STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE ON NET ZERO CARBON

ACT believes:

- Planning for the future includes finding ways to reduce the impact of climate change by adapting to impacts which are already with us and taking action to mitigate against further devastating effects.
- Access to essential services, including transport, healthcare and education, which does not contribute to global warming, is a priority for our rural communities.
- Both existing and new building infrastructure should adapt to meet net zero targets.
- Our natural environment is a valuable resource in the transition to net zero carbon.
- Environmental justice and social justice go hand in hand; a fair community is one where everyone benefits from a future free from the threats of unchecked climate change.

ACT supports communities to take action on climate change to reduce the impact in their place and the wider global community.

- Communities can work together in their locality to reduce the impact of damaging weather events, mitigate food supply interruptions, provide greener energy solutions & sustainable transport options.
- Building new homes and community buildings to high environmental standards can meet the needs of the current population without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
- Supporting local farmers and producers while we transition to carbon-neutral land management is vital for our local economy, environment and availability of local produce.

ACT will champion locally led action to meet the Cumbria net zero carbon target and we will work with strategic partners to scale up action where possible.

- We will help communities use their local knowledge to find their best routes to net zero carbon; transport, waste, food and heating our homes are recognised as the main sources of household and community carbon emissions.
- We will encourage and help communities to recycle and reuse thereby reducing waste.
- We will help communities develop community transport initiatives.
- We will support communities to bring homes and community buildings up to high environmental standards through improved design and investment in retrofitting, making these vital places easier to heat now and reducing environmental damage for years to come.
- We will ensure that communities can access the professional and peer support they need as they develop their ideas.
- We will hold partners to account and continue to advocate on behalf of communities so that local actions have greatest impact.

ACT as an organisation will continue to work towards net zero carbon by:

- Reducing car journeys where possible by working from home and using online meeting facilities to engage with communities and partners.
- Sharing best practice for carbon reduction with other partners organisations.
- Reducing waste within our daily working environment by working smarter, recycling, and using green products.
- Carrying out an annual audit to assess carbon reduction goals and re-evaluate our carbon reduction policies.