

Climate Emergency Action Plan Tool Kit

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has warned that we have 12 years to make the necessary changes to limit a rise in global temperatures to 1.5c. Failure to act will see a marked increase in sea levels and flooding, extreme and abrupt changes to weather patterns, crop failures, extinctions of plant, insect and animal species and global economic disruption and crisis.

The increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events that we have experienced locally highlight why this is such an important issue for Calderdale Council to respond to.

At the Global Climate Talks in Poland last December the UK along with over 200 nations agreed action on climate change with a much greater role strongly implied for Local and Regional Authorities like Calderdale Council in assisting Governments to achieve their carbon emission savings.

The Council and Calderdale are on track to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 40% by 2020 and 80% by 2050. But in light of the Climate Emergency, more needs to be done. Linked local issues to tackle include air quality, wildlife habitats at risk and large amounts of plastic blighting our beautiful countryside.

We are committed to taking the lead locally. This is to reduce the extent of climate change and to become more resilient to its impacts. We have set up a Climate Change Working Party, which meets in public and has wide representation. This committee will set a new target and action plan for Calderdale to respond to the climate emergency and become carbon neutral.

However, we urge all residents and businesses to join us on the mission to tackle climate change. Every action matters.

Protecting the local environment supports The Council's Vision 2024 key themes of distinctiveness and resilience. This helps to make sure that Calderdale stays an outstanding place for generations to come.

This Tool Kit highlights Key Elements that will need populating if Calderdale is to meet its aspiration to be Carbon Neutral.

The Tool Kit also indicates existing activities within the Key Elements. These are primarily that led Calderdale Council, however as knowledge and partnerships strengthen the Tool Kit will map a diverse cross section of activities that will complement each other.

There will be clear links to national action as well as Calderdale's Inclusive Economy, Anti-Poverty and Health & Wellbeing Strategies that will need to be identified within the Tool Kit.

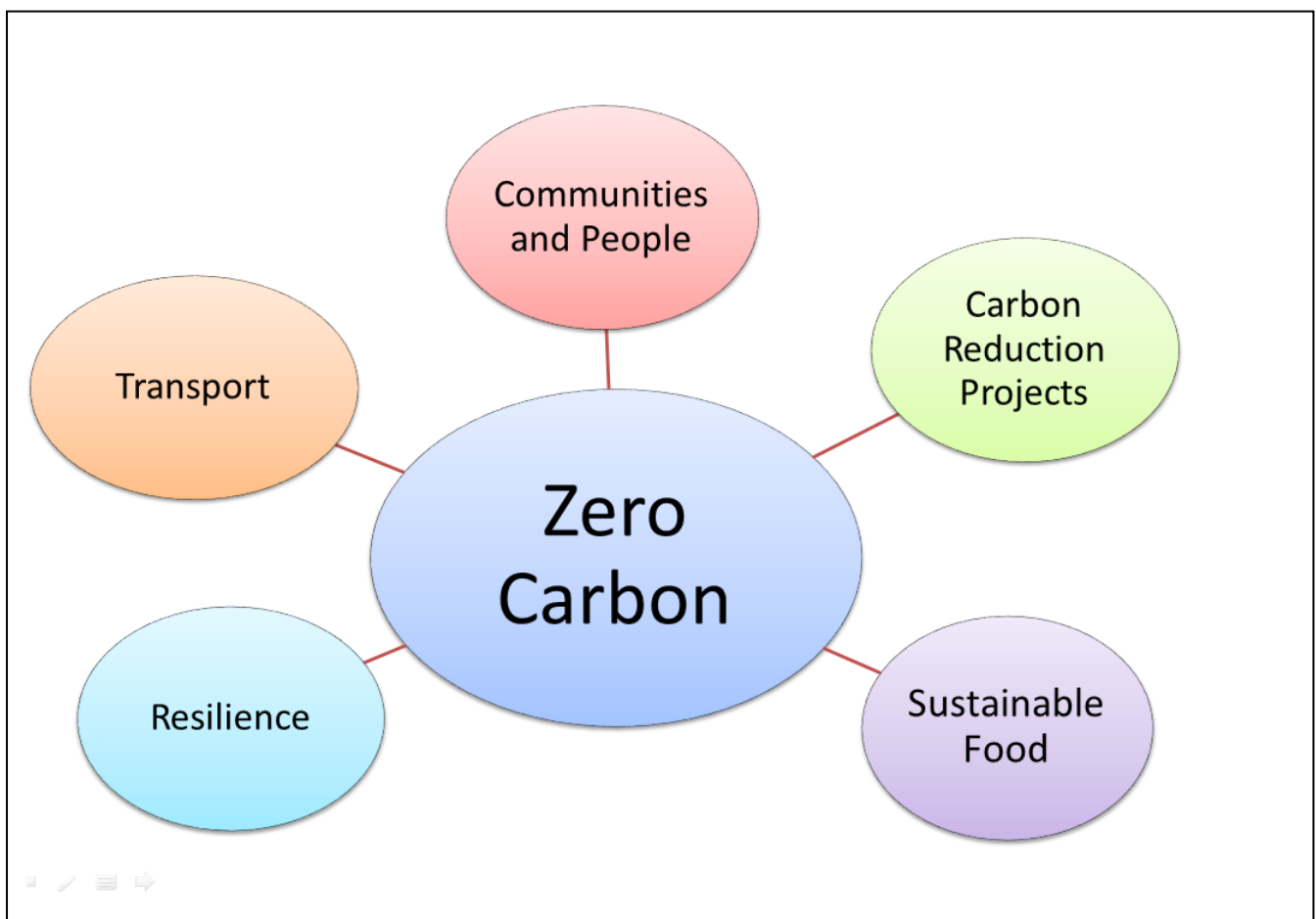
Developing the Climate Emergency Action Plan

An Action Plan will be need to engage with Calderdale partners and draw in commitments that will bring about the required rate of emission reduction across all sectors.

The Action Plan will need to be developed alongside the Leeds City Region Energy Strategy Delivery Plan which contains regional activities that will support and compliment local actions.

There is a clear need for national action. Calderdale Council and its partners will have some control; however significant wins have to come from national policy and devolution.

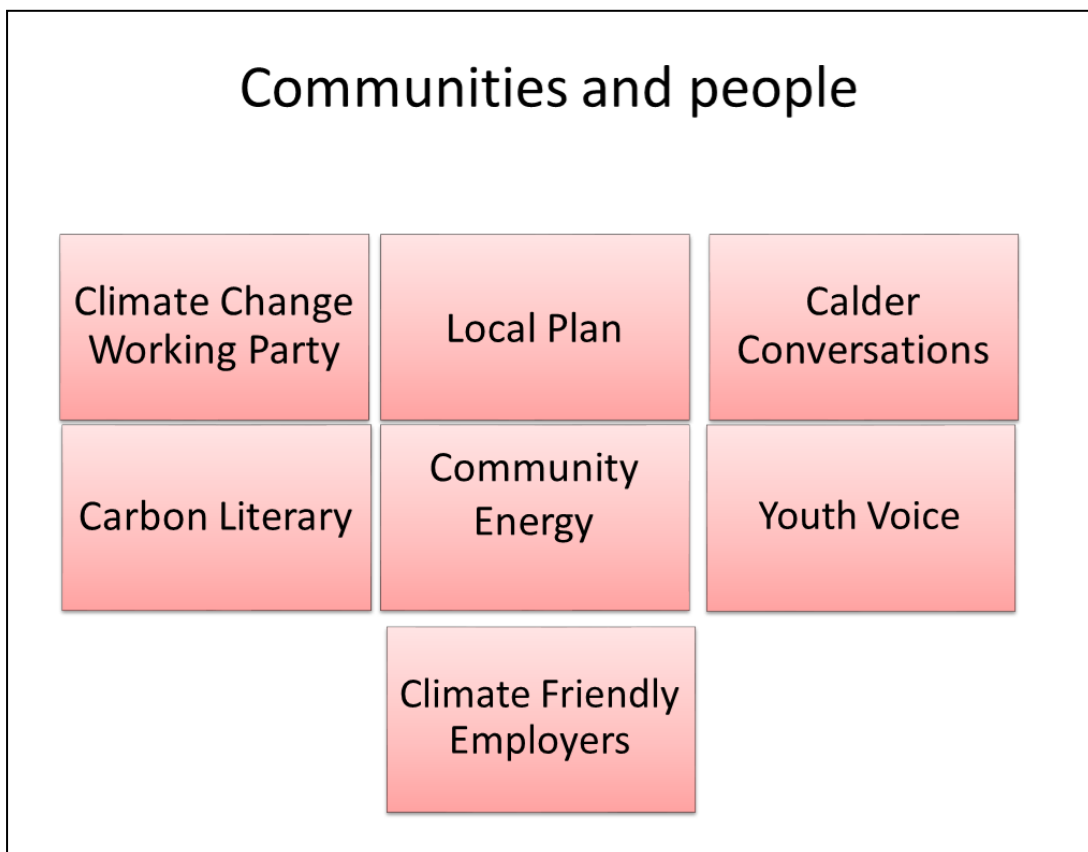
Five Key Elements in Calderdale's Climate Emergency response



The Five elements will cover key actions areas that will need to be addressed in order to respond to the Climate Emergency. Each element carries associated actions which have been identified in terms of approach. This toolkit indicates a number of actions currently identified.

Action Approaches:

<p><u>Control Action</u></p> <p>Action is within the control of the responsible agent, primarily Calderdale Council. Delivery of the action should be reasonably certain provided sufficient resources have been allocated.</p>
<p><u>Influence Action</u></p> <p>Action is within the Influence of the responsible agent, primarily Calderdale Council. Delivery of this action will depend on the ability of the agent to influence the target individuals / organisations.</p>
<p><u>Advocate Action</u></p> <p>Action is within the endorsement of the responsible agent, primarily Calderdale Council. The Agent will be involved in lobby and advice capacity with the target in control.</p>



The Cabinet has set up a Calderdale Climate Change Committee to respond to this challenge that meets in public with wide representation including from all party groups, local interest groups and businesses.

Calderdale Conversations

<https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/v2/council/our-vision/calderdale-conversations>

This is a new opportunity for people across the region to talk about the things most important to them. Calderdale Council is hosting all kinds of conversations in Calderdale over the coming months. Residents and Businesses engage through one of the following approaches:

- Sofa Chat: One of our Calderdale Conversations team on our big comfy sofa - out touring Calderdale now.
- Polls: using a Token residents and businesses can tell us what you think about the big issues of the day by voting in one of our polls.
- Displays: Write down thoughts or give some feedback on one of our display boards.

Calderdale Climate Emergency is one of the first “Conversation starters” being put forward through Calderdale Conversations.

See <https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/v2/council/our-vision/calderdale-conversations> for further details.

Carbon Literary

Carbon Literacy is having an awareness of the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities - and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis. Carbon Literacy is a term used to describe an awareness of climate change, and the climate impacts of mankind's everyday actions.

Control Action: Agree a suitable, funded approach to public consultation of this developing Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Control Action: Identify resources to Deliver Carbon Literacy within Calderdale Council and across key Borough targets.

Influence Action: Encourage Calderdale Partners to declare a Climate Emergency and develop complimentary action plans.

Community Energy

Looking for opportunities to raise capital for renewable energy through community shares. This could fund hydropower and big scale solar panel arrays. We're developing models to see what might be viable.

Control Action: Investigate opportunities for Community Energy schemes in Calderdale using existing data and resources

Influence Action: Encourage Calderdale partners to facilitate Community Energy Project on their land and assets.

Advocate action: Encourage Government to re-invigorate the Community Energy Sector

Local Plan

The Planning policy provides the policy framework for the future development of the district. Against this, planning decisions will be based through the preparation of the Local Plan. This will be the new development framework for Calderdale. It includes the timetable for consultation and implementation and Neighbourhood development plans to help local communities shape development within their area.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

CIL raises funds from developers undertaking new building projects in Calderdale. It is used to fund the wide range of infrastructure needed as a result of development.

Control Action: To see the Local Plan Adopted

Influence Action: To use the Local Plan to ensure Sustainable Development across the Borough

Advocate action: To encourage national government to set consistent and enforced policy to enable a transition to zero carbon homes, businesses and communities

Climate Friendly Employer

Creating organisational policies and procedures that could support employees to live fulfilling, lower carbon lifestyles. Social scientists have found that when one person makes a sustainability-oriented decision, other people do too. Approaches include:

- Remove the requirement for roles to have car driving as "essential".
- Make it policy to have any catering be majority plant-based
- Create tax free or other incentives for sustainable lifestyle choices

Control Action: Develop a Calderdale Climate Friendly Employer framework

Influence Action: Encourage Calderdale partners to adopt Climate Friendly policies

Youth Voice

Calderdale's Youth Council gives young people aged 11 to 18 years a voice, listened to by local, regional and national government. The Climate Emergency is a priority for the Youth Council in Calderdale and is an opportunity to bring the youth voice into the response to our Climate Emergency

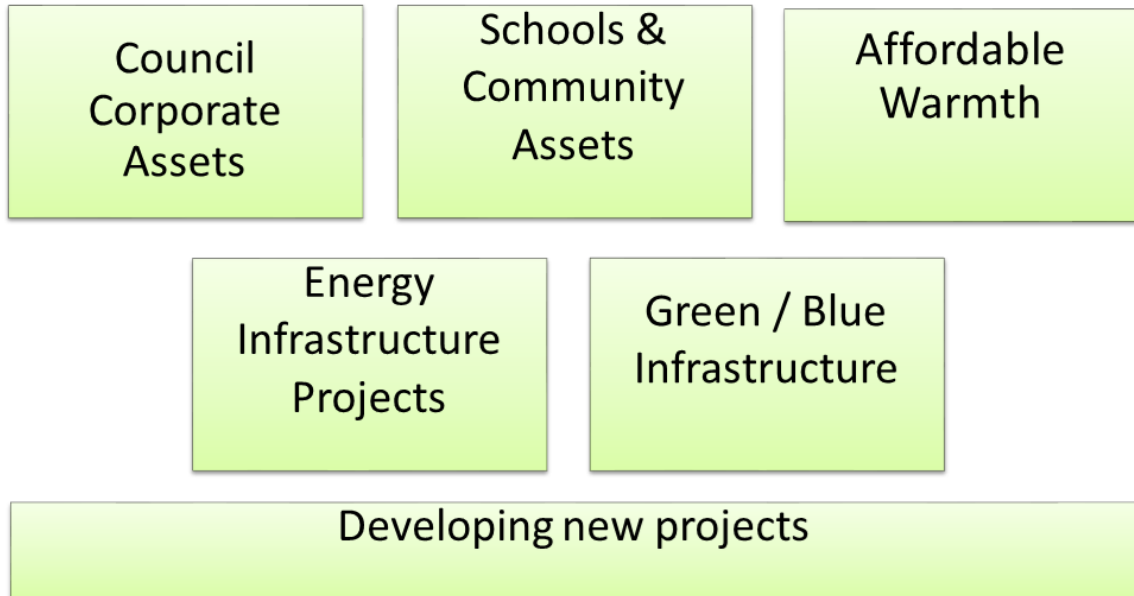
There are likely additional way to capture the youth voice and ensure young people are heard such as School Councils and Youth Groups

Control Action: Develop a plan in association with the Youth Council and Children & Young Peoples Services to ensure Calderdale's Youth Voice is heard.

Influence Action: Encourage Calderdale partners to also consult with young people on their climate action plans

Advocate Action: To support young peoples' calls to national government on climate priorities

Local Carbon Reduction Projects



Council Corporate Assets

Calderdale Council operates a range of assets including street lights and buildings. The Council has made significant inroads in reducing Carbon Dioxide emissions from its operations and intends to undertake further work in this area. Including:

Energy Saving Street Lighting

The Council is investing over £20m in upgrading street lights across the Borough. These deliver a 60% saving on energy use – reducing carbon dioxide emissions by over 3,000 tonnes a year.

Reducing CO₂ from its Buildings

Through the Re:fit framework, the Council has invested in 26 Council buildings so far. This is to reduce carbon emissions by around 1,000 tonnes per year and cut running costs.

Highlights include:

- 9 buildings with roof-top photovoltaic (solar) panel arrays;
- Oil and coal boilers retired;
- LED lighting upgrades in many of the buildings;
- Efficiency of heating systems improved.

Calderdale's Re:fit programme aims to continue to improve those of its buildings that are considered to be long-term holdings. The Council has also identified several plots of land that will be assessed for the potential deployment of renewable-energy technologies, subject to planning permission.

Calderdale Council is showing leadership and Calderdale Businesses, Community and Public Sector are encouraged to consider how they can cut energy use and reduce carbon dioxide emission across their respective assets.

Control action: Continue to improve energy efficiency of its buildings that are considered to be long-term holdings, and deploy renewable-energy technologies on Council land where feasible and subject to planning.

Influence Action: Encourage Calderdale partners to undertake energy efficiency works to reduce emissions as a priority

Advocate Action: To call on national government to make policy and finance mechanisms available to all sectors and groups to enable a transition from low to zero carbon buildings

School & Community Assets

There are 98 schools in Calderdale. The build type, age and condition of buildings housing these schools vary considerably across the school estate. Old Earth Primary School is an excellent example of what can be achieved with focus, support and access to funding and finance. The school has embarked on a number of measures including solar panels, solar thermal, LED lighting and biomass heating. Calderdale's School estate as a whole can benefit with support from the Council and achieve cash and carbon savings. Additionally, as classrooms are currently at risk of being under or over-heated and negatively impacting on the learning environment, additional learning benefits would be realised.

Control Action: Develop a suitable approach to bring renewable and energy efficiency improvements to the local authority schools estate

Influence Action: Support Community Assets and Academies in considering renewable and energy efficiency improvements

Influence Action: Encourage Calderdale partners to support the Community Foundation For Calderdale 6C Fund that provides energy improvement grants to the local community sector.

Energy Infrastructure Projects

Calderdale Council is currently developing two possible examples of energy infrastructure projects that will bring low carbon energy into the borough:

- District Heat
- Solar Farm

Control Action: Develop the District Heat and Solar Farm Energy Infrastructure Projects

Influence Action: Encourage Calderdale partners to consider Energy Infrastructure projects on their assets.

Advocate Action: Approach Central Government to seek additional support in establishing Energy Infrastructure Projects including feasibility, planning and funding support.

Further projects will need to be identified and developed across the Borough.

Green / Blue Infrastructure

Green infrastructure or blue-green infrastructure is a network providing the “ingredients” for solving urban and climatic challenges by building with nature. The main components of this approach include storm water management, climate adaptation, less heat stress, more biodiversity, food production, better air quality, sustainable energy production, clean water and healthy soils, as well as the more anthropocentric functions such as increased quality of life through recreation and providing shade and shelter in and around towns and cities. Green infrastructure also serves to provide an ecological framework for social, economic and environmental health of the surroundings.

Calderdale Council is developing policies and guidance to encourage further integration and enhancement of Green / Blue Infrastructure in existing and planned developments.

Control Action: Ensure Green Street principles are applied in Next Chapter developments such as the town centre, A629 and A641 transport projects.

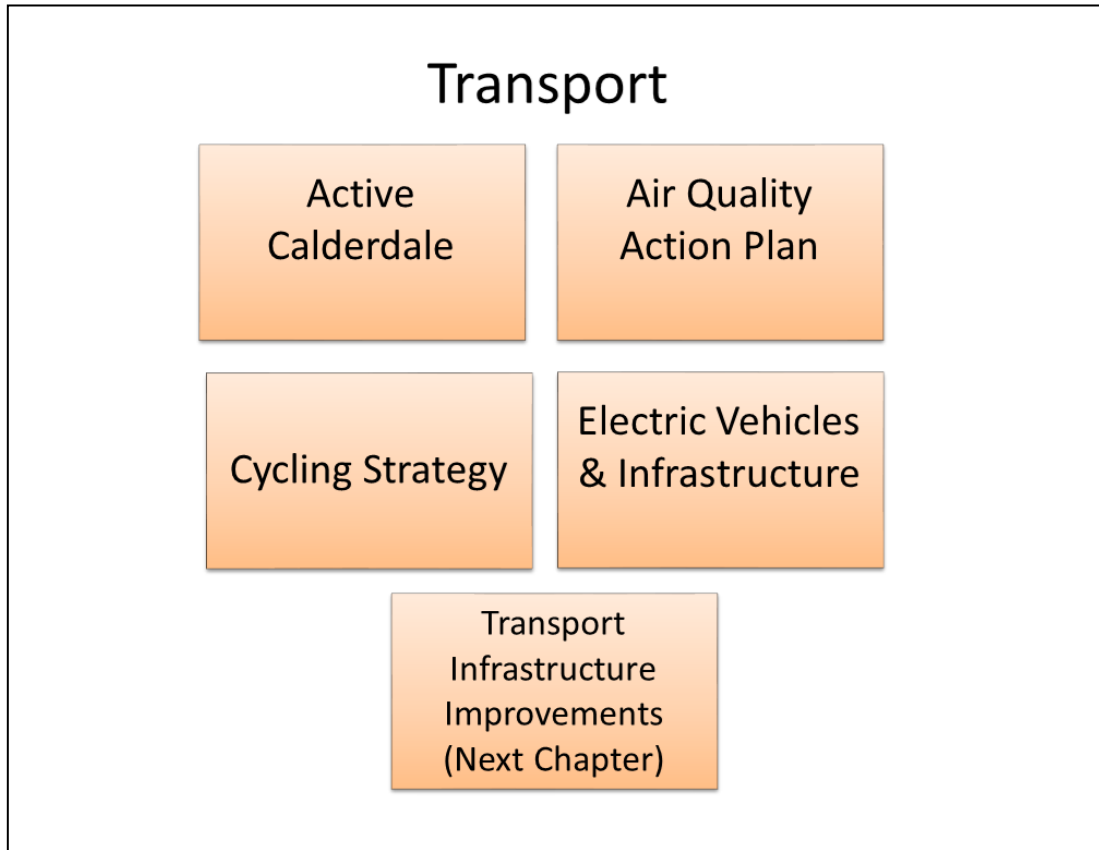
Control Action: Develop Green Streets guidance to support the Local Plan

Control action: Calderdale Council will coordinate the local White Forest Rose work supporting a Northern Forest which aims to collectively see planted 50 million trees across the north of England.

Influence Action: Encourage Green Street principals in SE Calderdale develops such as the Garden Suburbs.

Influence Action: Support the Leeds City Region Green Infrastructure Strategy

Advocate Action: Advocate our Calderdale Partners to maximise Green Infrastructure within their estates. Approach central government and request policy and funding support for building of green infrastructure in existing areas.



Active Calderdale

Active Calderdale is the physical activity strategy devised by partners across Calderdale. Our vision is to be the most active borough in the North by 2024.

Physical activity means different things to many people in Calderdale. For some it's the gym, going for a run, cycling or sport. For others it's walking, gardening, dancing or commuting. For some it's about fitness and losing weight, for others it's about connecting with friends and family, and for some it's about maintaining their physical health, mental health or independence – the list is endless, and unique to everyone.

Cycling Strategy

Calderdale Council recognise the role that cycling has to play in contributing to the health, well-being and prosperity of our residents and businesses and that our countryside attracts cycling visitors from right across the country and beyond.

Calderdale has a number of challenges when it comes to encouraging cycling but we've also got some significant opportunities to not only capitalise on our beautiful countryside but to also build on the legacy of the Tour de France and Tour de Yorkshire.

The cycling strategy has been developed to complement our overarching Transport Strategy and 'Active Calderdale', describing how we are going to encourage everyone to include cycling as part of their everyday activities whether they are commuting to work, shopping, looking to improve their health or taking part in sport.

Control Action: Delivery the Calderdale Physical Activity Strategy and Cycling Strategy

Influence action: Encourage Calderdale partners to adopt the Active Calderdale approach and establish Active Calderdale as a moment in Calderdale.

Advocate Action: Approach central government and request policy and funding support to enable active mode travel to be enhanced and preferable to fossil fuel transport wherever possible.

Air Quality

A priority for us is to make the environment in Calderdale better. In 2019 Calderdale Council adopted its Air Quality Action Plan 2017 – 2030. However the Council cannot solve the air quality issue alone, everyone has a role to play. With Let's Clear The Air we are asking residents to take action of their own. This includes more sustainable travel choices, where possible.

Control Action: Deliver the Calderdale Air Quality Action Plan

Control Action: Continue the "Let's Clear the Air" campaign

Advocacy Action: Approach Government to provide additional support to tackling Air Quality issues. This is likely to entwine with issues around availability and service provision of low and zero carbon public transport infrastructure.

Calderdale Next Chapter

Through improvements to public transport and active mode infrastructure, we will create:

- faster and more reliable journeys;
- cleaner air;
- more jobs;
- and better access to skills.

We are building a sustainable future by:

- introducing a rail station at Elland;
- transforming Halifax rail station;

- and delivering significant improvements and new infrastructure for bus, cycling and walking. (This is through the £120.6m A629 Improvement Programme for journeys between Halifax and Huddersfield.)

Control Action: Deliver significant improvements and new infrastructure for bus, cycling and walking.

Influence Action: Support the creation of a railway Station at Elland

Influence Action: Support the transformation of Halifax Railway Station

Advocacy Action: Approach Government to provide additional support to for new active mode and zero carbon public transport infrastructure projects

Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV) & Infrastructure

Unlike petrol or diesel cars Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs) help improve Air Quality and have reduced Carbon Dioxide as they have zero emissions from the exhaust.

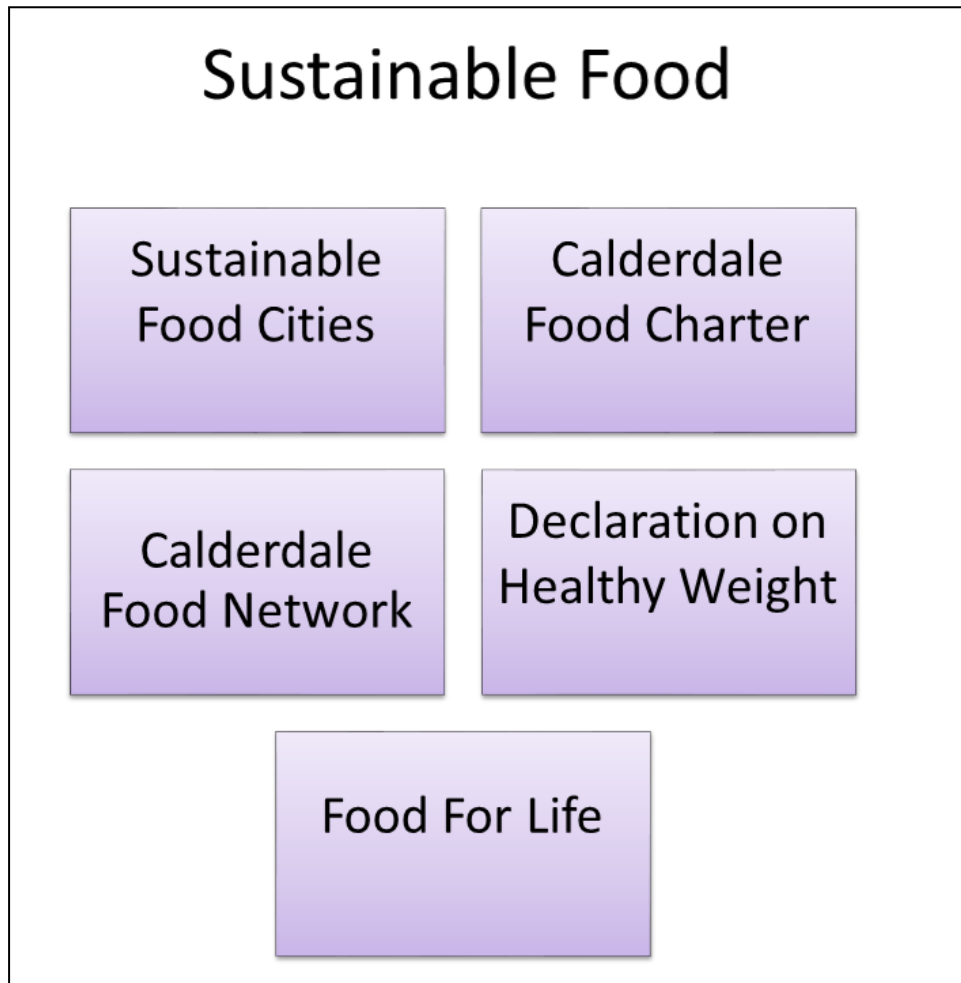
Calderdale Council have three electric vans on our fleet and look to increase this over the next 12 months.

Control Action: Increase ULEV within the Council Fleet

Control Action: Investigate On Street Residential Charging funding opportunities

Advocacy Action: Approach Government to provide additional support for ULEV infrastructure and policies which will support rapid transition to ULEV vehicles.

We are also increasing infrastructure by introducing rapid chargers for taxis and the public at some public car parks. This is a project we are doing with [WYCA and Engie](#).



Sustainable Food

Sustainable Food Cities

Across the globe, communities at every scale have recognised the key role food can play in dealing with some of today’s most pressing social, economic and environmental challenges and are taking a joined up approach to transforming their food culture and food system.

Calderdale Council is committed to taking a leading role in driving more sustainable food systems and is working to achieve this by developing a cross-sector partnership. This is dedicated to working together to make healthy and sustainable food a distinctive local characteristic.

Calderdale Food Network

The Network’s vision is that “Calderdale is a good food borough where everyone, today and in the future, has equitable access to good food”. Inclusive and open to all that have a mutual interest in creating a sustainable and equitable food system. Members are drawn from public, private and third sector organisations.

Calderdale Food Charter

The Calderdale Food Network is encouraging sign up to the Charter and pledge to take action to grow a healthy sustainable food culture in Calderdale.

Food For Life

This programme is about making good food the easy choice for everyone working in schools, nurseries, the hospital, care settings and on the High Street. 82 of our schools are now engaged in the Programme with 26 having achieved bronze awards, 6 silver and 3 gold. 7 early years settings have also achieved awards, see [The Food For Life School Award](#) and [The Food For Life Early Years](#) for more details about these awards. Our care homes have also risen to the challenge, have a look at [Food For Life Get Togethers](#) for Food For Life activities in Mytholm Meadows Care Home. Plus if you're Out to lunch in Calderdale visit [Out To Lunch](#) to see what we've been doing locally.

Control Action: Promote the Calderdale Food network and Food for Life activities

Control Action: Calderdale Council to play an active role in the Calderdale Food Network

Influence Action: Develop a cross-sector partnership in Sustainable Food

Resilience

Improving
Infrastructure

Natural Flood
Management

Strengthening
Flood Defences

Community
Resilience

Improving Infrastructure

Actions aim to increase the resilience of infrastructure such as sewer systems, electricity substations, telecommunications and transport routes, to flooding.

Control Action: Northern Power Grid are relocating and improving the resilience of power substations in the upper valley

Control Action: Network Rail are designing and delivering schemes at three sites to manage railway related flood risk from surface water.

Strengthening Flood Defences

Actions are about understanding the issues and developing a programme of work to reduce flooding from rivers and surface water.

Control Action: Plan and build schemes which reduce the risk of flooding across the Calder Valley, including Mytholmroyd, Hebden Bridge and Brighouse.

Control Action: The Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water are working together to develop proposals to use reservoirs to help reduce the risk of flooding

Control Action: Calderdale Council is investigating and reducing the risk of flooding from smaller watercourses, exploring new sites for further flood risk reduction schemes,

Influence Action: Calderdale Council is encouraging the implementation of more sustainable drainage and producing surface water management plans in new developments.

Natural Flood Management

Actions are divided into four main areas of activity, with the aim of managing the landscape to slow down the flow of water.

The four areas of activity are:

- Understanding the relationships between catchment management and flooding.
- Promotion and delivery of natural flood management techniques.
- The engagement of catchment landowners and land managers.
- Influencing government policy and regulation to secure interventions

A guide has been created for landowners to help them design and implement measures such as leaky dams, tree planting or alternative stock management and a national evidence base 'Working with Natural Processes' is available online.

A grant has been launched in Calderdale to help more farmers and land managers carry out projects involving natural flood management.

Slow The Flow are working closely with partners and voluntary organisations to protect Calderdale from future flooding via natural flood management. To find out more, visit:

<http://slowtheflow.net/>

Control Action: Calderdale Council, Treesponsibility and Slow the Flow are creating opportunities for storing water, planting trees and changing the way farmland and moorland is managed so that it absorbs more water.

Influence Action: Calderdale Council is engaging with catchment landowners and land managers.

Advocacy Action: Inform government policy and regulation to secure further interventions.

Community Resilience

Actions include people signing up to flood warnings, developing a community action plan and making alterations to their home or business, so that flood water causes less damage.

The Environment Agency and Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council have established a network for community flood warden groups to share learning and ideas and set up a database of volunteers who can help out during and after a flood

The Environment Agency is investigating using new methods to warn communities in areas where river levels rise quickly and continues to support people who need to have emergency plans in place

Control Action: Environment Agency is investigating using new methods to warn communities in areas where river levels rise quickly

Control Action: Calderdale Council has established and continues to maintain readiness of Flood Hubs in flood risk areas of Calderdale.

Calderdale Flood Plan

The Calderdale flood action plan has been put together after consultation with the community and partners including statutory organisations, private business and many community and voluntary organisations