

2025 Kirklees Environment Vision

Our economy and society depend on a healthy environment. To achieve this, the Council recognises that it must take action to meet two key challenges:

Climate change - the existing and anticipated impacts of climate change are now recognised as top challenges to global security requiring action at local, national and international level.

The local environment - action is required at the local level to protect and develop an attractive green network for people and wildlife consisting of woods, cycleways and paths, wildlife areas, open space, clean rivers, ponds and wetlands.

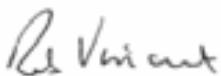
The Council will develop and keep up to date a practical work programme with detailed objectives, targets and indicators to deliver the Vision and support the Council's Environment Policy, the Local Area Agreement with central Government and the District's Community Strategy. Sustainability Appraisal will ensure the programme is consistent with sustainable development. The Council will work with its partners in the Local Strategic Partnership to deliver this district wide vision and will seek to raise awareness and level of positive action across the wider community.

By its actions, Kirklees Council, its partners and residents will contribute in a real and practical way to sustainable development at the UK, European and international level¹.

The Vision and work programme will be reviewed every two years to keep abreast of best environmental information, baseline data, legislation, technological improvements and funding opportunities.

The three key objectives of the 2025 Environment Vision are to:

- A Reduce greenhouse gases**
- B Raise the environmental standards of buildings**
- C Develop a green network**

Handwritten signature of Rob Vincent in black ink.

Rob Vincent
Chief Executive
Kirklees Council

Handwritten signature of Councillor Robert Light in black ink.

Councillor Robert Light
Leader
Kirklees Council

17 January 2007

2025 Kirklees Environment Vision

A Reduce greenhouse gases

The Council will:

- A1 Reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by greater than 30% by 2020 from a 2005 baseline.
- A2 Work with its partners to become carbon neutral through minimising energy use and maximising renewable energy generation across the district.
- A3 Continue to lead and work with its partners in raising awareness about climate change and its impacts.
- A4 Achieve and maintain good air quality in Kirklees.

B Raise the environmental standards of buildings

- B1 All new buildings in Kirklees will aim to achieve the highest ecological and energy standards².
- B2 Measures will be made available to all existing domestic properties, and information and support to private and public sector buildings to improve energy efficiency.
- B3 Residential and non-residential developments (new build, renovation or conversion) will incorporate renewable energy generation³.
- B4 All new developments and major renovations will incorporate sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) in accordance with best practice guidance⁴ for the disposal of surface waters.

C Develop a green network

- C1 The Council will develop a comprehensive green network that aims to cover the whole borough.
- C2 Existing or proposed routes and sites which form part of the green network will be protected against development.

¹ Securing the Future - UK Government sustainable development strategy 2005 - www.sustainable-development.gov.uk. Aalborg Commitments - www.aalborgplus10.dk/
The Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment was adopted by the Commission on 11 January 2006
http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/urban/thematic_strategy.htm

² In 2005 the relevant standards are BREEAM or BRE Eco-Homes standards of VERY GOOD or EXCELLENT.

³ In 2006 the threshold is 500m²

⁴ In 2006 CIRIA (Construction Industry Research and Information Association) guidance applies.