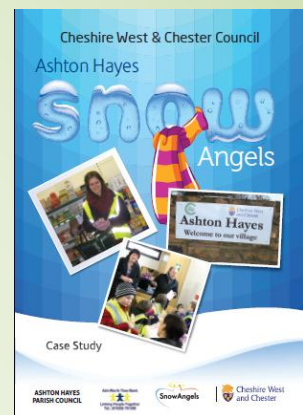
Background

Across Cheshire and Warrington, there are over 40 'low carbon groups' delivering a range of carbon reduction (mitigation) projects covering energy, food, transport etc. Very little work had been under taken on adapting to the inevitable changes in climate and making these communities more resilient. In addition, in response to national flooding across the area in 2007 and again in 2009, the Government through the Local Resilience Forum started to promote Community Resilience



Work to date

Ashton Hayes Carbon neutral project was set up in 2006 and has achieved many ground breaking initiatives and with DEFRA funding, Cheshire West and Chester Council were able to start to develop a Climate Resilience Community model process. Over a series of meetings during 2012/2013, Ashton Hayes has developed their Community Resilience Plan. In addition, during the winter of 2012/13, the village developed and delivered the Snow Angels project (see case study). This project has helped to increase resilience in the village and wider parish by volunteers supporting vulnerable people during the snow and ice.



Next Steps

Cheshire West and Chester Council is now rolling out this process to other parish councils across the rural area to encourage greater community resilience

More Information:

<http://www.claspinfo.org/resources/climate-resilient-communities>

<http://media.cheshire.gov.uk/climatechange/Climatechange002.wmv>

<http://www.climatechangenorthwest.co.uk/resources/ashton-hayes-snow-angels-case-study>

Case Study: Strategic Employment Sites

Background

During 2012, the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership were invited by DEFRA to put forward ideas to ensure major employment sites could increase their adaptation to risk and become more resilience. Cheshire and Warrington were award funding to undertake this work forward.



Work to date

Across Cheshire and Warrington, there are over 100 large employment sites. During Phase one, the work explored all these major employment sites and analysed the climate risk to each area. This resulted in about 40 sites for further study in terms of critical on and off site risks, from flooding, infrastructure failure etc.

Next Steps

Phase two funding has now been secured to develop detail plans for each of the sites at risk, which will include renewable energy generation opportunities.



More information:

- <http://www.claspinf.org/resources/assessing-climate-risks-opportunities-strategic-growth-sites>
- http://www.claspinf.org/CW_riskassess_growthsites

5. Action Plan

	Commission Recommendations - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	Next Steps Actions	Delivery and Governance	Measure	Timescale, Resources and Contact
1	<p>Carbon emissions</p> <p>The importance of having a robust evidence base is recognised by the Commission to help better inform policy, investment and delivery. Cheshire West and Chester Council should work with partners to provide regular monitoring reports on carbon emissions.</p> <p>Specific: Since 2005, each July, the Dept of Energy and Climate Change publish local authority borough-wide emission data. In addition, by the end of July each year, Cheshire West and Chester Council is required to publish its Greenhouse gas emissions under the previous National Indicator 185 (Percentage CO₂ reduction from local authority operations). 2009-10 is used as the base year and reporting is based on each fiscal year.</p>	<p>Annual monitoring is already being undertaken by Cheshire West and Chester Council as well as and supplied by external organisations. In 12/13 Cheshire West and Chester Council spend the following on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy and Water £9.9M • Business Mileage £2.2M <p>The Greenhouse gas emissions are published on the Cheshire West and Chester Council website. However, there is an opportunity to present and review this information to a joint Member/Officer group on an annual basis in September. This will help track progress and provide a clear evidence base that can in turn help to shape Council policy. This will also link into Climate Local and the commitment to “Set Locally-owned and determined commitments and actions to reduce carbon emissions and manage climate impacts. To be specific measurable and challenging”.</p>	<p>Internally managed by Cheshire West and Chester, but will contribute to broader West Cheshire corporate intelligence data library.</p> <p>Possibility of pooling resources from partners, to maintain a central intelligence pool.</p>	<p>Targets: 30% emission reduction based on 2009/10 base year</p> <p>To set and agree target up to 2020</p> <p>Reductions of 34% of borough-wide emission below 1990 levels by 2020 and 60% by 2030.</p> <p>Annual reports presented each September to</p>	<p>Timescales: April 2015</p> <p>April 2014</p> <p>April 2020 and 2030</p> <p>Annually in September</p> <p>Resources: Existing carbon management budget of £150,000 within Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>

				a joint Member/ Officer group along with plans to reduce carbon emissions.	Contact: George Ablett Sustainability/ Climate Change Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council.
2	<p>Promoting renewable energy</p> <p>In order to better inform developers of the opportunities the Borough has to offer in hosting renewable energy technology, an Information Pack should be pulled together targeted at developers and investors. The pack should set out the Borough's policy towards the installation of renewable technology and provide guidelines to how support and assistance might be accessed. Information should cover the approach set out by policy in the Local Plan, how renewable technology is viewed by the Borough in terms of development management and the funding opportunities available that may offer support and assistance.</p>	<p>Specific:</p> <p>The Draft Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies will be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination following a period for public consultation. Part One provides the strategic framework and the hooks to ensure that schemes for renewable energy are encouraged and supported. Part One sets out the Council's policy of encouraging renewable technology: <u>See web link</u>. With these local policies and national guidance, there is sufficient information for developers and investors to bring forward renewable energy schemes.</p> <p>Further detail, including site specific allocations will be set out in Part Two of the Local Plan. This will rely on political direction and support</p>	<p>Collaboration between a number of services, including Planning (spatial policy and Development management) , Environmental Sustainability team, property and economic development.</p>	<p>Ensuring that the Local Plan Part Two embeds strong policies to support and incentivise the delivery of renewable energy as well as energy efficiency in new and existing developments based on robust evidence.</p> <p>Regular</p>	<p>Timescale Spring 2014</p> <p>Resources: Use of existing resources and capacity within the Spatial Planning Team and other sections to take policies through the Local Plan process.</p> <p>Contact : George Ablett Sustainability/ Climate Change Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council.</p>

		<p>informed by evidence to ensure that developments consider the opportunities through renewable energy on site and linkages off site, through individual site allocations.</p> <p>The Renewable Energy Study is one of the baseline information documents for the Local Plan, this can be used to help set out the Council's position by providing drivers to help deliver renewable energy technology.</p> <p>The existing Planning Portal already has information that can be accessed</p>		<p>progress reports presented to the joint Member/ Officer group.</p>	<p>Louise Hilder Spatial Planning Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council.</p>
3	<p>Local Energy Generation</p> <p>Further work needs to be undertaken to help identify how the Borough might support local energy generation. This will include the use of new technology and identifying various investment options available.</p> <p>Note:</p> <p>The Department of Energy Climate Change has set up a Heat Networks Delivery Unit and put in place a development funding</p>	<p>Specific:</p> <p>Work alongside the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Authorities external funding team to identify funding opportunities.</p> <p>Use the network of partners both nationally, sub-regionally and locally to raise awareness of the technology available, linking to new development proposals where investment can be made in new technology that reduces energy use.</p> <p>Consider the possibility of</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council and partners</p> <p>Cheshire West and Chester to</p> <p>Ellesmere Port Regeneration Board</p> <p>University of</p>	<p>Application to HNDU to secure funding to explore opportunities in Ellesmere Port.</p> <p>Inclusion of investment proposals for energy efficient and renewable energy in the</p>	<p>Timescale October/ December 2013</p> <p>Resources: Funding via the Heat Networks Delivery Unit (HNDU).</p> <p>Contact: Peter Bulmer Sustainability/ Climate Change</p>

	<p>stream (£9m) to support credible prospects for commercial development in a strategic location and scope for expansion.</p> <p>Through the Renewable Energy Study as part of the Local Plan evidence, a number of areas have been identified as “Areas for Potential Heat Networks” predominantly in the Chester and Ellesmere Port areas.</p>	<p>establishing and marketing West Cheshire as a place where new technology can be developed and tested – to create a pro-energy efficient culture, that if recognised will also bring economic benefits in terms of helping to strengthen the energy sector, jobs and GVA.</p>	<p>Chester</p> <p>Local Enterprise Partnership</p>	<p>Cheshire and Warrington Investment Strategy.</p>	<p>Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council.</p>
4	<p>Community Neighbourhood Planning</p> <p>Building on the good practice examples found in the Borough to extend the knowledge and learning to other communities. Where communities/ neighbourhoods are developing Neighbourhood Plans a further opportunity now exists for local areas to consider the introduction of energy efficient projects and proposals.</p> <p>Note: Parish and town councils and neighbourhood forums can apply for grants of up to £7000 or direct</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Plans are land-use based community led documents, which when adopted provide for new development to be allocated in line with greater community consensus. Cheshire West and Chester Council is only able to offer limited assistance and guidance on the introduction of energy efficient projects and technology. It falls on the Community writing the Neighbourhood Plan to evidence the land use policy for inclusion in the Plan. Parish Plans however are broader in their remit; if the community wish to consider community energy generation projects they can do so in writing to their Parish Plan.</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council</p> <p>Cheshire Community Action</p> <p>Use existing Neighbourhood Plan and Parish Plan networking arrangements to disseminate good practice and</p>	<p>The number of Neighbourhood Plans supported that put forward proposals for energy efficient projects.</p>	<p>Timescale Ongoing</p> <p>Resources: DCLG grant and other resources</p> <p>Use of existing resources and capacity within the Spatial Planning Team to support Neighbourhood plans.</p> <p>Contact : Catherine Morgetroyd</p>

	<p>support through the Department of Communities and Local Government's 'Supporting Communities in Neighbourhood Planning programme':-</p> <p>http://mycommunityrights.org.uk/neighbourhood-planning/</p>	<p>Where good practice already exists in local communities such as Ashton Hayes, the offer of advice to other communities might be made as part of the advice provided to local communities.</p> <p>Note: Currently, Cheshire West and Chester Council is supporting the development of 20 Neighbourhood Plans.</p>	guidance.		Spatial Planning Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council
5	<p>Community Energy</p> <p>The Borough Council to encourage Communities to be fully engaged in the development of proposed energy generation schemes, so that local consensus is gained for local infrastructure proposals.</p>	<p>Pre-application discussions for proposed energy generation schemes, to fully engage with the local community that will benefit from the introduction of the scheme. Local community engagement can be facilitated via Locality Teams.</p> <p>Note:</p> <p>The Rural Community Renewable Energy Fund (RCREF) has been established to support community renewable energy projects in rural areas. Funds of up to £150,000 are available through two funding stages: an initial feasibility grant; and a loan for development costs.</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council</p> <p>Locality Teams to investigate the route to be taken to ensure communities are included.</p>	<p>To have in place transparent mechanisms to allow engagement with local communities on energy generation proposals.</p> <p>Application to RCREF to secure funding to explore opportunities across the borough</p>	<p>Timescale: April 2014</p> <p>Resources: The Rural Community Renewable Energy Fund/ Rural Development Programme for England.</p> <p>Contact : Peter Bulmer Sustainability/ Climate Change Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>
6	Community Renewable Energy	Identify capacity and expertise in the	Cheshire		Timescale

	<p>Communities should be offered professional and technical help and assistance from the Borough Council where available on the installation and provision of energy production, including solar, electric, solar, and thermal, wind, heat-pumps and biomass.</p>	<p>Council or externally through the help of partners to provide professional and technical assistance to communities on schemes that will deliver increased levels of energy efficiency.</p>	<p>West and Chester</p> <p>Locality Teams and Parish Councils to feed request for assistance to technical advisors.</p>	<p>Number of requests leading to installations</p> <p>Mechanism to be in place to enable Communities to access professional and technical advice.</p>	<p>December 2013</p> <p>Resources: Housing Capital Programme of £200,000 with additional funding via Cheshire West and Chester's Domestic Energy Scheme Provider.</p> <p>Contact : Georgina Patel Private Sector Housing Cheshire West and Chester Council.</p>
7	<p>Domestic Energy Efficiency</p> <p>There is already a good deal of information available to the public on how they might access home insulation assistance. We must ensure that all socio-economic groups have access to this information and are able to benefit from the opportunities currently on</p>	<p>Develop a borough wide offer of energy efficiency measures for all tenure groups similar to that of 'Cheshire West Warm Zone.'</p> <p>Identify areas / household types with high levels of fuel poverty and target with advice and assistance on energy consumption and saving initiatives.</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council and Partners</p> <p>Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>	<p>Reduction in Excessive Winter Deaths (EWD)</p> <p>Reduction on the numbers of households in</p>	<p>Timescale December 2013</p> <p>Resources: Housing Capital Programme of £200,000 with additional funding via Cheshire West</p>

	offer.	<p>Note:</p> <p>Cheshire West and Chester Council is working collaboratively with other local authorities to develop a partnership-based scheme to provide an Energy Saving Service which creates a single point of contact for residents who want domestic energy advice and assistance.</p> <p>Cheshire West and Chester Council have already worked with landlords to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Highlight the benefits of energy efficiency measures - Provide small match-funded grants to members of the Cheshire Landlord Accreditation Scheme for energy efficiency work. - Promote LESA (Landlord's Energy Savings Allowance), a tax relief on certain energy efficiency improvements funded by the landlord via newsletters and forums. 	<p>Affordable Warmth Steering Group</p> <p>Private Sector Housing Team</p>	<p>fuel poverty</p> <p>Improve the Borough's average Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) rating of private housing</p> <p>Decreased CO2 reductions from domestic energy</p> <p>Number of measures installed (e.g. insulation etc)</p> <p>Tonnes of carbon saved</p> <p>Adoption of a renewed Affordable Warmth Strategy 20-13-2106 which will</p>	<p>and Chester Council's Domestic Energy Scheme Provider.</p> <p>Contact : Georgina Patel Private Sector Housing, Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>
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				include measures and targets	
8	<p>Domestic Energy Information</p> <p>To better inform people of their energy use, the Council should promote and market technology that can help to demonstrate levels of energy consumption and the measures that can be taken to address them, (smart metering).</p>	<p>Disseminate information and advice to all residents in the Borough on how they might best help themselves to reduce their own energy consumption, either through the use of technology or by adjusting their behaviour. Energy companies already lead on much of this promotion, but opportunities may arise where the Council could also provide information and advice.</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council</p> <p>Private Sector Housing Team</p>	<p>Number of hits on relevant Council Web Pages.</p> <p>Number of householders switching to cheaper fuel tariffs</p>	<p>Timescale 2013/14</p> <p>Resources:</p> <p>Existing resources with Cheshire West and Chester Council</p> <p>Contact : Georgina Patel Private Sector Housing Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>
9	<p>Green Deal</p> <p>A fit-for-purpose partnership to be established to drive and co-ordinate the Green Deal programme. Put in place a sub-regional working group and commit resources to take full advantage of the Green Deal. This may include the formation of a dedicated team that is supported by partners.</p>	<p>Develop a new Specification to tender for an area-based scheme across the Borough to include advice and assistance on energy saving including routes to preferred Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation (ECO) partners.</p> <p>The council has 20 Carbon Saving Community Areas and is working towards profiling the housing stock</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council and Partners</p> <p>Private Sector Housing Team</p>	<p>Domestic Energy Scheme Provider appointed to have in place an area-based scheme to advise on energy</p>	<p>Timescale December 2013</p> <p>Resources: Housing Capital Programme of £200,000 with additional funding from the Home Heating Cost Reduction</p>

		<p>in each area to identify the areas that best meet the ECO objectives.</p> <p>Note:</p> <p>Cheshire West and Chester Council is working collaboratively with other local authorities to develop a partnership-based scheme to provide an Energy Saving Service which creates a single point of contact for residents who want domestic energy advice and assistance.</p> <p>In addition, Cheshire West and Chester Council has worked with private landlords and informed them that The Energy Act 2011 contains powers so that from 2016 landlords should not be able to refuse reasonable requests for consent to install Green Deal measures from their tenants. Also that from April 2018, all private rented dwellings should be brought up to a minimum energy efficiency standard rating, likely to be set at EPC rating E.</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council Affordable Warmth Steering Group</p> <p>Contract management by Cheshire West and Chester Council Private Sector Housing Team</p>	<p>savings/ installations etc.</p> <p>Commission new Service Provider in partnership with neighbouring Authorities</p>	<p>Obligation, Carbon Emission Reduction Obligation and Carbon Saving Community Obligation via Cheshire West and Chester's Domestic Energy Scheme Provider.</p> <p>Contact : Georgina Patel Private Sector Housing Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>
10	<p>Information</p> <p>To influence behaviour, we need to raise people's awareness and understanding of the issues. We</p>	<p>Influence behaviour using a number of tools, including the targeting of advice and guidance, using exiting channels and networks. It may be possible to use good practice from</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>	<p>Number of hits on relevant Council Web Pages.</p>	<p>Timescale December 2013</p> <p>Resources: Existing</p>

	should improve the targeting of information to key audiences, raising people's awareness and understanding of the scale of the issues we face, for example the level of our carbon emissions and what individuals can do to address this.	other authorities where behaviour has been influenced via a targeted campaign or through the use of incentives.	Private Sector Housing Team Cheshire West and Chester Council Affordable Warmth Steering Group	Number of promotional events	resources within Cheshire West and Chester Council Contact : Georgina Patel Private Sector Housing Cheshire West and Chester Council
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	Commission Recommendations - Housing and Development	Next Steps Actions	Delivery and Governance	Measure	Timescale and Resources
11	Local Plan Local Planning Policy set by the Local Development Framework will need to incorporate Carbon Reduction Targets that cover the Local Plan area and not just parts of the Borough.	The Draft Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies will be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination following a period for public consultation. Further detail, including site specific allocations will be set out in Part Two of the Local Plan. This will rely on political direction and support informed by evidence to ensure developments consider the opportunities through renewable energy on site and linkages off site. Cheshire West and	Cheshire West and Chester Council (Strategic Planning Team) Feed into the Local Plan process. Using the formal consultation	Inclusion of strong sustainability policies in the Local Plan towards adoption. Ensuring that the Local plan has embedded strong sustainability	Timescale Spring 2014 Resources: Use of existing resources and capacity within the Spatial Planning Team to take policies through the

		<p>Chester Council will ensure the Local Plan promotes sustainable development through low carbon and resilient developments.</p> <p>Feed comments and advice to the Local Plan consultation stages (Part Two). Work alongside the Strategic Planning Team to help shape planning policy.</p> <p>The Local Plan should make reference to Government's ambitions for residential and non-domestic development to be delivered to a zero carbon standard by 2016 and 2019 respectively.</p>	processes and informal officer discussion.	<p>policies that will emerge to be taken to Inquiry Stage of the Plan</p> <p>Regular progress reports presented to the joint Member/ Officer group.</p>	<p>Local Plan process.</p> <p>Contact :</p> <p>Louise Hilder Spatial Planning Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>
12	<p>Low Carbon Developments</p> <p>Target Developers using levers such as planning policy and building control to help move new building and refurbishment schemes closer towards meeting zero-carbon standards.</p> <p>See also 20</p>	<p>Targets are now in place that aim to bring new development in line with Zero Carbon standards. Affordable Housing has been given a target year of 2016, and Commercial development a target year of 2019. Building Control through the use of Building Regulations is to be the main tool to ensure targets are met.</p> <p>Note: While Cheshire West and Chester Council's planning service can promote developers to work towards zero carbon developments, until the detail emerges from the Local Plan,</p>	Cheshire West and Chester Council	<p>Number of buildings achieving Zero Carbon standards.</p> <p>Number of new buildings achieving Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4, 5 and 6.</p>	<p>By 2016 (for Housing)</p> <p>By 2019 (for Commercial development)</p> <p>Resources: Use of existing resources and capacity within the Development Control Team to ensure</p>

		we must use existing building regulations.			<p>enforcement</p> <p>Contact : John Adcock/ Gary Shields, Building Control (Planning), Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>
13	<p>Community Infrastructure Levy</p> <p>The Borough's Community Infrastructure Levy will need to produce a "Charging Schedule" that sets out the rate to be levied, but must be justified by evidence such as the economic viability of new development and the area's infrastructure needs. In listing potential infrastructure projects that support growth and benefit the local community, the Borough should consider adding energy efficient schemes such as District Heating installations.</p> <p>http://www.planningportal.gov.uk</p>	<p>Influence the Charging schedule to reflect the ambition to support District Heating Installations. Ensuring that this ambition is taken through the development process and is given Member support through the work of the Commission. This will however need to be considered against the long list of other infrastructure priorities for the Borough including transport schemes.</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council (Spatial Planning / Finance)</p> <p>Cheshire West and Chester Council approval process. Will need to be taken to Executive and Council to develop as Council policy.</p>	<p>Through Allowable Solutions, explore the opportunity to develop a Local Community Scheme</p> <p>Inclusion of District Heating Systems / Installations on the Charging Schedule.</p>	<p>Timescale Post Local Plan</p> <p>Resources: Use of existing resources and capacity within the Spatial Planning Team</p> <p>Contact : Antony Hodge Spatial Planning Team, Cheshire</p>

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14	<p>Information</p> <p>The Borough should review the way information is made available to the Public. There may be scope to improve how some general planning information is communicated. Perhaps the Planning Authority could pull together all relevant guidance regarding permission for energy efficient schemes, for domestic properties and small business developments.</p>	<p>Use Cheshire West and Chester Council's internet site to signpost on guidance and information on the introduction of energy efficient schemes. This should follow national guidance where available e.g. through the Planning Portal and Department for Communities and Local Government national planning practice guidance website.</p>	Cheshire West and Chester Council	<p>Number of hits on Cheshire West and Chester Council web pages</p> <p>Number of sign-postings to "Planning Portal"</p> <p>.</p>	<p>Timescale Spring 2014</p> <p>Resources: Use of existing resources and capacity within the Web Team/ Planning Team</p> <p>Contact : Damian Beaumont Web Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>
15	<p>Design Guide</p> <p>Put in place a Design Guide to help avoid ambiguity and to give a clearer steer to aid development that delivers renewable energy benefits.</p>	<p>There is already a great deal of free advice and information available on various web-sites that are regularly updated and give the best technical and relevant information on energy efficient building design. As an Authority we should be able to sign-post to these sites e.g. Planning Portal and sources of information,</p>	Cheshire West and Chester Council	<p>Number of hits</p> <p>Number of sign-postings to "Planning Portal"</p>	<p>Timescale Spring 2014</p> <p>Resources: Use of existing resources and capacity within the</p>

		rather than produce its own dedicated Design Guide.			<p>Web Team/ Planning Team</p> <p>Contact : Damian Beaumont Web Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>
16	<p>Pre-application support</p> <p>In order to be more pro-active, the Borough may want to consider pre-application discussions with developers and energy companies, to consider or help identify energy efficient measures. Local Authorities might also be in the best position to broker partnerships between developers and energy companies in advance of schemes being drawn up.</p>	<p>The Council already undertakes pre-applications discussions with developers. Where possible energy efficient measures are always encouraged by the Council. The Local Plan will set out an “allowable Solutions” policy.</p> <p>Note: Department of Communities and Local Government have recently launched a consultation on a core component of the zero carbon definition – Allowable Solutions. This consultation offers industry the opportunity to comment on key considerations for a viable Allowable Solutions mechanism.</p>	Cheshire West and Chester Council	<p>Number of pre-application discussions concerning energy efficiency etc.</p> <p>Adoption of Allowable Solutions Policy” in the Local Plan in 2014</p>	<p>Timescale Spring 2014</p> <p>Resources: Use of existing resources and capacity within Planning</p> <p>Contact : John Adcock/ Gary Shields, Building Control (Planning), Louise Hilder Spatial Planning Team,</p>

					Cheshire West and Chester Council
17	<p>Neighbourhood Plans</p> <p>In developing Neighbourhood Plans Communities should be encouraged to consider the introduction of Energy Efficient measures. This will need to be developed through the various hand-holding mechanisms.</p> <p>Note: Parish and town councils and neighbourhood forums can apply for grants of up to £7000 or direct support through the Department of Communities and Local Government's 'Supporting Communities in Neighbourhood Planning programme':- http://mycommunityrights.org.uk/neighbourhood-planning/</p>	<p>Ensure the offer of assistance from Cheshire west and Chester Council to Communities wishing to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan, including guidance on the introduction and best use of energy efficient projects. This should sit alongside the provision of new development proposals and consideration of community energy generation projects.</p> <p>Building on the good practice examples found in the Borough to extend the knowledge and learning to other communities. Where communities/ neighbourhoods are developing Neighbourhood Plans a further opportunity now exists for local areas to consider the introduction of energy efficient projects and proposals.</p> <p>Note: Currently, Cheshire West and Chester Council is supporting the development of 20 Neighbourhood Plans.</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council, Cheshire Community Action</p> <p>Use existing Neighbourhood Plan and Parish Plan networking arrangements to disseminate good practice and guidance.</p>	<p>The number of Neighbourhood Plans supported that put forward proposals for energy efficient projects.</p>	<p>Timescale Ongoing</p> <p>Resources: DCLG grant and other resources</p> <p>Use of existing resources and capacity within the Spatial Planning Team to support Neighbourhood plans.</p> <p>Contact : Catherine Morgetroyd Spatial Planning Team, Cheshire west and Chester</p>

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18	<p>Planning support</p> <p>Planning is recognised as playing a key part in the way in which energy efficient measures are integrated and developed, it is therefore essential that Planning in terms of policy and development management is considered alongside every stage of the Inquiry.</p>	<p>Central role of Planning is highlighted in the final report, which must now be translated into policy proposals for the Local Plan. The Commission to continue to feed comments into the formal planning process (Part Two of the Local Plan) to help shape emerging policy and informally work alongside the Spatial Planning Team.</p> <p>The planning system is a key way in which the Council can influence the energy performance of new and existing buildings. There is significant potential for renewable energy generation in our area, as detailed in the evidence base for Local Plan.</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council</p> <p>Formal local plan route to feed comments on policy through the consultation process and development of detailed policy in Part Two of the Local Plan.</p>	<p>Adoption of robust Energy efficient policies in the Local Plan.</p> <p>Delivery of these policies in a positive and flexible manner taking a promotional approach to encourage developers to incorporate energy efficient measures.</p>	<p>Timescale Ongoing</p> <p>Resources: Use of existing resources and capacity the Planning Team</p> <p>Contact : Jon Sutcliffe Planning, Cheshire West and Chester Council.</p>
19	<p>Behavioural Change</p> <p>Getting the best use of technology installed in new properties must go hand in hand with influencing behavioural change. Greater levels of awareness should be introduced to go beyond a “passive” informational approach that aims to raise awareness, to one that uses a range of social marketing approaches, such as</p>	<p>A pro-active approach to be drawn up with the help of developers on how to raise customer’s awareness of the new technology they will have access to in new developments.</p> <p>Consider using Cheshire West’s Web site to signpost. This should follow national guidance where available. Greater use of the “Planning Portal” could be promoted</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>	<p>Number of case studies locally/ demonstration sites.</p>	<p>No additional resources required.</p>

	one-to-one contacts to better inform and educate and follow up reminders and refreshes.	through the Council's web-site.			
20	<p>Zero Carbon developments See also 12</p> <p>Setting industry standards and enforcing building regulations is more of a stick rather than carrot approach. More might be done to readdress this, perhaps incentivising house builders to go beyond just meeting the accepted standards. Local Authorities may have a part to play by being more flexible and having a better understanding of some basic land economic issues.</p>	<p>Targets are now in place that aim to bring new development in line with Zero Carbon standards. Affordable Housing has been given a target year of 2016, and Commercial development a target year of 2019. Building Control through the use of Building Regulations is to be the main tool to ensure targets are met.</p> <p>Note: While Cheshire West and Chester Council's planning service can promote developers to work towards zero carbon developments, until the detail emerges from the Local Plan, we must use existing building regulations.</p>	Cheshire West and Chester Council	<p>Number of buildings achieving Zero Carbon standards.</p> <p>Number of new buildings achieving Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4, 5 and 6.</p>	<p>By 2016 for (Affordable Housing)</p> <p>By 2019 for (Commercial development)</p> <p>Resources: Use of existing resources and capacity within the Development Control Team to ensure enforcement</p> <p>Contact : John Adcock/ Gary Shields, Building Control (Planning), Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>

21	<p>Resilient Communities</p> <p>The needs of those living in the most deprived neighbourhoods should be addressed by ensuring they are accounted for in plans and policies such as flood risk management strategies and Health/Fire/Police emergency contingency plans.</p>	<p>The most deprived areas need to be targeted. Helping its residents to capture opportunities and benefits of action on climate change, through saving on their energy bills, generating income from renewable energy (community schemes). But also helping to mitigate the effects of extreme weather, reducing impacts of flood risks and drought.</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council Sustainability and Climate Change Team Locality Teams.</p> <p>Various partner organisations will need to agree a consistent policy that cuts across their services.</p>	<p>Number of Community Resilience Plans developed</p> <p>Population covered by these plans</p> <p>Information available, web hits</p>	<p>Timescale Ongoing</p> <p>Resources: Use of existing resources and capacity within the Emergency Planning Team and Climate Change team</p> <p>Contact : Peter Bulmer Climate Change Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council.</p>
22	<p>Climate Change Adaptation</p> <p>The Environment Agency is recognised as a key partner organisation that can assist in the development of local actions towards the National Adaptation Programme. The commission welcomes the continued support of the Agency and would seek</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council to continue to liaise and work alongside the Environment Agency to shape an adaptation programme for our area. To be co-ordinated by the "Adaptation Programme Group" or a similar group that is already in place.</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council</p> <p>Environment Agency</p>	<p>Development of a Borough wide Climate Change Adaptation Plan</p>	<p>Timescale April 2014</p> <p>Resources: Use of existing resources and capacity within the</p>

	to encourage further support in the development of the Adaptation Programme.				Climate Change team Contact : Peter Bulmer Climate Change Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council
23	<p>Local Plan Environmental Considerations</p> <p>Environmental and climate change constraints placed on development need to be recognised within land use policy by clearly setting out where development is constrained or how we might carry out adaption to mitigate any risks.</p>	<p>Clarity to be provided through the Local Plan, where development is constrained due to high risks and vulnerability. Identifying areas of environmental and climate change constraint to be undertaken with the help of key partners such as the Environment Agency. This will include the list of sites under the Assessing Climate Risk and Opportunities for Strategic Sites study.</p> <p>The Local Plan will have in place a site specific allocations document. This will be complementary to policies covering mitigation and adaptation.</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council Environment Agency and Partner Agencies</p> <p>Policy suggestions on land use policy to be taken through the formal local plan consultation process.</p>	<p>Inclusion of strong mitigation and adaptation policies in the Local Plan, to be taken to Inquiry Stage of the Plan towards adoption.</p>	<p>Timescale Spring 2014</p> <p>Resources: Use of existing resources and capacity within the Spatial Planning Team</p> <p>Contact : Louise Hilder Spatial Planning Team, Cheshire West and Chester</p>

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24	<p>Regeneration</p> <p>Key regeneration programmes in the Borough should take account and build on the recommendations set out in Vision 2050, for example that “innovations in architecture, building construction and standards, energy generation and infrastructure planning need to be accommodated”.</p> <p>(Vision 2050 acknowledges the part new development can play in introducing energy efficient measures, and in particular it notes that institutional, commercial and industrial buildings could be at the forefront of the introduction of low-energy and environmental friendly design).</p>	<p>Use the Ellesmere Port Regeneration Programme as a test-bed for the recommendations identified by the Commission and Vision 2050. The use of energy efficiency technology in new development and construction is to be a key area of focus.</p> <p>£6m of Regional Growth Fund now allocated to Ellesmere Port. Opportunity to ensure proposals for infrastructure consider how the best energy efficient technology is used.</p> <p>Proposals to be developed and shaped and delivered through the Regeneration Boards.</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council - Delivery through Regeneration teams.</p>	<p>Number of new developments within the Regeneration Programme areas using high level of energy efficient technology and materials.</p> <p>Amount of local energy generated</p>	<p>Timescale October/ December 2013</p> <p>Resources: Additional funding required</p> <p>Contact: Peter Bulmer Sustainability/ Climate Change Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council.</p>
25	<p>Regeneration</p> <p>There is an opportunity to set standards in building design, layout and overall development to strive for greater energy efficiency. The development ambitions that are now being progressed in Chester,</p>	<p>Use the Ellesmere Port Regeneration Programme as a test-bed for the recommendations identified by the Commission and Vision 2050. The use of energy efficiency technology in New development and construction is to be a key area of focus.</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council</p> <p>Ellesmere Port Regeneration</p>	<p>Number of new developments within the Regeneration Programme areas using high level of</p>	<p>Timescale October/ December 2013</p> <p>Resources: Additional funding</p>

	Northwich and Ellesmere Port, should be able to demonstrate from the outset how they intend to integrate energy efficient measures.	Proposals to be developed and shaped and delivered through the Regeneration Boards	Board	energy efficient technology and materials. Amount of local energy generated	required Contact: Peter Bulmer Sustainability/ Climate Change Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council.
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	Commission Recommendations - Resource Management and Waste	Next Steps Actions	Delivery and Governance	Measure	Timescale and Resources
26	<p>Performance data</p> <p>More rigorous monitoring and data collection should be undertaken to better inform decision makers. Gaps in data highlighted by the Commission include the amount of waste the Borough imports and exports, the number of “waste miles” undertaken to transport waste and the geographical spread of waste in terms of its generation, disposal and treatment.</p>	The waste need assessment report 2012 for the Borough looks at the movement of waste in and out the area based upon Environment Agency site return data. The report has been produced to inform the new Local Plan policy on waste. The movement of waste is influenced by the waste market and contracts. The waste need assessment will be updated regularly to provide the most up to date picture of the waste	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council</p> <p>Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan team to provide up to date position on waste data for the Borough in the Waste Need Assessment Reports and Annual Monitoring,</p>	The waste needs assessment to be updated regularly to provide the most up to date picture of the waste movements available.	<p>Timescale:</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Resources: Existing staff resources within Cheshire West and Chester Council</p> <p>Contact : Louise Hilder Spatial Planning Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>

		<p>movements available.</p> <p>Comprehensive data will continue to be collected on Local Authority Collected Waste.</p> <p>The Council should recognise the need to improve data collection in relation to Commercial and Industrial and Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste and continue to support exercises that seek to improve data collection for these streams at the regional and national level alongside other agencies such as the Environment Agency.</p>	Environment Agency		
27	<p>Waste to Energy</p> <p>A clear strategic Borough position is required on the approach to the allocation and construction of “waste-to-energy” facilities to help plan for the management of waste.</p>	<p>The Local Plan Scheme Part One sets out the Councils’ strategic planning policy position for new waste management facilities including energy from waste. The waste need assessment was updated in 2012 it sets out the capacity of existing and planned waste management capacity in the Borough and is being used to inform the emerging policy in the Local Plan. The Local Plan (Part One) safeguards three strategic sites for energy to waste use.</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council</p> <p>Policy to be developed through the Local Plan.</p>	<p>Further strategic position on the approach to “waste-to-energy” facilities is to be developed by the Council.</p>	<p>Timescale:</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Resources: Existing staff resources within Cheshire West and Chester Council</p> <p>Contact:</p> <p>Louise Hilder Spatial Planning Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>
28	Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycle First News to be 	Cheshire West and	Regular Recycle	.Timescale:

	<p>The following Actions could be undertaken by Cheshire West and Chester Council:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is suggested that Residents are better informed about where waste goes, as this question is often raised by people in the Borough. - Support “waste reduction volunteers”. Although not new there is some merit in trying to re-launch and invigorate and aim to work closer with Communities and volunteers. - Actively encourage Community Composting and help create greater local community ownership. 	<p>distributed to all households in the borough twice during 2014. Providing information and advice on the Recycle First service. Summer 2013 Recycle First News was delivered in June. The next edition will be delivered in November 2013.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Recycle First Website, in partnership with May Gurney, including interactive map showing where collected materials go for recycling and animations showing how the recycling process takes place. • Waste Reduction Volunteer Project to reach out to the wider community and inspire the public to change their thinking about waste. Promotion of how to become a volunteer in next Recycle First. • Ellesmere Port and Neston area is being used as a pilot area for Community Composting. Recommendations from the Community Composting Network’s Scoping Study will be implemented. 	<p>Chester Council to be accountable for monitoring and the reporting of targets.</p>	<p>First News update bulletin and website.</p> <p>Waste reduction volunteer project – Recruit and train new volunteers, especially targeting the areas where there are no volunteers</p> <p>Community Composting in Ellesmere Port. Investigate setting up one large scale community composting site and one small scale site.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Resources: Existing staff resources within Cheshire West and Chester Council</p> <p>Contact:</p> <p>Jody Sherratt / Cath Evans: Waste Management, Cheshire West and Chester.</p>
29	Business Advice	Riverside Innovation Centre (RIC) is to be the first point of contact	Cheshire West and Chester / Riverside	To be included as an additional	Timescale:

	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council, Chester University and the Chambers of Commerce are working in partnership to provide a joined-up service to Small and medium sized businesses. There is scope though the Riverside innovation Centre to provide advice on trade waste.</p>	<p>for business and Commerce on a wider range of business related issues, including business advice, finance, inward investment, account management and exporting support. . The one-stop-shop approach to be used to provide businesses with advice on trade waste.</p>	<p>Innovation Centre partners</p> <p>To be managed as part of the Business Growth Service.</p>	<p>service offered by RIC and channelled through the Council's Growth Advocates</p>	<p>Effective from January 2013</p> <p>Resources: Existing staff resources within Cheshire West and Chester Council</p> <p>Contact:</p> <p>Iain Paton, Economic Development Manager, Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>
30	<p>Low Carbon Communities Network</p> <p>Cheshire West and Chester is best placed and should therefore take on a co-ordinating role for the "Low Carbon Communities Network".</p> <p>Note: Working with Energy Projects Plus to apply for funding from The Lottery's Reaching Communities fund for a 3 year network support and project development</p>	<p>Continue to support and provide partner capacity to the Carbon Communities Network.</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>	<p>Set base line monitoring from Jan 2013</p> <p>Number of groups supported</p> <p>Numbers of individuals active in each group</p> <p>Additional project resources secured</p> <p>Outputs from individual</p>	<p>Timescale:</p> <p>Jan 2014 onwards</p> <p>Resources:</p> <p>The Lottery (approx £150,000)</p> <p>Ongoing support from existing staff resources within Cheshire West and Chester Council.</p> <p>Contact:</p>

				projects: energy generated, CO2 saved, waste recycled	Peter Bulmer Sustainability/ Climate Change Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council.
31	<p>Neighbourhood Working</p> <p>Need for a greater involvement of local Communities - Put in place a series of local hearings at different locations of the Borough for the benefit of local residents, providing them with the opportunity to meet with policy makers and practitioners. Neighbourhood plans also provide communities with the opportunity to have a part in influencing and shaping their local area.</p>	Identify local community networks that can be used to communicate and disseminate information and initiatives on sustainability and climate change.	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council and partner networks. Locality Teams.</p> <p>Local area teams to provide the focus and some capacity to help involve local communities.</p>	Number of local hearings/ meetings/ forums	<p>Timescale: Ongoing</p> <p>Resources: Existing staff resources within Cheshire West and Chester Council.</p> <p>Contact:</p> <p>Localities Managers, Localities Directorate</p> <p>Peter Bulmer Sustainability/ Climate Change Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>
32	<p>Recycling</p> <p>Continue to increase recycling rates and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. Further actions can be taken by the Borough, working with industry to manage this approach.</p>	<p>For Household Waste only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60% Recycling Target for 2013/14 for household waste. • Annual Improvement Plan within waste collection contract with May Gurney to develop the 	Cheshire West and Chester Council to be accountable for monitoring and the reporting of targets	<p>60% Recycling Target for 2013/14 for household waste.</p> <p>Annual improvement plan</p>	<p>Timescale:</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Resources: Existing staff resources within Cheshire West and</p>

		<p>service and strive for increased recycling rates for household waste.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future projects being investigated to increase recycling for household waste includes mattress recycling, road silt recycling, and recycling at all flats / communal properties in partnership with May Gurney and the Cheshire Furniture Reuse Forum. • Develop bulky waste collection contract in Partnership with May Gurney and the Cheshire Furniture Reuse forum to maximise reuse and recycling of all bulky waste collected. 		<p>Additional recycling streams</p> <p>Implementation of bulky waste collection and reuse</p>	<p>Chester Council</p> <p>Contact:</p> <p>Alison Butler, Waste Management, Cheshire West and Chester Council.</p>
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	Commission Recommendations - Transport and Accessibility	Next Steps Actions	Delivery and Governance	Measure	Resources
33	<p>Behavioural Change</p> <p>Behavioural change is recognised as a key factor in helping to turn around people's travel habits. Cheshire West and Chester Council and partner agencies should continue to encourage behavioural</p>	<p>New opportunities continue to be identified to maintain the Authorities momentum on influencing people's behaviour on transport choices and travel habits. The Local Sustainable Transport Fund provides the most recent opportunity for the</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council</p> <p>Delivery of the LSTF through Cheshire West and Chester Council as the accountable</p>	<p>Number of events</p> <p>Number of people engaged</p> <p>Number of Travel Plans produced</p>	<p>Timescale:</p> <p>Annual monitoring report</p> <p>Resources: Existing LSTF and staff resources within</p>

	change by delivering softer transport measures.	<p>Authority. This funding will enable a package of sustainable transport measures to be delivered in the West of the Borough to the value of £13.354 million by 2015. Measures fall under the following three themes:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve local access for longer distance commuter trips • Improve local trips to work and training • Smarter Choices, marketing and promotion <p>Outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support 17,000 local and regional jobs • creating £333 million of additional GVA per annum to the local economy • annually take 8.6 million km of car journeys off the road; • create 0.7 million of public transport, cycling and walking trips, per • annum; • reduce annual carbon emissions by 903 tonnes; 	body for the fund.	<p>Annual workplace staff travel surveys.</p> <p>Survey results recorded on itrace and outputs reported</p> <p>Annual modal shift</p> <p>Jobs supported</p> <p>Additional GVA created</p> <p>Amount of car journeys recued</p> <p>Number of new public transport, cycling and walking trips</p> <p>Annual transport carbon emissions reductions</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council</p> <p>Contact:</p> <p>Bethan Edwards, Local Sustainability Transport Fund Project Manager</p> <p>Lucy Low, LSTF Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council.</p>
34	Transport Infrastructure	Working through the Local Transport Board and the Local	Cheshire West and Chester Council,	Key transport infrastructure	Timescale:

	<p>Transport infrastructure is important in helping to support economic growth, but in setting out its key infrastructure needs Cheshire West and Chester Council also needs to identify transport infrastructure that makes a contribution towards meeting carbon reduction targets and helps to build resilience to severe weather events.</p>	<p>Enterprise Partnership to identify transport infrastructure priorities.</p> <p>The LEPs Strategic Economic Plan will set out key transport infrastructure. This plan should also include aligning and pooling local authority capital and revenue spend on growth – particularly on housing, transport, economic development and regeneration, planning and infrastructure.</p> <p>The plan also needs to show the local authority commitment to growth (including asset management strategy) to unlock resources for investment.</p> <p>Major schemes to progress include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Bus Interchange (£14M) • Newbridge Road Access (Ellesmere Port) • Holyhead to London electrification • Halton curve • Manchester/ Northern Hub • High Speed 2 	<p>Local Enterprise Partnership, Local Transport Body and partners.</p> <p>Decisions on key transport schemes to be made by the Local Transport Body (LTB).</p> <p>Member input through the LTB.</p>	<p>identified in the LEPs Strategic Economic Plan, along with funding and delivery details (to follow)</p> <p>Details of how the LTB will integrate into the new decision making structure.</p>	<p>Plan: October 2013</p> <p>Delivery: 2015 +</p> <p>Resources: Cheshire West and Chester Council Capital Programme</p> <p>Major additional resources required e.g. LGF, LTP (£8M), ESF etc.</p> <p>Support and development though existing staff resources within Cheshire West and Chester Council and the Sub Regional Transport Board</p> <p>Contact:</p> <p>Jamie Matthews, LTP Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council.</p>
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35	<p>Transport Planning</p> <p>Reducing the need to travel and the distances we need to travel to access key services should underpin some of the key spatial and transport policies in the emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) and Local Transport Plan (LTP).</p>	<p>Commission to work closely with the Spatial Planning team to ensure policies reflect sustainability principles, including reducing the need to travel long distances.</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council</p> <p>Ensure policy is influenced on the Local Plan and the Local Transport Plan</p>	<p>Ensuring that the Local plan has embedded strong policies to support reductions in the need to travel.</p> <p>Regular progress reports presented to the joint Member/ Officer group.</p>	<p>Timescale Spring 2014</p> <p>Resources: Use of existing resources and capacity to take policies through the Local Plan process.</p> <p>Contact : Jamie Matthews, LTP Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>
36	<p>Information via New technology.</p> <p>The bid to the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) is a major opportunity to test and deliver new approaches and technology, for example the use of mobile apps for specific platforms based on market demand. This development would provide the Council with an opportunity to 'push' specific information to customers. Cheshire West and Chester Council to continue to investigate the use of new technology.</p>	<p>Put in place project details for the use of new technology in the LSTF programme. The following proposals are now being worked up in detail:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve local access for longer distance commuter trips - Improve local trips to work and training - Smarter Choices, marketing and promotion 	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council</p> <p>Internal facing proposals on how the authority uses technology.</p>	<p>Trace hits / outputs</p> <p>Annual global modal shift</p> <p>Number of people changing travel modes</p>	<p>Timescale:</p> <p>Annual monitoring report</p> <p>Resources: Existing LSTF staff resources within Cheshire West and Chester Council</p> <p>Contact:</p> <p>Lucy Low, LSTF Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council.</p>

37	<p>Mobile and Flexible working</p> <p>New technology has to be fully embraced and rolled out through the whole organisation, but in order to make the greatest and most efficient use other complimentary measures must also be allowed to operate alongside, such as flexible and home working policies.</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester to continue to investigate and introduce new technology into the everyday operation of the Authority through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Flexible, using personal/ laptop computing in the office/ remotely with core processes •Mobile: not in an office/ home environment, on the move using smart phones etc, with lightweight systems processes/ app based access. <p>Work in partnership with the Cheshire Public Sector Family through the Public Sector Network in delivering multi agency, multi tenanting working.</p> <p>High-speed fibre broadband will be rolled out to around 96 per cent of Cheshire, Halton and Warrington homes and businesses in the next three years under a £28.5 million project between four Cheshire councils and BT.</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council</p> <p>Cheshire Public Sector Family</p> <p>BT</p>	<p>Flexible working (hot desking/ remote working) in all Cheshire West and Chester Council offices by April 2014</p> <p>High-speed fibre broadband delivered by December 2016</p>	<p>Timescale Ongoing</p> <p>Resources: Use of existing resources and capacity within the ICT/ Mobile and Flexible Working Group</p> <p>Secured funding through The Connecting Cheshire Partnership of £28.5M for high-speed fibre broadband</p> <p>Contact : Chris Marsden ICT , Cheshire West and Chester Council</p> <p>Chris Capes, Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>
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38	<p>Transport Emissions</p> <p>Need for continued investment in Bus and Rail is recognised by the Commission to help manage the impact of transport emissions. Cheshire West and Chester Council and partners should have an investment programme in place that clearly sets out how Bus and Rail services are to be supported and delivered in future.</p> <p>Note: Links into the development of the new Chester Transport Strategy, due to be adopted early in 2014.</p> <p>Opportunity to develop in 2014 a borough wide Air Quality Management Strategy, which would include Low Emissions strategy, Action plan etc.</p>	<p>Present AQMAs (use this link for more details on air pollution)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ellesmere Port • Boughton <p>Others areas under assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liverpool Road/ Parkgate Road gyratory, Chester • Lower Watergate Street, Chester • A56/ Fluin Lane, Frodsham <p>Investment in a number of key bus routes have supported lower emissions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park and Ride routes • Wrexham Sapphire route • Frodsham and Helsby <p>Links into Taxi licensing to upgrade fleet to reduce emissions, planning policy, Cheshire West and Chester Council procurement, fleet replacement</p>	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council</p> <p>Bus operators</p>	<p>Reduction of Borough wide emissions</p> <p>Reduction of local emissions in AQMAs</p> <p>Reduction in the number of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA)</p> <p>Actions agreed to reduce borough-wide during 2014 and local emissions through AQMA plans (Ellesmere Port existing, Boughton 2014)</p>	<p>Timescale Ongoing</p> <p>Resources: Use of existing resources and capacity. Additional funding via grant aid e.g. Clean Bus Technology Fund</p> <p>Contact : Steve Williams Integrated Public Transport Team</p> <p>Graham Aveyard Environmental Protection , Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>
39	<p>Cross Border Transport</p> <p>There should be more collaborative work with our neighbouring Authorities, particularly where there is already a great deal of good practice in place with a commitment</p>	<p>A number of cross-border studies and partnership working groups are already in place which aims to improve transport links between where people live and work, with a particular focus on</p>	<p>Mersey Dee Alliance (MDA)</p> <p>MDA to Work with Taith to develop cross border priorities for</p>	<p>Development of multi-modal and cross-border ticketing schemes</p> <p>Public transport network that</p>	<p>Timescale and Resources– on going, but dependent upon the availability of resources from Governments and a</p>

	to investment in new technology that improves passenger information and introduces smart ticketing.	<p>greater integration for public transport.</p> <p>The Mersey Dee Alliance works across national and local authority borders helping to co-ordinate transport priorities. Recent work has been completed (supported by the Welsh Government and Taith) on the North East Wales Integrated Transport Report. Many of the measures recommended are reliant on Government funding both in Wales and here in England through the Local Transport Body</p> <p>Progress on the implementation of recommendations is set out in the NE Wales Integrated Transport Study that impact on cross-border travel.</p>	transport investment.	<p>provides high quality access to employment sites</p> <p>A rail modernisation business case to consider how frequencies of service and journey times between North Wales and key destinations in the North West can be improved.</p> <p>Development of better integrated cross-border delivery mechanisms.</p>	<p>continuation of cross-border working groups to help co-ordinate delivery.</p> <p>Contact – Jamie Matthews / Fil Prevc, Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>
40	<p>Public Transport</p> <p>Strengthening public transport should be a priority for our functioning economic area (covered by the Local Enterprise Partnership “LEP”) which is 75% self-contained</p>	Good local transport links are essential, providing sustainable choices for residents to access employment. These links are to be considered in terms of the provision of key transport infrastructure and the provision of	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council</p> <p>Local Enterprise Partnership</p> <p>Local Transport</p>	<p>Bus patronage data for key services to be base lined, collected monthly and assessed annually.</p>	<p>Timescale:</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Resources: Existing £1.2M Public Transport Supported</p>

	in terms of people living and working in the same geographical area. The LEP area covers Cheshire West, Cheshire East and Warrington.	improved services (frequency, quality and reliability).	Body	<p>Park and Ride numbers based on number of tickets issued per site.</p> <p>Rail patronage collected by Department for Transport (DfT) station exits and entries, as well as station interviews.</p>	<p>Bus Budget</p> <p>Community Transport service</p> <p>Contact:</p> <p>Steve Williams, Integrated Public Transport Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council.</p> <p>Lucy Low, LSTF Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council</p>
41	<p>Cycling</p> <p>The emerging cycling strategy has to be integrated where appropriate to other policy areas where cycling can have a direct impact and deliver positive outcomes, particularly in terms of Sustainability and Health and Wellbeing.</p> <p>Note: Cheshire West and Chester Council Cycling Strategy for the Borough sets out suggested plans, proposals</p>	<p>The Council has now adopted a new Cycling Strategy which provides a clear policy guide that will help increase cycling levels in the borough and help to influence local infrastructure schemes.</p> <p>The strategy also sets out suggested plans, proposals and targets to make more people to take up cycling as their first choice particularly for shorter trips.</p>	Cheshire West and Chester Council	<p>To increase the number of people cycling at least once a week by 25% by 2015</p> <p>To secure a 25% increase in the number of people in the Borough who cycle at least five times a week by 2015</p>	<p>Timescale:</p> <p>2015 with annual monitoring</p> <p>Resources: Existing staff resources within Cheshire West and Chester Council</p> <p>Contact:</p> <p>Jamie Matthews, LTP Team, Cheshire West</p>

	and targets to make cycling more popular and encourage more people to take up cycling as their first choice particularly for shorter trips.			<p>Additional indicators will be monitored e.g. Permanent counters identified in Chester and Ellesmere Port.</p> <p>Station interviews and key infrastructure sites.</p>	and Chester Council Lucy Low, LSTF Team, Cheshire West and Chester Council
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Appendices

Appendix 1: Commission of Inquiry Terms of Reference

Aims and Objectives

The Commission's remit is to provide strong leadership and direction within Cheshire West and Chester on how best to meet the challenges towards becoming a low carbon borough. In doing so, we are simply aiming to make the Borough a better place to live.

The job of the Commission is to ask challenging questions, to look at the evidence, and investigate what we could do better. It will make recommendations and develop a plan of action to be considered by Cheshire West and Chester and its partners.

Purpose

The Commission will:-

- I. Listen to and consider evidence from a range of experts and partner organisations on the state of our Environment and Environment Sustainability in Cheshire West and Chester Council.
- II. Use the Evidence collected during the Inquiry to produce a report and make recommendations on the next steps towards lowering the Borough's carbon footprint.
- III. Identify adaptation measures and policies that can be adopted and implemented by Cheshire West and Chester Council and its partner organisations.
- IV. Establish Indicators to measure Carbon Neutrality / Sustainability.
- V. Through consultation and debate with the wider community, help to understand and disseminate information on the likely impact of policy recommendations.
- VI. Provide Policy recommendations to the Executive/Council on environmental issues, including recycling, alternative energy and energy reduction.
- VII. Establish a clear link between practitioners (delivery agencies) and policy makers to ensure the work of the commission is relevant to the needs of the wider Borough.

Once the Commission has made its recommendations the next stage will be to:-

- I. Seek to influence national policy that has an impact on Cheshire West and Chester
- II. Promote innovation and good practice, develop new ideas and support new initiatives
- III. Seek to gain recognition and acceptance from key organisations; to put in place a clear mechanism that provides a route for the Commission to relay a co-ordinated response.

- IV. Identify common issues and seek to influence sub-national priorities and national resources.
- V. Seek to provide consensus on areas of key research to be undertaken to help better inform the commission and its findings.
- VI. Broker new partnership arrangements that will enhance and integrate delivery at the sub-national and local level.

Membership

Membership is limited to a manageable number of nine individuals. This includes five elected Members and four Partner Organisations that have a clear strategic role. The Commission is chaired by Councillor Keith Board and the remaining four elected Members have been allocated on a cross party-basis. Members are selected by the Political Groups on the basis of their personal qualities, experience and representative roles.

Partner Organisation representation cover the following areas:

- The Third Sector
- Academia
- Community Sector with a focus on Localism
- Public Sector

Periods of appointment are for a term of two years, after which membership will be reviewed.

	Organisation	Name
Members	Cheshire West and Chester	Cllr Keith Board (Chair)
	Cheshire West and Chester	Cllr Hugo Deynem
	Cheshire West and Chester	Cllr Neil Sullivan
	Cheshire West and Chester	Cllr David Robinson
	Cheshire West and Chester	Cllr Mark Henesy
Partners		
Third Sector	Groundwork Cheshire	Jane Staley (Vice Chair)
Academia	University of Chester	Roy Alexander
Community	Sustainable Blacon	Ged Edwards
	Energy Projects Plus	Peter Owen
Public Sector	Environment Agency	Paul Radcliffe