

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Councillor Will Simpson

**Cabinet Member for
Culture & Greener Kirklees Portfolio**

Kirklees Council
Leadership and Cabinet
PO Box 1720
Huddersfield Office
HD1 9EL

Tel: 01484 221000

will.simpson@kirklees.gov.uk
www.kirklees.gov.uk

15 February 2023

Dear Prime Minister

Given your keen personal interest in matters related to Climate Change, we are writing to you following the passage of the Phase 2 Climate Change Action Plan for Kirklees.

The Action Plan sets out more than 100 actions that the Council, businesses, community partners and residents can take to reach our ambitious target of being a Carbon Neutral and Climate Ready borough by 2038.

Although we are proud that over 100 actions to address climate change have already been implemented or are ongoing, there is much more that we all need to do. While this will require investment, we also know that the real cost of inaction is far greater than the cost of taking action now.

Research prepared by leading academics at the University of Leeds, using an internationally recognised methodology to analyse the consequences of climate change for Kirklees, found that cost-effective measures (measures which would pay for themselves following initial investment), such as improvements to the thermal performance of housing and decarbonising transport, would close the 2038 emissions gap by 47% and reduce energy bills in Kirklees by over £157m per year.

As the UK Climate Change Committee has outlined, 30% of the progress required to get us to net zero nationally relies on actions that are within the scope of local authorities. Kirklees Council is committed to playing a leading role in our borough, with our Climate Commission, working in partnership with others, in order to deliver wider action and support.

However, if we are to have a fighting chance of tackling the climate emergency, reaching Kirklees' target of net zero by 2038, and making our contribution to limiting the rise in global temperatures to 1.5 °C, we need the resources to do so.

We are writing to you to raise this vital issue and ask what support is and will be made available. The focus of any investment in Kirklees will be the cost effective actions outlined by our Net Zero study, which will not only reduce climate emissions, but also pay for themselves and help with vital issues, such as the cost of living crisis.

Kirklees is committed to playing a leading role locally in tackling the climate emergency, but we need your support to turn our vision for Net Zero into reality.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with your Cabinet colleagues and officials to take forward this important shared agenda. A key task in any such discussions will be how best to secure and use financial and other resources to achieve our vision.

Yours sincerely

W. Simpson



Cllr Will Simpson
Cabinet Member for Culture
& Greener Kirklees and
Vice-Chair of the Kirklees Climate
Commission



Professor Peter Roberts
Chair of the Kirklees Climate Commission

Cc Lord Deben, Chair of the UK Climate Change Committee