

## Climate Action Middlesbrough Summary

### 1. Aims and Outcomes

Climate Action Middlesbrough is a five year programme funded by the National lottery Community Fund Climate Action Programme.

Climate Action Middlesbrough will aim to reduce 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.

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. 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.

### 3. 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.

*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.
- Local people have a voice for change through a People's Climate Action Forum that is led by informed local people.
- Sustainable living with a high profile that influences social norms through an extensive promotional campaign, including the use of social media and public events.

#### **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 created and demonstrated by achievement of the Sustainable Food Cities Gold Award, making Middlesbrough an exemplar of sustainable food.
- Reduced domestic energy use, through promoting energy efficiency through working alongside existing energy efficiency advice programmes and installation of energy efficiency measures.
- Promotional campaigns and training linked to capital improvement schemes to increase the number of journeys made by cycle, walking and public transport.
- Reduced amount of waste produced in Middlesbrough and increased recycling rates towards the national average (currently the rate is 13% below the average), through promotional campaigns and working with residents on improving facilities.
- Natural Climate Solutions (Tees Valley Wildlife Trust): Promoting nature recovery and creating greater connectedness between places rich in nature, through a volunteer and community centred approach. The programme will be high profile, gaining public engagement whilst also improving understanding of the benefits of natural spaces in carbon sequestration.