

Climate Action Middlesbrough

Summary of the Proposal to the National Lottery Community Fund Climate Action Programme

1. Aims and Objectives

Aim:

Climate Action Middlesbrough will facilitate reductions in the town's carbon footprint through a combination of practical initiatives to reduce carbon emissions and creation of a well-informed social movement supportive of tackling the climate crisis. It will create a community-led movement for positive change towards a sustainable environment, enabling individuals and communities to influence decision-making and take action on climate change, working towards making sustainable lifestyles the norm.

Objectives:

- To utilise a whole system approach to addressing climate change, harnessing and coordinating existing resources, influencing and taking action at all levels of the system, and reducing Middlesbrough's carbon footprint.
- To build a social movement through a combination of education, awareness-raising, increased involvement and connectedness and delivery of practical projects, using a range of behaviour change strategies to affect long-term cultural change.
- To enable communities to have a voice on addressing the changing climate, particularly those who are most impacted by climate change yet often least resilient.

Outcomes:

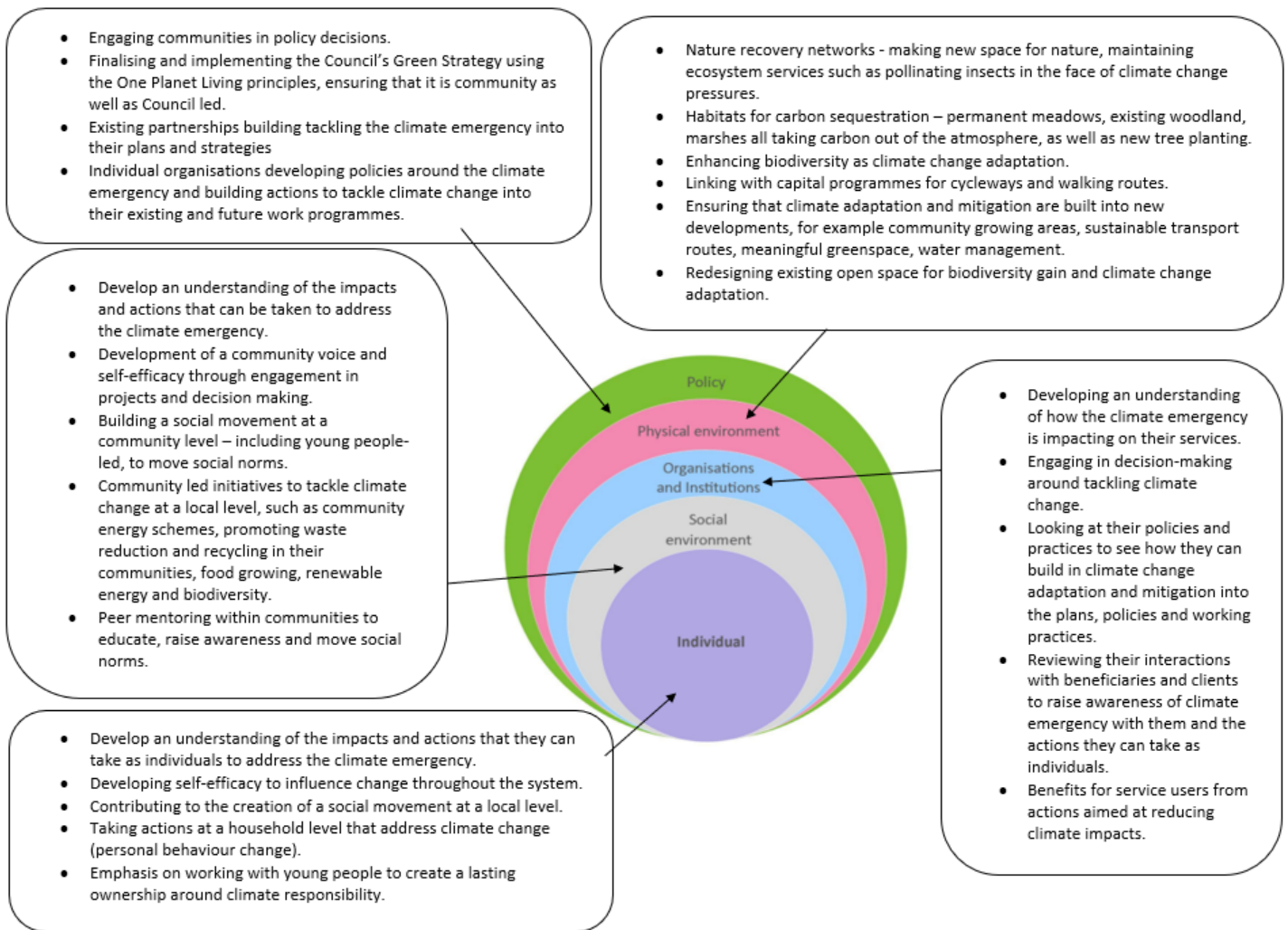
The changes that we plan to make can be defined as two strands:

- Sustained changes in individual, community and organisational behaviours that enable progress to be made on tackling climate change.
- Increased community action across the areas of sustainable food, transport, domestic energy use, waste and natural environment that raise greater awareness of sustainable living and help reduce carbon emissions.

2. Underlying Principles

Our proposal is built on a number of principles including the following:

- **A whole system approach to tackling climate change** – tackling climate change is much more than individual changes, it requires action to be built into all levels of the system as shown on the next page.
- **A distributed leadership model** - recognising that to achieve our outcomes we require leadership and buy-in at all levels of the system.
- **Common purpose and trust** – we are working together to address climate change using our existing relationships and by building new ones, rather than relying on procurement and contracts.
- **Building on past success** – Middlesbrough has a long history of working on environmental issues and tackling climate change, including being one of the first local authorities in the UK to have a Climate Change Community Action Plan and using the One Planet Living approach to sustainability.
- **Growing commitment** – Using the Mayor's Green Strategy and the Council's commitment to tackling climate change as a driver, together with existing partnerships such as the Middlesbrough Food Partnership, South Tees Affordable Warmth Partnership, Tees Valley Nature Partnership, Greenspaces Forum and wider partnerships and groups.

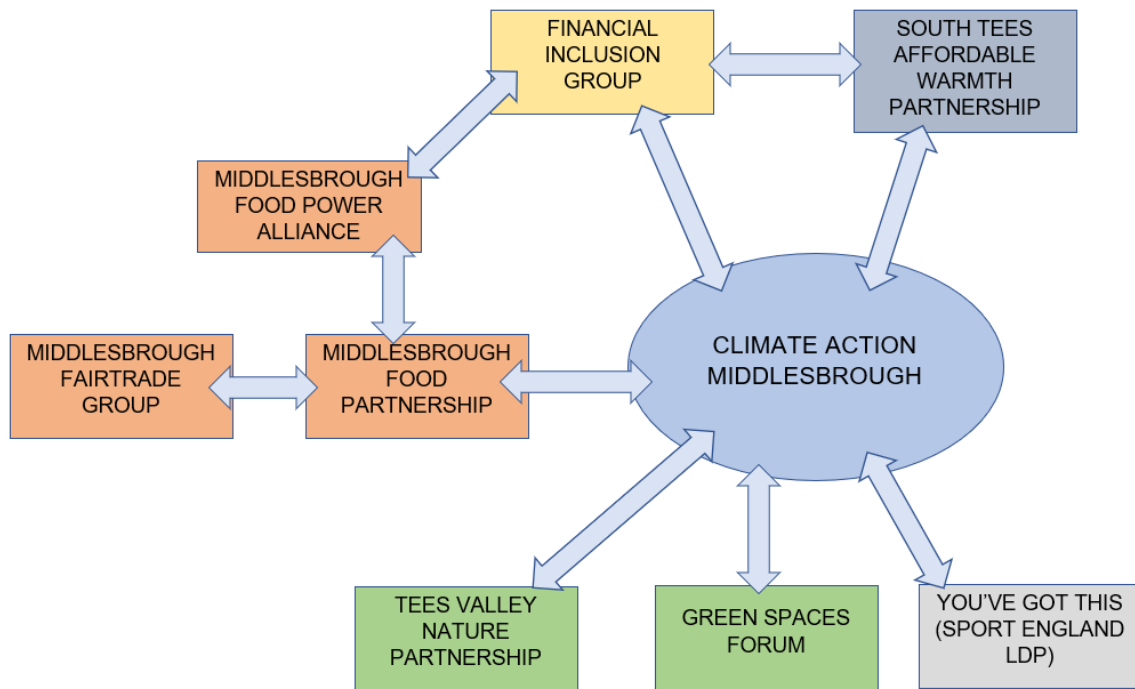


3. Partners

The initial partners in the proposal include:

- Middlesbrough Environment City as lead partner.
- Actes and Hemlington Linx – youth and community engagement partners.
- Tees Valley Wildlife Trust – biodiversity, nature and greenspace partner.
- Thirteen Group – local social landlord with a track record of community engagement and work on sustainability.
- Warren's Group – private sector food waste recycler.
- The Other Perspective – support organisation for refugee and asylum seeker communities.
- Park End and Kader Schools – who are interested in trialling a school food waste initiative.
- Middlesbrough Council – various, including Environmental Sustainability Manager, cycling, Recycling, Housing, Public Health and Supporting Communities.

The Partnership links into a wider range of local partnerships, as shown on the next page.



4. The Proposal

Our proposal is divided into two strands:

- Strand 1 – Sustained changes in individual, community and organisational behaviours that enable progress to be made on tackling climate change.
- Strand 2 – Increased community action across the areas of sustainable food, transport, domestic energy use, waste and natural environment that raise greater awareness of sustainable living and help reduce carbon emissions.

4.1 Strand 1 – Sustained changes in individual, community and organisational behaviours that enable progress to be made on tackling climate change.

The strand will build a social movement to engage communities in tackling the climate emergency:

Young people at the forefront of tackling climate change in Middlesbrough through a community enablement programme with young people at its heart, engaging the wider community, including through intergeneration activities.

Actions:

- Set up a Young People’s Climate Action Forum to lead on projects and campaigns.
- Environmental Peer Champions programme to develop the skills of young people to become leaders in climate action.
- Schools education and engagement programme.
- Engaging young people in campaigning and influencing
- Young people developing their own projects to reduce the town’s carbon footprint.

Outcomes:

- Young people's knowledge and awareness of climate change will have been increased.
- An increased number of Middlesbrough's young people will be taking positive action on climate change.
- At least 50% of Middlesbrough schools (primary and secondary) will be addressing climate change and placing young people at the heart of the climate challenge.

Local people have a voice for change through a People's Climate Action Forum that is led by informed local people.

Actions:

- A People's Forum created, led by informed and enthusiastic people who engage in decision making and influence others.
- Thirteen Group develop their residents and staff training programme.
- Building capacity of our residents and community leaders through training to equip community leaders with the knowledge and skills to lead a community voice for tackling climate change in Middlesbrough.

Outcomes:

- The People's Platform established, led by a diverse group of informed and enthusiastic people who engage in decision making and influence others.
- Local people, from a range of backgrounds, including the "unusual suspects", who lead by example on action and support the delivery of a positive approach to tackling the climate crisis at all levels of the system.

The whole system demonstrating greater connectedness to tackle climate change, with policy makers who embed tackling climate change in all policies.

Actions:

- Working with leaders at all levels of the system to integrate climate change into all policies learning from Public Health's "Health in all Policies" approach.
- Providing training for leaders at all levels of the system to upskill them, improving their knowledge and understanding of climate change and the urgency of the need to reduce carbon emissions.
- Developing a climate programme for voluntary sector organisations to roll out to staff and beneficiaries.

Outcomes:

- Tackling climate change will be seen as the responsibility of all, not just the environment sector.
- Climate change is a consideration in policies, including planning, economic development, health and wellbeing and education; we will strive for "climate action in all policies".

Sustainable living with a high profile that influences social norms through an extensive promotional campaign, including the use of social media and public events.

Action:

- An annual programme of community events, activities and media posts to embed climate and One Planet Living messages.

Outcome:

- Positive action on climate change and reducing carbon emissions become regular and sustained conversations on social media.

4.2 Strand 2 – Increased community action across the areas of sustainable food, transport, domestic energy use, waste and natural environment that raise greater awareness of sustainable living and help reduce carbon emissions.

This strand will focus upon the following priority areas, which will combine the highest opportunities for profile and promotion alongside significant impacts on carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions:

A more sustainable local food system demonstrated by achievement and retention of the Sustainable Food Cities Gold Award, making Middlesbrough an exemplar of sustainable food.

Activities in Years 1 to 3:

Actions:

- Embedding and expanding the Growing Middlesbrough initiative, creating supply chains between local producers and the hospitality trade and the general public through a robust sustainable online system.
- Food growing projects in schools and the community.
- Maintaining and expanding the Eco Shops initiative developed by the Food Power Alliance into more schools.
- Expanding the Eco Shops initiative developed by the Food Power Alliance, to community venues.
- Settings-based healthy cooking programmes targeting disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and including tackling climate change into cooking.
- Engaging and supporting food businesses and outlets with more healthy and sustainable practices: increasing volumes of local and sustainable products used; reducing volume of meat and dairy products used; increasing volumes of vegetables and fruit used; and increasing food waste recycling.
- Continued work with businesses and schools to encourage the separation of food waste for anaerobic digestion.
- Promotional campaigns aimed at reducing food waste and promoting sustainable food consumption.
- In the first two years trial a schools-based initiative looking at reducing school food waste, expanding this over a greater number of schools.

Outcomes:

- Effective and expanding online platform, providing alternative solutions to increasing local food procurement directly from local producers and within food outlets.
- Increase in volume of food waste produced within the town collected and recycled through anaerobic digestion and composting.
- More people having greater access to increasing quantities of affordable food, with a reduction in food being wasted.
- Increase in number of policies adopted and implemented that advocate for healthy and sustainable food, in line with the Middlesbrough Food Plan.
- Achievement of the Gold Sustainable Food Cities Award.

Reduced domestic energy use, through promoting energy efficiency through working alongside existing energy efficiency advice programmes and installation of measures.

Actions:

- Offering emergency help and energy efficiency advice to fuel poor households across Middlesbrough.

- Identifying households eligible for support through the government's ECO programme and the Tees Valley Warm Homes project, which can fund measures such as energy efficient boilers and central heating systems, cavity wall insulation and loft insulation.
- Installation of renewal energy systems, such as photovoltaic panels and air source heat pumps, by Thirteen Housing Group through new build or retrofit schemes.
- Promotional campaigns to reduce energy use through behavioural changes, particularly amongst those who are not in fuel poverty would provide a more significant opportunity to reduce household carbon footprint.
- Development of a peer-led energy advice programme.

Outcomes:

- Increased investment in home energy efficiency measures.
- Calculation of energy and carbon savings based upon measure installation.

Increased number of journeys made by cycle, walking and public transport.

Actions:

- Safe cycling training in schools and community settings (subject to DfT funding).
- Dr Bike cycle fix sessions and cycle maintenance courses delivered through the Middlesbrough Bike Academy (subject to DfT funding).
- Welcome to Yorkshire Bike Library, that provides short term free of charge cycle loans for people to "try before they buy".
- Middlesbrough Cycle Centre – an infrastructure project that provides secure, safe town centre cycle parking with showers, lockers and cycling advice, alongside Middlesbrough Shopmobility.
- Programme of cycling infrastructure improvements undertaken annually by Middlesbrough Council.
- Exploring opportunities to increase cycling and walking for commuter journeys linked to infrastructure improvements such as cycle super routes proposed in the Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan and new housing developments in the town.

Outcomes:

- Increase in the number of journeys made by cycle
- Increase in the number of journeys made by bus and on Middlesbrough's suburban rail service.

Reduced amount of waste produced in Middlesbrough and increased recycling rates towards the national average (currently the rate is 13% below the average).

Actions:

- An education, community champions and promotional campaign developing greater understanding of the barriers to recycling, particularly in the town centre.
- Working with residents with the support of the Council to redesign services that address these barriers.

Outcomes:

- Reduction in the total amount of waste produced in Middlesbrough.
- Increase in the proportion of kerbside waste that is recycled.
- Codesign approach to addressing barriers to recycling, including from terrace housing with back alleys.

Natural Climate Solutions: Green spaces across Middlesbrough that promote nature recovery, creating greater connectedness between places rich in nature. The programme will be high profile, gaining public engagement whilst also improving understanding of the benefits of natural spaces in carbon sequestration.

Actions:

- Work with Tees Valley Nature Partnership and Middlesbrough Council to develop a Nature Recovery Strategy for Middlesbrough including biodiversity opportunity maps.
- Identify priority sites for habitat improvement (meadow and wetland creation as well as tree, hedgerow and woodland planting)
- Establish a community tree nursery with seed collection activities in local woodland, seed germination and with sapling growing and care taking place in gardens, allotments and community sites across the borough.
- Work with communities to establish a series of carbon sequestration habitats that also provide the basis for the delivery of a wider nature recovery network – connected sites supporting biodiversity across the town.

Outcomes:

- A Middlesbrough Nature Recovery Strategy that engages residents in planning, design and delivery.
- Collectively grown 30,000 sapling trees from local genetic stock for free distribution to schools, households and landowners across Middlesbrough.
- 50 hectares (10 ha per year) of land improved for carbon sequestration and wildlife habitat with local communities.