

Councillor Amanda Sarjeant  
Deputy Leader  
Chesterfield Borough Council  
By email: amanda.serjeant@chesterfield.gov.uk

11 December 2022

Dear Amanda

**Chesterfield Climate Change Strategy Online Survey  
December 2022**

Please accept this letter as Transition Chesterfield's response to the Council's online survey which closes on 12 December 2022.

Transition Chesterfield exists to provide the encouragement and support necessary for Chesterfield to become a low carbon, sustainable, locally self-sufficient community. We have a new committee focussed on supporting local initiatives to limit climate change and on broadening activity amongst different socio-economic groups in the Borough. We would like to build our relationships with councillors and officers so that together we can form a more effective partnership in meeting shared aims.

As the Council's supporting information notes, it is estimated that local authorities are directly responsible for around 2% of UK emissions. Yet Chesterfield Borough Council has an influence and profile which can impact emissions levels within the Borough on a significantly greater level than by merely reducing its own emissions. Please could the Council revisit its suggested priority activities within each Strategic Theme to take this greater role into account. We have outlined a few suggested areas for inclusion here, but we would be happy to discuss further in a meeting or to provide additional detail regarding our suggestions.

**1. Building and Energy Use**

- Derbyshire County Council's Climate Supplementary Planning Guidance, which is currently in draft form but due to be published should be adopted as Council policy within the Local Plan.
- In the Council's Local Plan, ensure that all new buildings are carbon neutral or close to zero carbon.
- Work with funding partners and local communities to provide a home energy retrofit advice point, to include insulation and low carbon heating/electricity advice for all home occupiers.

**2. Travel**

- Actively promote alternatives to road travel and disinvest in carbon-producing means of transport including new roads.

- Lobby sector bodies (including for instance, Derbyshire County Council and Stagecoach) to increase public transport services and reduce emissions. Actively promote public transport in Chesterfield through the Station Master Plan, the planning process, and lobby for new public transport such as the proposed opening of the Barrow Hill Line.
- We are pleased to see the Council seeking to enable active travel. We'd like to see the Council actively opposing planning requests which run contrary to this and publish the Active Travel Supplementary Planning Document.
- In the Council's 2020 Climate Change Action Plan ("the 2020 Plan"), there was reference to ensuring new housing routes were connected to public transport routes – please can this be included in the current plan and rigorously enforced.
- We suggest that items 1-4 from the appendix to the 2020 Plan be replicated in the current list of priorities i.e:
  - i) Working with DCC to prioritise investment into cycling, walking and public transport, including suitable wildlife corridors and opening up waterways. All new developments must be connected meaningfully to the cycle / walking network. CBC to establish minimum size of development for this to be applied.
  - ii) CBC to publish a strategic assessment of Integrated Transport within the Borough to support our communities making the transition to sustainable modes of transport.
  - iii) CBC to work with taxi and bus operators regarding the move to electric vehicles within Chesterfield. CBC to consider as part of its wider work in relation to clean air the introduction of a strategic network of charging points.
  - iv) CBC to implement a policy whereby fleet vehicles will be moved to electric / hybrid where suitable vehicles exist whenever a vehicle lease expires.

### **3. Green space, land use and offsetting**

- We welcome the planting of additional trees in the Borough. It is critical that planning decisions prevent the removal of existing mature trees.
- The 2020 Plan included plans to undertake a full inventory of all CBC land with a view to maximising carbon capture. Please could this be included within the current plan, or if already actioned please could you confirm the details of this.
- Reinstate the policy to work with DCC of nature-friendly verges and re-wilding. This could include a local engagement plan to explain the rationale for this.
- Take rigorous enforcement action where impermeable surfaces are laid in breach of planning conditions, leading to surface water run-off and exacerbating flooding.

### **4. Communications, Engagement and Training**

- We note from the 2021 Resident Survey that 81% of residents are very or fairly concerned about climate change. We strongly encourage the Council to run a full engagement process involving local residents, groups and businesses in the discussion on tackling the climate emergency. If the Council were to arrange a facilitated discussion programme involving community groups and a series of well-publicised events, this could involve previously unheard voices and raise new ideas for meeting the Council's 2030 and 2050 commitments.

- We would welcome the opportunity to engage with the Council and provide input into the Delivery Plan through regular dialogue. Please could you confirm the expected timeframes for the annual Delivery Plan review process
- In respect of Carbon Literacy Training, please could the Council confirm the percentage of councillors and employees provided with training to date. Given the urgency and gravity of the Climate Emergency, we propose that the Council should include a target to ensure that 100% of councillors and employees receive the training by end of 2023 would be welcome.
- Work collaboratively with local groups actively working towards net zero to leverage influence on Climate Change issues. For instance, further engagement and support with Transition Chesterfield on policy and practical projects would be welcome. Future Transition Chesterfield events in furtherance of the Council's climate emergency motion dated July 2019 could be supported by the presence of councillors and/or officers and targeted publicity.

#### **5. Data, Monitoring and Corporate Activity**

- There needs to be an assessment of progress against quantitative (SMART) targets and with reference to baseline data. We suggest that the Council adopts the University of Manchester "Tyndall Budget" set out [here](#).
- Amend the Council's procurement policy to favour organisations evidencing actions towards attaining to net zero.
- We are concerned that waste and consumption has not been included as a strategic theme. This is a critical, circular theme over which the Council has direct control over. We suggest that the omission is rectified and targets from the 2020 Plan are also added.

#### **6. Council Influence and Partnership Activity**

- All council-run events to apply sustainability criteria when granting permissions. For example, at the Christmas Lights Switch On and the Fireworks Display, the Council should not permit the sale of disposable plastic novelty gifts and balloons from street traders.
- The Council has a key role to play in events run by third parties which either require Council permission to operate or use Council premises. The Council could adopt a policy offering to waive premises charges for an existing event if they demonstrate that it will not be using single-use plastics. This could incentivise events such as Chesterfield Pride or Chesterfield 10k to remove single use plastics (the plastics industry contribute 4% of worldwide greenhouse gas emissions).
- We encourage the Council to develop a Social Value and Low Carbon procurement policy (as opposed to a Social value in procurement policy).
- We welcome the reference to climate-focussed partnerships such as the Local Authorities Energy Partnership, Local Government Association networks, local business and Destination Chesterfield. We consider that the Council's most effective



means of harnessing these partnerships is to create an open forum for all groups to work and establish solutions.

Thank you for your consideration of our response to the Survey. We would welcome ongoing dialogue with the Council about its Climate Change Strategy and its implementation. Please could you let us know some suggested dates and time for a meeting with you.

Yours sincerely

**Margaret Hersee**  
**Secretary**  
**On behalf of Transition Chesterfield**

cc. Will Rolls, Climate Change Officer  
Ian Waller Service Director – Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing