

Appendix 1

Co-Benefits of Tackling Climate Change

20 January 2021

Climate Co-Benefits Definition

Climate co-benefits are defined as beneficial outcomes from climate action that are not directly related to climate change mitigation. Climate co-benefits enable boroughs to mobilise resources across borough departments and address multiple challenges at once.

Improving the lives of all Sandwell residents – leaving no one behind

- Warmer, healthier homes that are affordable to heat
- Poverty reduction/eradication – for example, reduced fuel poverty
- Encouraging changes in resident behaviour towards using less resources and minimising waste will mean less household income is spent on utility and food bills
- Security of tenure – for example, increased housing security for low-income urban populations who are more likely to live in poor quality, hazard-prone settlements
- Social inclusion – engaging groups that are traditionally excluded and addressing inequalities

Improving the health and well-being of Sandwell's residents

- Improved public health benefits - for example, reduced chronic and acute respiratory diseases due to improved air quality
- Physical and mental health benefits from walking, cycling and spending time in green space, such as reduced depression, diabetes, and dementia

Increasing the safety of Sandwell

- Reduced traffic improves air quality
- Reduced congestion creates safer roads for walking and cycling
- Flood prevention and water quality improvements
- Enhanced resilience – making the Borough more able to quickly recover from shocks

Improving Sandwell's economy

- New job creation from green innovation and more opportunities for skills training
- Improved public transport linkages bring economic benefits, ease of access to work, and car and van drivers will benefit from savings in fuel costs
- Greening the economy – making economic activity in the Borough more environmentally sustainable
- Promote circular economy – for example, supporting greater reuse and recycling of resources

Protecting and restoring Sandwell's natural environment

- Nature conservation and biodiversity improvement - for example, increased connectedness between green spaces
- Greening the Borough – increased green spaces improves the appearance of Sandwell to attract residents, workers and businesses to relocate to the Borough