

Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy Consultation

Climate and Ecological Change is the greatest existential threat we have ever faced. The great majority of scientific evidence, built up over many years, shows that the planet is getting warmer and that human activity is the main contributor to this warming.

If we act to radically reduce greenhouse gas emissions now, there's a good chance that we can limit average global temperature rises to 2°C above pre-industrial levels. This doesn't mean that there will be no more changes in the climate – warming is already happening – but we could limit, adapt to and manage these changes.

Dorset Council has a key leadership role to play in tackling climate change and dealing with its consequences, but we can only hope to make a real impact by working closely with communities, organisations and individuals.

Part of this is finding out what you think about our proposed Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan, which sets out exactly how we intend to help tackle climate change.

This work is incredibly important. Just sitting by and letting others address this crisis is not an option. We need to work together to overcome this monumental challenge. What we all do – or don't do – to address this climate and ecological emergency will impact our children, grandchildren and every other generation for centuries to come.

What we agree now will set out how we – both as a council and a county – will do in the future.

Please take the time to read our strategy and action plan, then let us know what you think. Thank you for your help.

Consultation

This consultation about the proposed new Dorset Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy **starts on Thursday 29 October and closes on Wednesday 20 January 2021 at midnight.**

We invite your comments to make sure we have considered a wide range of views, which will help shape the final Dorset Strategy. We want to hear from as many organisations and individuals as possible.

What happens next?

All responses to the consultation will be collated. The responses will be used to help shape the final Climate Strategy. Councillors will then agree the final details of the strategy which the council adopts.

It is intended that the new strategy will be adopted by Dorset Council in Spring 2021.

I am responding as a:

- Member of the public
- On behalf of an organisation
- Business
- Parish Council
- Elected Member
- MP (Your name and constituency)

Other

Organisations only

If you are giving the official response for an organisation/business, please include the name here.

Your name

Your contact details

Individuals only

Your name (unless you would rather respond anonymously)

Do you live within the Dorset Council area? (That excludes, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole) Yes No

Please provide your postcode

- Under 18 45 -64
 18-34 65+
 35-44 Prefer not to say

Are you completing your response as a family group?

- Yes
 No

Note: all information provided will be held according to our data protection policy. This is available at <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/your-council/about-your-council/data-protection/data-protection.aspx>

Background

Dorset Council provides a huge variety of services supporting residents in their daily lives. Which of the following areas of the council's work matter most to you and your family? Please select up to five.

- Protecting Dorset's natural environment
- Tackling climate change
- Helping people have healthy lifestyles
- Keeping vulnerable children and adults safe from harm
- Supporting people to live fulfilling and independent lives
- Providing rural buses and transport
- Collecting household waste (bins), recycling and cleaning streets
- Making sure roads and highways are in a good condition
- Increasing the availability of affordable housing
- Supporting economic growth and good quality jobs
- Providing libraries, museums, arts and culture
- Supporting schools so children have a good education
- Improving digital connectivity (such as access to fast broadband)
- Providing an effective planning process to manage development
- Working closely with communities and the voluntary sector

Doing your bit

Climate change is an issue for everyone, not just Dorset Council. We cannot deal with this issue on our own. In order to achieve a zero carbon Dorset by 2050, all the residents of Dorset will need to do their bit.

What are you already doing to reduce your carbon emissions? (Select all that apply)

- Using or generating more renewable energy
- Reducing the energy you use at home
- Making changes to your diet, buy more local food or growing your own food
- Buying from companies with green credentials
- Reducing your waste and recycling more
- Using less water
- Making your garden wildlife friendly
- Traveling less, walking or cycling more or buying an electric car

Do you think you can do more to reduce your carbon emissions in the future?

- Yes Possibly No

If yes, what do you think you could do over the next 5 years ? (Select all that apply)

- Use or generate more renewable energy
- Reduce the energy you use at home
- Make changes to your diet or buy more local food or growing your own food Buy
- from companies with green credentials
- Reduce your waste & recycle more
- Use less water
- Make your garden wildlife friendly
- Travel less, walk or cycle more or buy an electric car
- Other (please explain)

Is anything stopping you from taking action to reduce your carbon footprint?

- Cost
- Not sure what to do
- Facilities not available
- Regulations (e.g. Listed building)
- Other

Please give more details about what is stopping you taking action to reduce your carbon footprint (optional)

Dorset Council's Role

We are committed to achieving a Carbon Neutral Council by at least 2040 and must help facilitate the changes required to work towards the whole of Dorset becoming carbon neutral by 2050.

However, we recognise that Dorset Council has only limited powers and responsibilities in many of the areas where action is required. Therefore, Dorset organisations and individuals will all need to act collectively to achieve this wider ambition.

The council has three key roles in facilitating the change required and the strategy document is framed into these three areas...

DIRECT

~ Take DIRECT action to reduce our own carbon footprint in order to become a carbon-neutral Council by 2040, showing leadership as a large public sector organisation.

~ As a large organisation, we directly account for at least 1% of Dorset's footprint from our use of energy and water in our buildings and assets, staff travel, and the waste we produce.

INDIRECT (through services)

~ Take INDIRECT action to facilitate change by ensuring the range of services we provide across the County are delivered in a way that supports our journey towards a Carbon Neutral County.

~ Dorset Council is responsible for the delivery of many key services, such as planning, housing, economic development, waste and transport, etc.

INFLUENCE AND PARTNERSHIP

~ Work in PARTNERSHIP with other organisations and communities to drive change across the County and put in place larger programmes and projects to support fundamental change required.

~ For example - Working with Town and Parishes, community engagement, behaviour change, regional transport policy. This is as well as working with key partners and existing partnerships (LNP, LEP, AONB, Coast Forum etc.), therefore influencing key and sustainable energy strategies.

This above explains our approach in this strategy and helps you understand the following questions.

Our approach is about understanding what actions Dorset Council can directly influence, indirectly influence [such as through our services or use of our assets] and what we can only influence as part of a wider partnership. Do you agree with our approach?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor
- disagree Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please explain why you think this

Carbon Targets

The strategy sets two targets: a more ambitious target of 2040 for Dorset Council itself and 2050 for the wider Dorset area (in-line with the government's national target).

(1) Dorset Council ITSELF to become carbon neutral by 2040, ten years earlier than the national target.

(2) The whole Dorset Council AREA to become carbon neutral by 2050, which will require support of central government and everyone in Dorset taking action

Do you agree with the target set for Dorset Council ITSELF as an organisation of 2040?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Do you agree with the target set for the Dorset Council AREA of 2050?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please explain your answers

Topic Area - Renewable Energy

To achieve a carbon neutral county by 2050, all energy currently provided by fossil fuels for heating, transport and electricity in Dorset will need to come from a low-carbon source. This will require an enormous increase in renewable electricity generation in the County.

Dorset Council cannot itself do this, and does not have control of national planning policy or the money to put into renewable energy sources on its own. But there are many things the council can do to.

DIRECT

- ~ Maximise renewable energy opportunities of all DC buildings; convert all off-grid buildings to heat pumps or biomass, convert heating of all on-grid buildings to hydrogen-ready hybrid heat pumps, install max capacity solar arrays on every building
- ~ Construct large renewable energy installation (around 60 MW of solar PV or 30 MW of wind turbines) on Council owned land to meet Council's demand
- ~ Commission study to identify opportunities for renewable energy in County Farms and Council carparks
- ~ Work with renewable energy developers in Dorset to secure new renewable energy generation to meet (and exceed) needs of the Council

INDIRECT (through services)

- ~ As Local Planning Authority – actively encourage renewable energy deployment
- ~ Undertake detailed resource mapping to confirm Dorset has the technical resources to be self-sufficient. Potential sites can then be identified in the Local Plan
- ~ Establish a positive planning policy framework and toolkit for maximising the use of renewable energy within new developments

INFLUENCE & PARTNERSHIP

- ~ Lobby central government over the major hurdles to renewable energy deployment, the Navitus Bay decision, investment needed on grid infrastructure, and future of heat
- ~ Work in partnership with BCP to plan a zero-carbon energy system for Dorset
- ~ Dedicated resources to promote renewable heat in cases where it is financially viable
- ~ Extend Low Carbon Dorset programme
- ~ Dedicated resources to assisting with the expansion and awareness building of the Energy Local project in Dorset
- ~ A review of whether Council run fuel-poverty schemes could install low-carbon heating systems over gas boilers

Renewable Energy - The above is taken from the strategy and identifies the areas for action where we see Dorset Council can either directly impact, indirectly impact or only influence outcomes. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
What we can directly impact	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
What we can indirectly impact	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
What we can influence and partnership	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please explain why you think this and if there is anything fundamental that you feel we have missed in our "renewable energy" area for action? (optional)

Please explain why you think this and if there is anything fundamental that you feel we have missed in our "renewable energy" area for action?

Action Plan

We have identified a number of initial targets and specific actions that Dorset Council can take to address the areas above. Our action plan for Renewable Energy is available seperately

Renewable Energy - The action plan identifies where we see Dorset Council can take action. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree/disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please explain why you think this

Topic Area - Buildings

Areas for Action...

In order to create a carbon neutral Dorset, all carbon emissions from Dorset buildings will need to stop. All energy used for power will need to come from renewable sources.

Dorset Council has limited powers to achieve this. It will require everyone to take action in their homes and businesses. However we do have control of our own current buildings and any future buildings that are constructed on our land. We are also able to work with partners.

DIRECT

- ~ Lead by example by ensuring Dorset Council's estate becomes zero carbon by 2040
- ~ Ensure climate change is a central consideration throughout the asset review, and in the development of Dorset Council's Asset Management plan
- ~ Develop and promote case studies and examples of best practice on our own estate to encourage replication by others
- ~ Establish policies to ensure that any of the Council's new build projects are designed to be zero carbon from the outset
- ~ Continue upgrade off all Dorset streetlights to LEDs

INDIRECT (through services)

- ~ Encourage designs and layouts which lend themselves to low-carbon energy solutions, and provide guidance and advice for developers to achieve zero carbon standards
- ~ Ensure the Dorset Housing Strategy incorporates the reduction of carbon emissions and increased risk to climate impacts
- ~ Develop local plan policies to ensure climate risks are identified and avoided in new developments, such as flood risks and overheating
- ~ Secure funding to expand and extend the Low Carbon Dorset Programme. If this is successful, seek funding to extend it further, both in time and scope

INFLUENCE & PARTNERSHIP

- ~ Lobby government for clarity on national strategy for heat and national policy framework
- ~ Work in partnership to deliver programmes to improve energy efficiency of housing stock (e.g further expand Healthy Homes Scheme)
- ~ Decarbonise heating by investigating largescale installation of low carbon heating and undertaking heat mapping to identify opportunities
- ~ Educate residential and non-residential sectors on low carbon technologies, energy efficiency, and sources of funding to encourage behaviour change & greater uptake of low-carbon technology
- ~ Work with partners to increase climate change resilience of communities & buildings by understanding the future climate risks within Dorset

Buildings - The above is taken from the strategy and identifies the areas for action where we see Dorset Council can either directly impact, indirectly impact or only influence outcomes.

Do you agree with what we have proposed?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
What we can directly impact	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
What we can indirectly impact	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
What we can influence and partnership	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please explain why you think this and if there is anything fundamental that you feel we have missed in "buildings" area for action? (optional)

Action Plan

We have identified a number of initial targets and specific actions that Dorset Council can take to address the areas above.

Buildings - The action plan identifies where we see Dorset Council can take action. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree/disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please explain why you think this

Topic Area - Food & Drink

Areas for Action

To reduce the environmental impacts of food production, but still meet the rising demands, more food will need to be produced using less land and emitting fewer greenhouse gases. This will mean farming practices within Dorset will need to change. There will also need to be a significant shift in the behaviour of consumers here in Dorset.

Dorset Council must work towards reducing our carbon emissions, food poverty and the level of waste produced, all while meeting the increasing demand for food. To do so, we must help by establishing the following initiatives.

DIRECT

- ~ Work with Council tenants and concessions to reduce food waste and promote less packaging
- ~ Continued adoption of the Council's single use plastic policy throughout its estate, operations, tenants and concessions
- ~ Increase range of edible fruits, flowers, and vegetables in Council owned parks, rooftops, and open spaces
- ~ Reduce use of fertilizers on Council land by increased use of locally produced compost

INDIRECT (through services)

- ~ Work to develop opportunities for enhancing Dorset's ecological networks
- ~ Work with partners to reduce meat and increase plant-based meals in care homes and schools
- ~ Work with Council tenants and concessionaires to reduce the sale of products with high GHG emissions
- ~ Develop funding scheme to improve the efficiency of Council (Tricuro sites / other care homes) and schools' catering equipment, and switch to electric sources to allow for carbon neutral catering
- ~ Work with County Farm tenants to encourage the adoption of more climate and wildlife friendly practices

INFLUENCE & PARTNERSHIP

- ~ Continue to work with producers and partners to promote 'local food' and reduce food miles
- ~ Promote home growing and allotments to Dorset residents
- ~ Explore the adoption of tools to help engage school staff (and potentially students) to create low-carbon meals, with consideration of ingredients, food miles, and cooking methods
- ~ Promote Green Kitchen Standard & Food for Life to Dorset businesses
- ~ Work with partners to promote low-carbon affordable food options to Dorset residents
- ~ Work with partners to help food and drink suppliers within Dorset to be resilient to climate change

Food and drink - The table (above) is taken from the strategy and identifies the areas for action where we see Dorset Council can either directly impact, indirectly impact or only influence outcomes. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
What we can directly impact	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
What we can indirectly impact	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
What we can influence and partnership	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please explain why you think this and if there is anything fundamental that you feel we have missed in "food and drink" area for action?

Action Plan

We have identified a number of initial targets and specific actions that Dorset Council can take to address the areas above.

Food and Drink - The action plan identifies where we see Dorset Council can take action. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree/
- disagree Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please explain why you think this

Topic Area - Economy

Areas for Action...

We will need to create a zero-carbon economy here in Dorset. This means that emissions from the Dorset's commercial and industrial sector will need to stop whilst making sure the county's economy still thrives.

Dorset Council cannot singlehandedly these kind of emissions. But it can work with partners, influence services and develop existing programmes to drive transition to a zero carbon economy in Dorset.

DIRECT

- ~ Ensure Dorset Council procurement supports sustainable development by prioritising social & environmental wellbeing as well as economic value
- ~ Build renewable energy infrastructure at Dorset Innovation Park

INDIRECT (through services)

- ~ Support the expansion of the Dorset Innovation Park to become a centre of excellence in clean growth
- ~ Support greater deployment and strengthen high-speed broadband and ICT infrastructure in the county through Dorset's Broadband programme. And enable businesses to increase home working and reduce travel
- ~ Promote the low-carbon economy and encourage investment in green jobs and businesses in Dorset
- ~ Support businesses to become more energy and resource efficient and to install renewable energy by working with partners to expand Low Carbon Dorset programme

INFLUENCE & PARTNERSHIP

- ~ Maximise opportunities for clean growth in Dorset by working with businesses & partners to put clean growth at centre of local economic development plans
- ~ Support Dorset's strong high-tech sector to diversify & take advantage of growth in low carbon sector
- ~ Work with partners to attract green sector businesses with highly skilled workforces to Dorset
- ~ Help businesses be more resilient to climate change through our planning & flood risk management functions
- ~ Work with the tourism sector to develop specific programmes of support for sustainable tourism & make Dorset a low-carbon tourism destination

Economy - The above is taken from the strategy and identifies the areas for action where we see Dorset Council can either directly impact, indirectly impact or only influence outcomes. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
What we can directly impact	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
What we can indirectly impact	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
What we can influence and partnership	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please explain why you think this and if there is anything fundamental that you feel we have missed in "economy" area for action? (optional)

Action Plan

We have identified a number of initial targets and specific actions that Dorset Council can take to address the areas above.

Economy - The action plan identifies where we see Dorset Council can take action. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree/disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please explain why you think this (optional)

Topic Area - Waste

Area for action...

To reduce the carbon impact from our waste activities, Dorset must work towards being more sustainable and efficient. This means reducing the amount of waste we produce by keeping resources in use for as long as possible and recovering and reusing products and materials wherever we can.

DIRECT

- ~ Carry out internal waste audits across our operations & create waste reduction plan supported by targeted campaigns
- ~ Continue to work towards our commitment to become single-use plastic-free & eliminate the use of all single life products
- ~ Ensure waste is minimised through procurement e.g. DC suppliers to take back packaging or use reusable packaging systems
- ~ Develop business plan to tackle food waste within Council premises, with a particular focus on schools & adult services
- ~ Ensure sufficient contracts are in place to reuse, recycle & recover as much Council waste as possible
- ~ Work with Waste manager to reduce emissions from waste collection vehicles

INDIRECT (through services)

- ~ Establish appropriate infrastructure to support circular economy as part of Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Dorset 2008 – 33
- ~ Develop targeted campaigns to reduce amount of waste produced and increase reuse & recycling
- ~ Trial a 'not sure' box and use results to inform residents what can or cannot be recycled
- ~ Trial provision of free/subsidised food-waste caddy liners in specific areas
- ~ Explore opportunity for increased commercial waste services
- ~ Develop a contract & infrastructure strategy to enable the most efficient and cost-effective solution for Dorset

INFLUENCE & PARTNERSHIP

- ~ Respond to second round of consultations relating to the resources & waste strategy for England
- ~ Investigate how Dorset Waste Services can work with partners to facilitate reduction of commercial and industrial waste
- ~ Continue to engage with public, communities, schools & businesses to increase understanding of waste issues & best practices
- ~ Develop further campaigns to reduce the amount of waste generated & stimulate further reuse, recycling & composting
- ~ Introduce a pilot project in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy to reduce food waste
- ~ Continue to work with the Police, EA & community groups to reduce littering & fly tipping

Waste - The above is taken from the strategy and identifies the areas for action where we see Dorset Council can either directly impact, indirectly impact or only influence outcomes. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
What we can directly impact	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
What we can indirectly impact	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
What we can influence and partnership	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Action Plan

We have identified a number of initial targets and specific actions that Dorset Council can take to address the areas above.

Waste - The action plan identifies where we see Dorset Council can take action. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree/
- disagree Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please explain why you think this

Topic Area - Water

Areas for Action...

By 2050, steps will need to be taken, led by the water industry, to significantly reduce demand for water, reduce wastage and manage water resources.

It is critical that Dorset Council takes action through its own operations, services and influence to encourage a reduction in Dorset's water demand and wastage, and the management of water resources.

DIRECT

- ~ Make Dorset Council buildings more water efficient, by installing technologies such as flow regulators, water efficient toilets and showerheads
- ~ Ensure procurement specification favours water efficient equipment
- ~ Reduce / replace demand on mains water within Dorset Council buildings by installing technologies such as rainwater harvesting and grey water systems
- ~ Carry out in-depth assessment of water leaks across Council's estate
- ~ Carry out audit of all Council sites holding materials hazardous to water quality to ensure correct storage is in place & ensure pollution prevention equipment is properly maintained

INDIRECT (through services)

- ~ Ensure water use is minimised and reuse is optimised in new developments
- ~ Work with County Farms and Green Spaces to ensure land management practices protect water supplies
- ~ Ensure Dorset Council land management practices prevent water pollution
- ~ Identify areas at risk from local sources of flooding and ensure these are considered in the future
- ~ Maintenance of ordinary watercourses by riparian owners to help reduce the risk of flooding

INFLUENCE & PARTNERSHIP

- ~ Liaise with water companies to ensure water leaks are identified and eliminated in Dorset
- ~ Work with Environment Agency to ensure all high risk industrial and farming areas in Dorset have been identified and appropriate pollution prevention measures are in place
- ~ Work with partners to promote land management practices that prevent polluting water courses and ensure good water management
- ~ Work with partners to ensure climate resilience is being addressed and sufficient supplies of good quality water will be available for Dorset residents

Water - The table is taken from the strategy and identifies the areas for action where we see Dorset Council can either directly impact, indirectly impact or only influence outcomes. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
What we can directly impact	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
What we can indirectly impact	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
What we can influence and partnership	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please explain why you think this and if there is anything fundamental that you feel we have missed in "water" area for action?

Action Plan

We have identified a number of initial targets and specific actions that Dorset Council can take to address the areas above.

Water - The above action plan identifies where we see Dorset Council can take action. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree/disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please explain why you think this

Topic Area - Natural Assets

Area for Action ...

Natural Assets provide clean air, water, and healthy soils that are vital for the physical well-being of Dorset's population.

Critically, our declaration of an ecological emergency recognises the increasing pressure being placed on ecosystems and biodiversity and the need to work hard to maintain and improve Dorset's natural assets. Dorset Council can take action on its own estate and continue to work closely with partners.

DIRECT

- ~ Identify opportunities to use Dorset Council land to increase resilience to climate change
- ~ Increase biodiversity on identified areas of Council land
 - ~ Increase area of Council owned or managed land for ecological & carbon sequestration outcomes.
- ~ Creation of wildlife friendly areas on council land (incl. bee-friendly zones)
- ~ Increase hedge & woodland planting through Dormouse District Licence project
- ~ Review all chemical use to ensure no harm to unintended species
- ~ Expand cut & collect verge management
- ~ Increase tree planting where suitable to avoid detrimental effects on other habitat types or landscape

INDIRECT (through services)

- ~ Develop / adopt biodiversity, green & open spaces supplementary planning document to ensure a consistent approach for developers to take up protection & enhancement measures of key biodiverse areas
- ~ Use the financial contributions from development raised through Nitrates Supplementary Planning Document to buy land for rewilding / tree planting / creation of rough grassland and scrub
- ~ Ensure all decision making around use of natural assets is based upon ecological value
- ~ Manage heathlands SPD – SANGS in-house to provide additional areas for ecological & carbon sequestration purposes
- ~ Work with tenants of County Farms to promote and ensure best environmental practices are upheld

INFLUENCE & PARTNERSHIP

- ~ Communicate to residents, business, & landowners good practice
- ~ Develop guidance to ensure community tree planting initiatives are ecologically robust & sensitive to local landscape ('right tree in the right place')
- ~ Promote tree planting through partnership working & use of Council tree planting checklist
- ~ Promote the health & wellbeing benefits of publicly accessible high ecological value land
- ~ Work in partnership with Children's & Adult Services to ensure natural environment is fully utilised in social care offer
- ~ Work with partners to connect fragmented habitats across county
- ~ Work with town & parish councils to promote best practice within their greenspace & communities

Natural Assets - The table (above) is taken from the strategy and identifies the areas for action where we see Dorset Council can either directly impact, indirectly impact or only influence outcomes. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
What we can directly impact	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
What we can indirectly impact	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
What we can influence and partnership	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please explain why you think this and if there is anything fundamental that you feel we have missed in "natural assets" area for action?

Action Plan

We have identified a number of initial targets and specific actions that Dorset Council can take to address the areas above.

Natural Assets - The action plan identifies where we see Dorset Council can take action. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree/disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please explain why you think this (optional)

Topic Area - Transport

Areas for Action...

The transport sector is a major contributor to our carbon footprint. Decarbonising this sector will be a key challenge in moving towards a zero-carbon future. In rural areas like Dorset, car ownership is amongst the highest in the country.

Dorset Council can encourage employees to travel less and can replace its vehicle fleet with Ultra low emission vehicles and work with partners to the provision of electric charging points and sustainable transport infrastructure.

DIRECT

- ~ Maximise ultra-low-carbon vehicle replacement within Council fleet
- ~ Provide EV charging points & other ultra-low-emission fuel alternatives across the Council property estate
- ~ Reduce emissions from transport infrastructure construction and maintenance
- ~ Ensure access to sustainable transport is considered in planning applications
- ~ Encourage behavioural change in way staff travel to and for work
- ~ Reduce the need for staff to travel to and for work
- ~ Understand key risks and potential costs posed by climate change to transport & travel in Dorset
- ~ Mainstream climate resilience in future strategies and policies.

INDIRECT (through services)

- ~ Improve low-carbon transport infrastructure by embedding it in the Local Plan and Transport Plan
- ~ Increase investment in walking, cycling & public transport infrastructure - secured through LTP, developer contributions, and other available funding streams
- ~ Encourage decarbonisation of road transport through development of EV charging network & promotion of low emissions transport vehicles
- ~ Improve quality & availability of public transport to make services more attractive to the travelling public
- ~ Encourage behaviour change through active & sustainable travel campaigns and initiatives.

INFLUENCE & PARTNERSHIP

- ~ Lobby government - e.g. for Rail improvements
- ~ Respond to government calls and submit high quality grant applications
- ~ Redirect investment from strategic road schemes to low-carbon transport (Work with Subnational Transport Body and Local Enterprise Partnership)
- ~ Work with Dorset Business Travel Network & Digital Dorset to promote use of ICT to individuals and businesses to avoid travel & encourage working from home
- ~ Work with schools, parents and partners to reduce the carbon foot print of the daily school commute.

Transport - The table (above) is taken from the strategy and identifies the areas for action where we see Dorset Council can either directly impact, indirectly impact or only influence outcomes. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
What we can directly impact	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
What we can indirectly impact	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
What we can influence and partnership	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please explain why you think this and if there is anything fundamental that you feel we have missed in "transport" area for action

Action Plan

We have identified a number of initial targets and specific actions that Dorset Council can take to address the areas above. Our summary action plan for Transport can be found here.

Transport - The above action plan identifies where we see Dorset Council can take action. Do you agree with what we have proposed?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree/disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please explain why you think this (optional)

Making it Happen

Leadership and Governance

Taking action to address the Climate and Ecological Emergency will need a multi-disciplinary approach, drawing on skills and resources from across Dorset Council and wider partners. It will need to be part of the way we do things and embedded in the way we deliver our services.

To ensure the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy is effectively delivered we have identified several key actions:

Leadership & Governance Actions

- ~ Lobby government for additional resources and a supportive policy framework
- ~ Actively input into national forums and consultations to encourage policy development in this area
- ~ Review our structures to ensure governance at the highest level to take forward action across the Council
- ~ Ensure enough human resource is in place to drive forward action
- ~ Develop tools to undertake robust impact and policy appraisals to ensure climate change is considered in all key corporate projects, programmes, strategies and plans
- ~ Ensure climate change is considered in all corporate projects

Do you agree we have identified all the relevant leadership and governance actions?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer (optional)

Making it Happen

Funding the response

Tackling the climate emergency will require significant investment at all levels of society. Dorset Council alone will need to invest many millions of pounds (over £100m) over the next 20- 30 years just to be-come a Carbon Neutral Council.

Funding the Response Actions

~We will develop a finance strategy to enable us to deliver this climate emergency response by identifying and implementing ways for our finance department to actively support climate change action. This includes establishing invest-to-save schemes, such as our transformation fund, capital receipts through asset rationalisation, and building into our capital programme. We will also explore options to raise additional funds, such as through borrowing or council tax.

Wider action across the County is likely to require several billion pounds of investment from the government, organisations, and individuals. It is anticipated that further funding and incentives will be forthcoming from central government to support the shift to a low-carbon future.

~ We will work with partners and lobby government to seek additional support and external funding and to maximise opportunities for external funding from government and others, making sure Dorset gets its fair share. This is in addition to securing innovative financial arrangements for climate change projects and programmes and giving significant weight to climate change in the procurement process.

Do you agree with our approach to funding the actions required to implement the strategy i.e. invest-to-save schemes, capital receipts through asset rationalisation, and building into our capital programme as well as exploring options to raise additional funds through borrowing and council tax?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer

Have we missed a way of raising money to pay for action?

Making it Happen

Engagement & Communications

We all need to take action to address the climate emergency and support the transition to a low-carbon future. We need to put the climate at the forefront of our communications and encourage and support action by everyone in Dorset.

We have identified several key actions Dorset Council can take to raise awareness of the issues, support action at a community level and engage with wider stakeholders to tackle some of the major challenges the Climate and Ecological Emergency raises.

RAISING AWARENESS

We will look to provide more accessible and digestible information on climate change and ecology and the actions we can all take through a range of channels. These will include upgrading our climate change website, developing an online information hub for sharing information, and best practice. This is as well as directing information to residents through Council literature and encouraging an open and ongoing dialogue between the Council and Dorset residents.

We will improve the awareness, engagement, and knowledge of our staff and service providers through staff awareness campaigns, with a focus on how employees can reduce their carbon emissions. This is in addition to increasing their climate resilience in the workplace and at home and integrating key climate change messages into induction programmes. Furthermore, we will organise targeted briefings and training sessions for officers, members, and decision makers on the benefits and opportunities of tackling climate change, highlighting this contribution to other Council priorities. We will also establish an internal climate change champions programme.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY ACTION

We will support Town and Parish Councils to develop and implement their organisation and area wide climate action plans. This is as well as helping them engage with residents to encourage community action and drive change at a grassroots community level.

We will help to facilitate and support new and existing community-led projects and community organisations active in this area. Furthermore, we will work with these groups to signpost and communicate shared messages.

ENGAGEMENT WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS

We will consult with residents and organisations on this strategy and plans as they develop, using existing and new consultation processes.

We will build support from stakeholders and the wider public by informing and educating on the benefits and opportunities of acting on climate change and creating, maintaining, and developing partnership working on all aspects of climate change action. We will seek to develop a Dorset Climate Emergency partnership group.

We will facilitate the development of a Dorset-wide partnership with other key public, private, and third sector partners in order to develop a partnership approach to driving forward some of the fundamental changes that will be required to deliver a carbon neutral county.

Do you agree we what we are proposing for engagement and communications actions

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer

Making it Happen

Monitoring & Progress Reporting

To ensure we are on track to meet our targets and not exceed our carbon budgets, we need a robust baseline and regular progress monitoring and reporting of both carbon emissions and ecological indicators.

~ We will develop a robust baseline for Council and County carbon emissions and ecology, developing in-house data collection systems to draw data from all the former Councils now forming Dorset Council. This is as well as considering wider emissions from Council activities (Scope 3) such as procurement.

~ We will further explore the Dorset County footprint, beyond the data provided by Central Government, to provide a wider understanding of Dorset's emissions e.g. agriculture.

~We will monitor and report on actions and progress in achieving carbon reduction by producing an annual report of progress on climate change targets, budgets, and actions.

Would you be interested in seeing the progress reviews?

- Yes
- No

How often do you want to be updated on progress?

- Annually
- Every 6 months
- Other

How do you want to be updated on progress? (select all that apply)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual report | <input type="checkbox"/> Social media | <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Our Website | <input type="checkbox"/> Press releases | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E - newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

Any Other comments

About You

(For individual rather than organisational responses) Note: all information provided will be held according to our data protection policy.

We collect diversity information, not only to ensure any changes do not unfairly impact on specific sectors of the community, but also to try to make sure our consultation response comes from a representative sample of local residents. We would appreciate if you can complete the following details. These questions are optional.

Which age group do you belong to?

- Under 18
- 18 - 24
- 25 - 34
- 35 - 44
- 45 - 54
- 55 - 64
- 65 or over
- Prefer not to say

What best describes your gender?

- Male
- Female
- I use another term
- Prefer not to say

What is your employment status?

- Student
- Employed/self employed
- Not employed and looking for work
- Not employed and not looking for work
- Apprenticeship scheme/training
- Retired
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please state)

The Equality Act 2010 describes a person as disabled if they have a longstanding physical or mental condition that has lasted, or is likely to last 12 months; and this condition has a substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. People with some conditions (cancer, multiple sclerosis and HIV/AIDS for example) are considered to be disabled from the point that they are diagnosed.

Do you consider yourself to be disabled as set out in the Equality Act 2010?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

If yes, please tell us which type of impairment applies to you. You may have more than one type of impairment, so please select all the impairments that apply to you

- Physical disability
- Learning disability / difficulty
- Long-standing illness or health condition Mental health condition
- Sensory impairment (hearing, Sight or both)
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify)

What is your ethnic group?

- White British
- White Irish
- Gypsy/Irish Traveller
- Any other White background
- Asian/Asian British - Bangladeshi
- Asian/Asian British - Chinese
- Asian/Asian British - Indian
- Asian/Asian British - Pakistani
- Any other Asian background
- Black/Black British - African
- Black/Black British - Caribbean
- Any other Black background
- Mixed - White and Asian
- Mixed - White and Black African
- Mixed - White and Black Caribbean
- Any other mixed background
- Prefer not to say
- Any other ethnic group (please specify)

Thank you for completing this consultation. Please now return your completed form to Consultation Section, Communications Department, Dorset Council, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ by the closing date of 20 January, 2021