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Democratic Services
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democraticservices@rushcliffe.gov.uk



Our reference:
Your reference:
Date: 20 April 2022

To all Members of the Communities Scrutiny Group

Dear Councillor

A Meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Group will be held on Thursday, 28 April 2022 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Road, West Bridgford to consider the following items of business.

This meeting will be accessible and open to the public via the live stream on YouTube and viewed via the link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/RushcliffeBC>
Please be aware that until the meeting starts the live stream video will not be showing on the home page. For this reason, please keep refreshing the home page until you see the video appear.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Sull'.

Sanjit Sull
Monitoring Officer

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes of the Meeting 27 January 2022 (Pages 1 - 6)
4. Carbon Management Plan (Pages 7 - 16)

The report of the Director – Neighbourhoods is attached.

5. Work Programme (Pages 17 - 18)

The report of the Director – Finance and Corporate Services is attached.

Rushcliffe Borough
Council Customer
Service Centre

Fountain Court
Gordon Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 5LN

Email:
customerservices
@rushcliffe.gov.uk

Telephone:
0115 981 9911

www.rushcliffe.gov.uk

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9.30am - 5pm
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8.30am - 4.30pm

Postal address
Rushcliffe Borough
Council
Rushcliffe Arena
Rugby Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 7YG



Membership

Chairman: Councillor J Wheeler

Vice-Chairman: Councillor B Bansal

Councillors: G Dickman, L Healy, R Jones, R Mallender, F Purdue-Horan, R Walker and G Williams

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**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY GROUP
THURSDAY, 27 JANUARY 2022**

Held at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Road, West
Bridgford

PRESENT:

Councillors J Wheeler (Chairman), B Bansal (Vice-Chairman), G Dickman,
L Healy, R Jones, R Mallender, R Walker and G Williams

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

D Burch	Service Manager - Neighbourhoods
D Dwyer	Strategic Housing Manager
M Housden	Democratic Services Officer
E Palmer	Communications and Customer Services Manager
L Webb	Democratic Services Officer

APOLOGIES:

Councillors F Purdue-Horan

11 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

12 Minutes of the Meeting 7 October 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2021 were approved as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman updated the group regarding the action “discussion to take place with the local education authority about methods to educate boys about violence against women” and informed the Group that he was going to hold a meeting with the Chairman of the Children and Young People Committee at Nottinghamshire County Council and would provide an update at the next meeting.

13 Housing Delivery Plan

The Strategic Housing Manager presented the report of the Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods which sets out the Council’s Housing Delivery Plan 2022 to 2027. It was noted that the Housing Delivery Plan would be an overarching document which set out priorities for housing and the actions being taken to secure improvements. It was explained that the proposed plan aimed to link the housing service more closely with corporate priorities, for example the Carbon Management Plan and the South Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy. It also aimed to focus clearly measurable targets as opposed to aspirational

assertions.

The Strategic Housing Manager delivered a presentation to the Group which covered:

- Background and Context
- Purpose of Housing Delivery Plan
- Priorities
- Priority 1 – Affordability and Sustainable Housing
- Priority 2 – Housing Quality and Environmental Sustainability
- Priority 3 – Homelessness and Support
- Conclusion

Following the presentation, members of the group asked questions regarding housing available for independent older residents who would like to downsize to bungalows in order for larger family homes to be released. The Strategic Housing Manager informed the Group that it was more challenging to deliver bungalows due to the increased land take and associated costs which may impact on site viability. However, the provision of bungalows was important to support downsizing for older tenants who may be under-occupying family housing. Bungalows would also meet the needs of older and vulnerable people with disabilities who otherwise would have to rely on adaptations to their current accommodation which may only provide a temporary solution. Through successful affordable housing negotiations, a mix of affordable accommodation types, including bungalows were planned on the Council's strategic sites. The Group asked for further information from the planning department regarding what controls they have over bungalows being turned into houses. It was also suggested that the colours in the pie chart at 2.5 be changed to better distinguish the number of bedrooms available.

It was explained that there was a higher need for social rented accommodation rather than affordable housing for sale such as shared ownership and therefore any opportunities to bring forward additional affordable housing would seek to prioritise social rented housing.

The Group also asked questions about the Council's work to secure homes that have been empty for a long time. It was explained that whilst enforcement action and Empty Development Management Orders were options the Council could consider, in the first instance Officers would support owners to bring the properties back into use as a preferred approach. It was agreed that the Group would be provided with further information with a breakdown of the long-term empty homes in Rushcliffe and what action has been taken by the Council to bring them back into occupation.

Clarification was asked on the supply and demand for affordable housing. The Strategic Housing Manager advised that there were approximately 600 people on the housing register, the majority of which could not afford to purchase affordable housing for sale. It was explained that up to 40% of affordable housing delivered on new sites would be affordable housing for sale and not all sites achieved the policy compliant position due to viability, therefore the net need could not easily be achieved by having regard to the overall number of affordable units delivered. This would be further compounded by the

introduction of First Homes, the new affordable housing discount market sale product, which should make up at least 25% of the affordable housing units built on any Section 106 site. Members were advised that this change in policy would likely reduce the overall number of social rented housing units delivered in the borough and impact on housing register waiting times.

The Group raised their concerns about homelessness within the Borough. The Strategic Housing Manager informed the Group that the annual Rough Sleepers Count in 2021, had identified four rough sleepers in Rushcliffe who were 'bedded down' and met the evidence-based criteria. The Group were informed that the Council had a number of landlord incentives to house homeless people in private rented accommodation including rent deposit guarantees, rent in advance and Golden Hello' payments which resulted in a six-month assured shorthold tenancy. It was also noted that two successful bids to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities as part of the Next Steps Accommodation Programme and the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme had provided thirteen units of supported accommodation for rough sleepers across south Nottinghamshire. In addition, a fourth successful countywide bid for Rough Sleeper Initiatives funding had provided homeless people with access to floating support services, health and wound care, a Community Psychiatric Nurse, substance and misuse services and landlord liaison officers to facilitate access to private rented accommodation. The Group were pleased to note that veterans were not disadvantaged in accessing the housing register due to local connection criteria and if they qualified for housing, they were given additional preference.

It was RESOLVED that

- a) The report of the Director – Neighbourhoods be noted.
- b) the planning department regarding what controls they have over bungalows being turned into houses.
- c) the colours in the pie chart at 2.5 be changed to better distinguish the number of bedrooms available.
- d) the Group would be provided with further information with a breakdown of the long term empty homes in Rushcliffe and what action has been taken by the Council to bring them back into occupation.

14 **Feedback on Residents Survey 2021**

The Communications and Customer Services Manager presented the report of the Director – Finance and Corporate Services which outlined the results of the residents survey that took place in summer 2021. It was explained that the Residents' Survey was conducted every three years and asked for feedback from residents on key Council services and suggestions for making the Borough an even better place to live and work.

The Group were informed that there was a small downward trend in the levels of satisfaction indicated by residents in a number of areas which was anticipated given the impact of the COVID-19 over the last 18-months on Rushcliffe communities. It was noted that the Local Government Association has reported that councils who surveyed this year are seeing a drop of 4-6% on previous results – due to the COVID impact and that in local government

surveys residents tend to group all public service providers together and it is often not clear whether views are directed specifically to Borough Council or other parts of the public sector.

The Communications and Customer Services Manager summarised the results of the survey and was pleased to note that out of the 23 questions asked, five were above 80%. However, nine questions solicited a response of less than 60%. It was also highlighted that the largest proportion of less positive comments related to services run by the County Council – out of 264 comments overall, the largest number related to potholes, road and pavement maintenance. In addition, 68 comments were made in regards to services provided by the Police including anti-social behaviour associated with teenagers in villages and the perception that a greater police presence was needed. It was concluded that the fact that so many residents left feedback that relates to other organisations suggests that there is still a lack of understanding of which organisation does what and so feedback that related to levels of satisfaction may also be influenced positively or negatively by residents' perceptions of services that the Borough Council does not provide.

Following the results of the residents survey it was suggested in the report that a focus group be formed so that the Council can target its response to the survey feedback in areas where it believes it can make a measurable difference as well as continuing to deliver positive communications to influence views in other areas. It was anticipated that the focus group would seek to formalise an action plan from its discussions but also other ways the Council can keep residents informed in line with its 2022-2025 Communications Strategy, set to be finalised this Spring.

It was proposed by the Group that the next residents survey in 2024 should ask for residents to submit their postcode so that issues raised could be narrowed down by area. It was also recommended that the survey take place at a different time of year rather than the summer to see if different concerns are raised. The Group suggested that the survey should be promoted on social media including local Facebook groups and at parish council meetings.

The Group provided suggestions for the Council's communications strategy for example, the work of WISE in providing enforcement for littering and fly tipping and the consequences of littering and how it harms the environment. It was also suggested that the contact centre needs to be more prominent as many residents did not know where it was located.

The Group raised concerns about the purpose of the focus group. It was noted that residents involved in the focus group would more than likely be those who already engage with the Council. It was suggested that the Council should reach out to community groups such as the West Bridgford Community Association to improve engagement for example, asking for suggestions about how residents can celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Group also suggested that the action plan resulting from the survey should be presented at a future Communities Scrutiny Group meeting before being approved.

The Service Manager - Neighbourhoods advised the group that it was important to note and focus on the fact that the percentage of people having

overall satisfaction in the local area as a place to live remained very high at 84% and had slightly increased since the previous survey. He suggested that rather than re-scrutinise and agree any future action plan the group may wish to consider that any action plan is shared with the group.

It was RESOLVED that

- a) The report of the Executive Manager – Finance and Corporate Services be noted.
- b) An action plan be produced following the results of the survey and for the action plan to be scrutinised by the Communities Scrutiny Group for approval.
- c) The Service Manager – Neighbourhoods raise the concerns about the creation of a focus group and facilitate further discussions with the Chairman, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Customer Access and the Director – Finance and Corporate Services and provide an update at the next meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Group.

15 **Work Programme**

The Chairman presented the report of the Director – Finance and Corporate Services, which detailed the proposed Communities Scrutiny Group Work Programme for 2021/22.

It was RESOLVED that the work programme below be approved.

28 April 2022

- Waste Strategy
- Carbon Management Plan

The meeting closed at 9.23 pm.

CHAIRMAN

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 <p>Rushcliffe Borough Council</p>	<p>Communities Scrutiny Group</p> <p>Thursday, 28 April 2022</p> <p>Carbon Management Plan</p>
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Report of the Director – Neighbourhoods

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. On 7 March 2019, Rushcliffe Borough Council considered the motion below and resolved:

“In the light of the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, declaring a climate emergency, Rushcliffe Borough Council will evaluate the implications of the report and review its 2010 Carbon Management Plan. The review should be undertaken by a relevant scrutiny group, and their findings shall be considered by the Cabinet by no later than March 2020. This Council calls upon the designated scrutiny group to consider the Council setting a carbon neutral target to be achieved by 2030”.

- 1.2. The Communities Scrutiny Group met in October 2019 and January 2020 to consider the motion. The Group resolved to recommend that Cabinet set a target date of 2030 to achieve carbon neutral status from the Council’s own direct emissions and approve a ringfenced budget for reducing carbon emissions as part of its financial strategy. On 11 February 2020, Cabinet resolved to recommend approval by Council of the Budget and Financial Strategy 2020/21 (containing a climate change action reserve of £1m).
- 1.3. On 10 March 2020, Cabinet agreed a target to become carbon neutral by 2030 from the Council’s direct operations and adopted a carbon management action plan to monitor progress against the target.
- 1.4. The Communities Scrutiny Group is requested to consider progress to date for the year 2021/22 and, if satisfied, accept the recommendation of the report.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Communities Scrutiny Group:

- a) considers and endorses the progress to date of the adopted carbon management action plan; and
- b) makes comments and contributes towards the emerging carbon management actions for 2022/23.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. In December 2021, Cabinet adopted the Climate Change Strategy 2021-2030. The Strategy reaffirmed the Council's commitment to be carbon neutral for the Council's operations by 2030, but also included a confirmation of its commitment to be "Net Zero" as a Borough by 2050 in line with national government targets. The wording of the Strategy was strengthened to recognise the ecological crisis.
- 3.2. The Carbon Management Action Plan sets out how the Council will seek to drive carbon behaviour change through its policy and regulation work along with acting in a leadership capacity to positively influence residents and businesses across the Borough.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1. The UK Committee on Climate Change states "There is a crucial role for local authorities in reducing emissions to meet national carbon budgets"; and "The focus of a local authority low-carbon plan should be emission drivers over which they have significant influence. In particular, residential and non-residential buildings, surface transport, waste and own estate".
- 4.2. Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three groups or 'scopes' by the most widely used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol.

Scope 1 – All Direct Emissions from the activities of an organisation or under their control. Including fuel combustion on site such as gas boilers, fleet vehicles and air-conditioning leaks.

Scope 2 – Indirect Emissions from electricity purchased and used by the organisation. Emissions are created during the production of the energy and eventually used by the organisation.

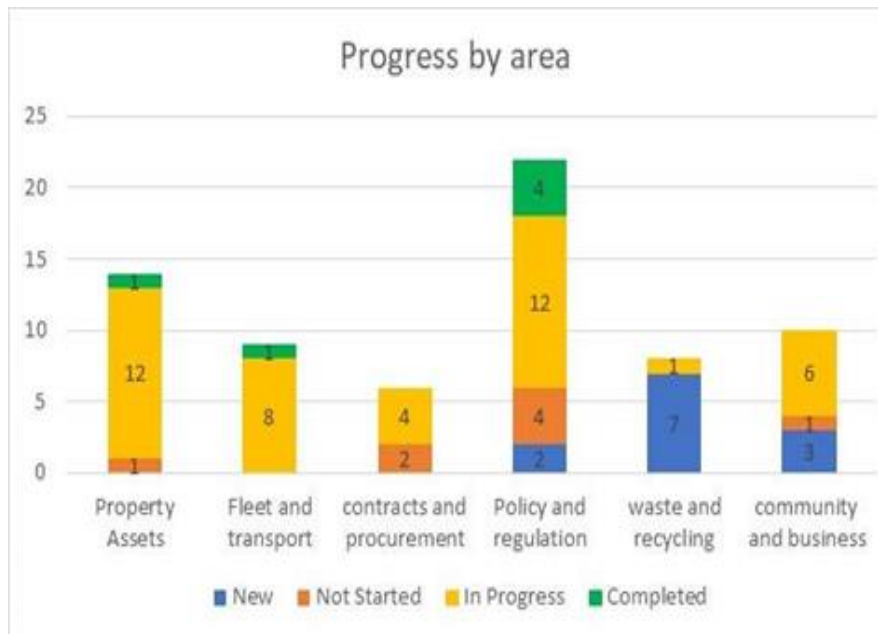
Scope 3 – All Other Indirect Emissions from activities of the organisation, occurring from sources that they do not own or control. These are usually the greatest share of the carbon footprint, covering emissions associated with business travel, procurement, waste and water, staff commuting, business travel, RBC's leased properties, staff working from home.

Carbon Management Action Plan

- 4.3. There were 67 actions in the first iteration of the carbon management action plan. These were spread across eight key theme areas: property assets, fleet and transport, contracts and procurement, policy and regulation, waste and recycling, operation activity, community and business and offsetting.

4.4. The carbon management action plan is a live document which is regularly updated. The current plan has 63 live actions and six completed actions, details of which will be circulated in advance of the meeting. Table 1 below shows the progress to date by theme.

Table 1: Progress to date by theme



4.5. The plan is constantly evolving as research and technology develops; 9% of the actions are completed with over half actively in progress. If just over 11% of the original actions are completed annually, the plan will be completed in line with 2030 target. As work has begun on many of the actions, the target is achievable. Table 2 below shows the progress to date by theme.

Table 2: All actions progress



- 4.6. Priority is given to actions with the greatest carbon impact and are also given a short (1-2 years), medium (2-5 years) and long (5 year +) delivery target – for example switching the Council’s large waste fleet vehicles over to biofuel and replacing small vehicles with electric vehicle alternatives as part of the Council’s replacement programme will have one of the greatest carbon impacts but has a long-term delivery target aligned with the Council’s fleet vehicle replacement programme.
- 4.7. The carbon management action plan dashboard (Appendix 1) provides a snapshot of progress to date. The Team Manager for Environment will deliver a presentation to the meeting to provide an overview on the action plan activity to date and next steps.
- 4.8. Key priorities for 2022/23 will focus on the Council’s property assets and fleet and transport, which are the areas of the Council’s own activities, which create the greatest emissions. It is vital to act on the largest sources of emissions as early as possible, not just to ensure the trajectory to target, but to minimise the total emissions released into the atmosphere by the Council’s activities and assets.
- 4.9. Throughout 2022, the Council will perform tailored energy audits on Council owned properties to understand the emissions associated with these and the steps that can be taken to reduce them. This data will then inform the action plan to tackle the Council’s assets on a “worst first” order or works and use appropriate solutions on a case-by-case basis as well as identifying where “bulk” project work could reduce costs and increase efficiently (e.g., multiple solar photovoltaic installation across several properties will reduce overall costs rather than working building by building). This will also provide “off the shelf” projects already costed with realistic CO2 savings calculated so when funding streams become available, the Council is in a position to apply early and win more bids.
- 4.10. The Council will also be continuing to tackle its fleet emissions and will explore alternatives such as Biofuel for waste refuse vehicles as part of the substantive vehicle replacement audit, not only to meet operational needs but importantly alignment with the Council’s Carbon Management objectives at the same time.

5. Risks and Uncertainties

- 5.1. There is overwhelming scientific consensus that human activities have caused global warming. Without significant change in behaviour and policy, continued increases in temperature at the current rate will result in global warming reaching 1.5 degrees between 2030 and 2052. This would cause irreversible damage to the environment and result in climate related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply and economic growth (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report; October 2018). This highlights a significant longer-term risk of major environmental and societal damage resulting from inactivity to tackle climate change.

- 5.2. The technology available to deliver the significant carbon reductions required is constantly evolving. The desire to make faster carbon reductions through early adoption of new technology needs to be balanced against the risk that technology may be superseded or become available at a lower cost in the future. The available options will go through a process of due diligence to minimise the level of risk to the Council.
- 5.3. Despite significant progress, the Covid-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine have had an impact on global markets and the Council's resources to deliver its corporate priorities. There is current uncertainty on the detail for how this has impacted the progress of the carbon management action plan timetable to reach its carbon neutral target from its own emissions by 2030 and if any additional action will be required to meet the Council's objectives. The Council is, however, seeing supply chain, procurement, and staffing issues related to its capital programmes. The rising cost of energy is having an impact on the supply of energy and the availability of renewable energy technology as business seeks to explore alternative energy sources.

6. Implications

6.1. Financial Implications

As part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2020/21, a £1m Climate Change Action Reserve was created to support projects that contribute to the Council's ambitions to protect and enhance the environment including the reduction of its carbon footprint. From this reserve £0.2m was allocated to the Freeport Reserve in 2020/21 in recognition of the proposal for the National Centre for Integrated Zero Carbon Futures project at Ratcliffe on Soar. At its meeting on 3 March 2022, Council resolved that, as part of the MTFs 22/23, the Climate Change Reserve will be topped up by £0.2m back to the original balance of £1m.

£30k has been earmarked for enhancement works at Rushcliffe Country Park (Photovoltaic Panels and a new heat pump) leaving a balance of £0.970m which will be allocated as suitable projects are approved. Table 3 shows the movement on the Climate Change Reserve and schemes that may potentially be considered for funding from the reserve:

Table 3 – Climate Change Reserve Summary

Climate Change Reserve	£	Detail
Established Council 05.03.20	1,000,000	
Allocation Cabinet 10.11.20	(200,000)	National Centre for Integrated Zero Carbon Futures project at Ratcliffe on Soar
	800,000	
Top-up Council 03.03.2022	200,000	
Committed Rushcliffe Country Park (RCP)	(30,000)	£22k PV Panels; £8k air source heat-pump

Projected balance	970,000	
Considerations:		
Gresham Existing Floodlights	(31,000)	
Gresham New Floodlights	(42,000)	£66k total costs met from Football Foundation 37% £24k; balance = £42k
EVCP Parking Bays at RCP	(25,000)	
Bingham Hub Energy Measures	(340,000)	
The Crematorium Green Tech Measures	TBC	Underfloor heating, sedum roof, air source heat pump, heat recovery, environmentally friendly landscaping and electric cremator - circa £1m
Vehicle Replacement Programme	TBC	Purchasing Electric Vehicles
CLC and KLC future enhancements	TBC	Will have energy efficiency elements - to be determined
Potential Balance Remaining	532,000	

It should be noted that Rushcliffe has received significant government capital grants to support Green Energy Measures under LAD2 £635k and LAD3 and HUG1 £770k. To fully fund external wall/loft insulation measures and Solar Panels on owner occupied and landlord private properties.

6.2. Legal Implications

In 2019, the Government passed legislation to commit the UK to a legally binding target of net zero emissions by 2050. The target requires the UK to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero, compared with the previous target of at least 85% reduction from 1990 levels. The Council's Carbon Management action plan supports this aim at a local level.

6.3. Equalities Implications

Tackling climate change through reducing emissions has the potential to benefit groups vulnerable to heat and air pollution.

6.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

There are no implications arising from this report that impact on community safety in respect of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988.

7. Link to Corporate Priorities

Quality of Life	Delivery of the carbon management action plan contributes to improvements in public health for example through improved air quality, food consumption and more physical activity through travel behaviour change.
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Efficient Services	Enhancing the energy efficiency of the Council's assets will potentially lead to reductions in operating costs.
Sustainable Growth	Over the longer term it is anticipated that policy changes will lead to improved energy efficiency within residential and commercial developments.
The Environment	Implementing a carbon reduction action plan and providing a budget to support delivery, are all designed to improve and safeguard the environment.

8. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Communities Scrutiny Group:

- a) considers and endorses the progress to date of the adopted carbon management action plan; and
- b) makes comments and contributes towards the emerging carbon management actions for 2022/23.

For more information contact:	David Banks Director - Neighbourhoods Tel: 0115 9148438 dbanks@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for Inspection:	Report to Cabinet 14 December 2021 'Climate Change Strategy 2021-2030' Report to Cabinet 10 March 2020 'Carbon Management' Report to Cabinet 11 February 2020 '2020/21 Budget and Financial Strategy' Report to Communities Scrutiny Group 9 January 2020 'Carbon Management Plan Development and Review'
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 - Carbon Management Action Plan Dashboard

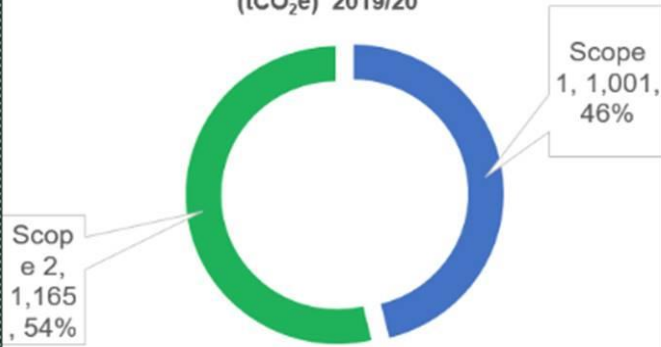
Carbon Clever Progress Dashboard



Days remaining to CN 2030: **2825**

Total Emissions (tCO₂e) - 2020/21

Breakdown of Scope 1 and 2 emissions (tCO₂e) 2019/20



Scopes 1 & 2

1,017



15%

1,194 - 2018/19

Scope 3 RBC own operations

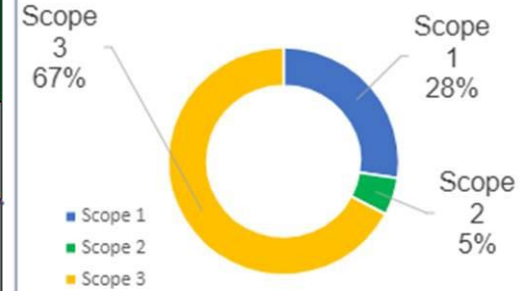
2,090



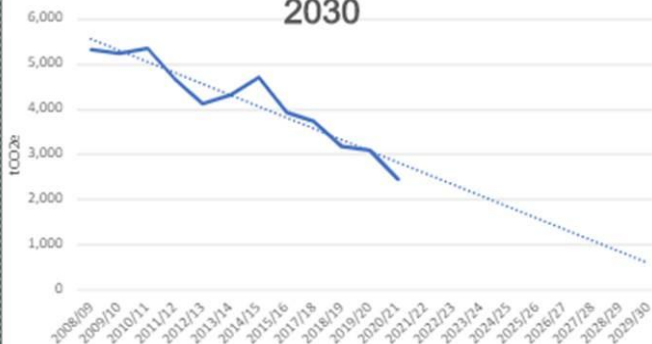
5%

1,995 - 2018/19

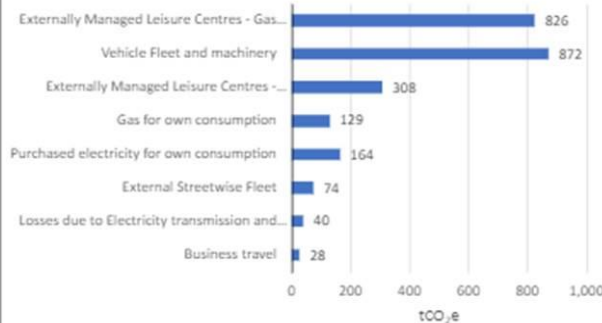
Breakdown of RBC own operation scopes (tCO₂e) - 2019/20



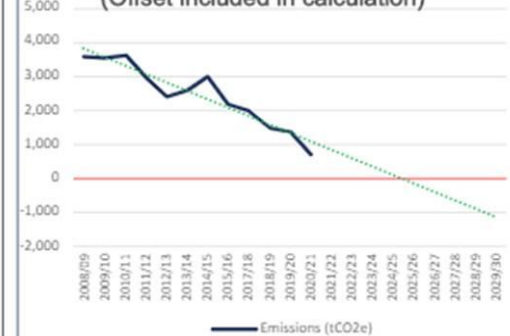
The Road to Carbon Neutral 2030



Breakdown of RBC own operations Scope 1, 2 and 3 tCO₂e



RBC own operation emissions (tCO₂e) (Offset included in calculation)



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Communities Scrutiny Group

Thursday, 28 April 2022

Work Programme

Report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services

1. Summary

- 1.1. The work programmes for all Scrutiny Groups are created and managed by the Corporate Overview Group. This Group accepts and considers Scrutiny Matrices from both officers and councillors which propose items for scrutiny. If those items are accepted following discussion at the Corporate Overview Group, they are placed on the work programme for one of the Council's Scrutiny Groups.
- 1.2. The work programme is also a standing item for discussion at each meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Group. In determining the proposed work programme due regard has been given to matters usually reported to the Group and the timing of issues to ensure best fit within the Council's decision-making process.
- 1.3. The work programme is detailed in this report for information only so that the Group is aware of the proposed agenda for the next meeting. The work programme does not take into account any items that need to be considered by the Group as special items. These may occur, for example, through changes required to the Constitution or financial regulations, which have an impact on the internal controls of the Council.
- 1.4. The future work programme will be updated and agreed at the next meeting of the Corporate Overview Group on 3 May 2022, including any items raised via the scrutiny matrix.

Members are asked to propose future topics to be considered by the Group, in line with the Council's priorities which are:

- Quality of Life;
- Efficient Services;
- Sustainable Growth; and
- The Environment

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Group agrees the work programme as set out below:

21 July 2022 (provisional date) (items subject to approval by COG on 3 May 2022)

- Sports Development in Rushcliffe
- Access Agreement – Canal and Rivers Trust
- Work Programme

6 October 2022 (provisional date)

- Work Programme

19 January 2023 (provisional date)

- Work Programme

16 March 2023 (provisional date)

- Work Programme

3. Reason for Recommendation

To enable the Council's scrutiny arrangements to operate efficiently and effectively.

For more information contact:	Pete Linfield Director of Finance and Corporate Services 0115 914 8349 plinfield@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers Available for Inspection:	None.
List of appendices (if any):	None.