

# Public Document Pack

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Our reference:  
Your reference:  
Date: 21 April 2021

To all Members of the Communities Scrutiny Group

Dear Councillor

A Meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Group will be held on Thursday, 29 April 2021 at via Zoom to consider the following items of business.

The meeting will be live streamed via YouTube for the public to listen and view via the link: <https://www.youtube.com/user/RushcliffeBC>

Note: 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. Declarations of Interest
2. Minutes of the meeting 28 January 2021 (Pages 1 - 6)
3. Carbon Management Plan (Pages 7 - 14)  
The report of the Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods is attached.
4. Work Programme (Pages 15 - 16)  
The report of the Executive Manager – Finance and Corporate Services is attached.

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## Membership

Chairman: Councillor J Wheeler

Vice-Chairman: Councillor B Bansal

Councillors: G Dickman, L Healy, R Jones, R Mallender, D Simms, R Walker and G Williams

## **Meeting Room Guidance**

**Fire Alarm Evacuation:** in the event of an alarm sounding please evacuate the building using the nearest fire exit, normally through the Council Chamber. You should assemble at the far side of the plaza outside the main entrance to the building.

**Toilets:** are located to the rear of the building near the lift and stairs to the first floor.

**Mobile Phones:** For the benefit of others please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off whilst you are in the meeting.

**Microphones:** When you are invited to speak please press the button on your microphone, a red light will appear on the stem. Please ensure that you switch this off after you have spoken.

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The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 allows filming and recording by anyone attending a meeting. This is not within the Council's control.

Rushcliffe Borough Council is committed to being open and transparent in its decision making. As such, the Council will undertake audio recording of meetings which are open to the public, except where it is resolved that the public be excluded, as the information being discussed is confidential or otherwise exempt.



**MINUTES**  
OF THE MEETING OF THE  
**COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY GROUP**  
**THURSDAY, 28 JANUARY 2021**  
Held at 7.00 pm via Zoom

**PRESENT:**

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

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

C Macleod - Director and Principal Consultant of KKP

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

L Ashmore	Executive Manager - Transformation
D Banks	Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods
D Burch	Service Manager - Neighbourhoods
G Carpenter	Environmental Health Manager
D Hayden	Community Development Manager
S Maher	Strategic Human Resources Manager
L Webb	Democratic Services Officer

**28 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies.

**29 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Jonathan Wheeler and Councillor Bal Bansal declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item 'Edwalton Golf Course Strategic Review' due to living close to the golf course.

**30 Minutes of the Meeting 7 October 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2020 were approved as a true record of the meeting.

**31 Edwalton Golf Course Strategic Review**

The Executive Manager – Finance and Corporate Services introduced a report which detailed a position statement on Edwalton Golf Courses (EGC) and recommended alternative provisions for the asset of the Council.

It was noted that in January 2020, Cabinet resolved to review ongoing provision of golf at Edwalton as Lex Leisure had struggled to ensure the golf course retained any viability given the challenging operational environment (previously reported in financial reporting to both the Corporate Overview

Group and Cabinet), and that a report be commissioned to consider whether there was a golfing need for Edwalton Golf Course and an alternative options appraisal if a need is not established for consideration by the Communities Scrutiny Group.

The Group were informed that Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) (which provides specialist services in sport, leisure, culture, regeneration and green spaces) was appointed to undertake a two-stage study in respect Edwalton Golf Course;

Stage 1: A Golf Needs Assessment

Stage 2: Edwalton Golf Courses Options Appraisal (Feasibility Study)

Clare Macleod, Director and Principal Consultant of KKP delivered a presentation to the Group which provided an overview of key findings and recommendations. The presentation covered:

- Background Information about KKP
- Edwalton Golf Centre
- Needs assessment and findings
- Feasibility study and findings
- Options
- Market Assessment
- Conclusion
- A future potential EGC Trading Account

Following the presentation, the Group asked several questions regarding the recommendations for alternative provision at Edwalton Golf Centre. It was explained that there was a requirement for a golf course in the area and that the development of driving range bays would enhance income potential. The development of a driving range would allow residents to practice golf, enable schools to visit and decrease the barriers often associated with taking part in golf. It was also emphasised that other options had been considered but in terms of viability the development of both a driving range and community facility and the continuation of the main golf course was the best way forward.

Members of the group raised concerns regarding the recommendation that some of the site could be developed for housing. It was debated that the site should be used to maximise sport participation and that bodies such as Sport England could object if it is perceived there is detriment to the leisure provision. It was also noted that there was no need for new housing in the area due to the Sharphill development nearby and that the Council should instead invest in community facilities for residents.

The Executive Manager – Finance and Corporate Services emphasised the importance of the consideration of value for money for all taxpayers and, as stated by KKP, other leisure options had been considered but were not considered affordable.

Following a discussion, it was agreed (outside of the meeting) that recommendation d would be changed to:

‘Golfing and/or other sporting and community use should be retained on the site. This could be achieved by developing and investing in the main golf course, a driving range and community facility and, if viable, other sporting activities, as part of the master plan work.’

Councillor Dickman was experiencing problems with his internet connection and so decided abstained in the following vote due to not being able to listen to the presentation or take part in the discussion.

Following the recommendations being put to the vote, the Group were tied in endorsing to Cabinet (recommendation (c)) that that at least some of the site should be considered for development for housing as part of the master plan work. Therefore, it was resolved that Cabinet should decide for themselves whether to resolve this recommendation at their meeting in March 2021.

It was RESOLVED that

- a) the significant asset Edwalton Golf Course should not continue in its current form, given its low usage and the current cost to the taxpayer;
- b) master planning work be undertaken for the site including a business case with a report to Cabinet in 2021 to tie in with the Local Plan process,
- c) Cabinet resolve whether at least some of the site (current par 3 course) should be considered for development for housing as part of the master plan work; and
- d) Golfing and/or other sporting and community use should be retained on the site. This could be achieved by developing and investing in the main golf course, a driving range and community facility and, if viable, other sporting activities, as part of the master plan work.

## 32 **Fly Tipping, Dog Fouling and Littering - Part Two**

The Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods presented their report which detailed an update on the Council’s approach to litter and dog fouling in the Borough. The Group had previously received a presentation which covered the Council’s approach, resources and performance in relation to reducing littering and dog fouling.

At the July 2020 meeting of this Group, Councillors acknowledged the very limited resources available to undertake enforcement of environmental crimes and requested that officers investigated the need for additional resources. , In response to the investigation the Council commenced a 12-month trial with a private sector partner “WISE” which provides dedicated resources to investigate all fly tipping reports and also undertake routine patrols at litter and dog fouling hot spots at zero cost to the Council. It was noted that “WISE” staff had delegated authority to issue fixed penalty notices (FPNs) where offences had been found.

The Group thanked the officers for delivering the presentation and asked several questions following the introduction of WISE. It was explained that WISE could be extended to cover Town/Parish Council land and encouraged town and parish council’s to contact WISE directly if they wanted more

information.

The Group were also encouraged to ask residents to contact Streetwise if they wanted to undertake a community litter pick. It was noted that Streetwise were happy to provide residents with litter pickers, bin liners and would arrange a free collection of the litter collected. The Service Manager – Neighbourhoods also explained that the Council encouraged local supermarkets to take responsibility for litter on their sites. The Group were also informed that the Council were always exploring new technology such as ‘smart bins’ which would notify officers when a bin would need to be emptied.

It was suggested that a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) could be introduced in new estates within the Borough as a deterrent for dog fouling. However, this would require extensive consultation with partners such as Nottinghamshire County Council and require sufficient evidence for its implementation such as the number of service requests for the Council to pick up dog fouling. The Group were pleased to be informed that a PSPO could be extended to include other types of behaviour such as requiring dog walkers to have sufficient bags to pick up dog fouling. It was also suggested that communications be posted on social media to inform residents that they could contact the Council to report dog fouling.

It was RESOLVED that

- a) The report of the Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods be noted;
- b) additional information be circulated to the Group regarding WISE and if they can act on parish/private land;
- c) the Council undertake a feasibility study for the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order for dog fouling;
- d) communications be posted to social media to inform residents that they can report dog fouling to the Council and; supermarkets in the Borough be informed by the Council to take responsibility for collecting litter on their sites.

### 33 **Rushcliffe Equality Scheme - Part Two**

The Executive Manager – Transformation presented the report which provided the Group with an update on the Rushcliffe Equalities Scheme 2021 – 2025. It was noted that the Communities Scrutiny Group had originally responded to proposals in respect of the review of the Council’s Equality Scheme and provided a steer on further work to develop a refreshed Equality Scheme before being submitted to Cabinet. This report provided an update on that work for consideration by the Communities Scrutiny Group.

The Executive Manager – Transformation explained that taking into account the feedback of the Communities Scrutiny Group it was proposed to put forward an Equality Scheme that kept its focus at a strategic level, setting out the vision and aims of the Council over the next four years. It was noted that annual action plans would be developed to progress against these strategic aims. The action plans would be developed through consultation with key stakeholders and groups, which will ensure that the actions are relevant and support inclusion and engagement. The Group were informed that these

actions would be embedded as part of annual service plans to ensure that equality, diversity and inclusion are integral to the work of the Council and the design and delivery of services.

It was noted that examples of priorities for action plans for 2021-22 were:

- Health inequalities, considering an asset-based approach to health and wellbeing.
- The impact of COVID-19 on certain groups in terms of health, safety, housing and employment.
- Lessons and messages from the community regarding diversity issues.
- Recognising and respecting fluid identities.

The report also detailed a list of projects and work delivered by the Council which highlighted the work already undertaken and that which was ongoing to ensure that the Council's services are accessible to all.

The Group raised concerns about the content of the Equality Scheme and suggested that characteristics should be reviewed and monitored for inclusivity with performance indicators. It was noted that data and performance indicators would be reported at a later date once the equality scheme was approved. Additionally, the Group were reminded that the diversity annual report which was delivered to the Corporate Overview Group looks at the diversity of the Rushcliffe Borough Council workforce in comparison to the diversity of the local community.

The Group were informed that the Council would work in partnership with other organisations such as Nottinghamshire County Council to support work experience placements as part of the Government's Kickstart scheme, which will provide work experience and skills development for young people who are at risk of long term unemployment.

The Group agreed that the Equalities Scheme would be reported back to the Communities Scrutiny Group within 12 – 18 months. The Group were encouraged to contact the Executive Manager – Transformation if there were any specific areas of focus or data which the Equalities Scheme could capture beyond the themes already listed in the document.

It was RESOLVED that

- a) The report of the Executive Manager – Transformation be noted;
- b) the proposed approach for the revised Equality Scheme be supported for submission to Cabinet and
- c) the revised Equalities Scheme be reported back to the Communities Scrutiny Group in 12 – 18 months time.

#### 34 **Work Programme**

The Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods presented the report of the Executive Manager – Finance and Corporate Services which detailed the Communities Scrutiny Group work programme for 2020/21.

The Group were informed that there were additional items which were due to be discussed at the next Corporate Overview Group in March 2021. It was noted that some items suggested such as police resourcing and community safety would perhaps need to be scrutinised by the Group at a later date due to the guidance regarding communications during the pre-election period (also known as purdah) which would prohibit councils from publishing any material which appears to be designed to affect public support for a political party.

It was agreed that the Chairman would discuss the possibility of the Equalities Scheme to be scrutinised by the Communities Scrutiny Group during the next Corporate Overview Group meeting.

It was RESOLVED that

- a) The work programme detailed below be approved by the Communities Scrutiny Group
- b) If agreed by the Corporate Overview Group; a progress update on the Equalities Scheme be scrutinised by the Communities Scrutiny Group 12 months following its approval and implementation by Cabinet.

29 April 2021

- Carbon Management Plan Update

The meeting closed at 9.48 pm.

CHAIRMAN



 <p data-bbox="193 398 405 468"><b>Rushcliffe</b> Borough Council</p>	<p data-bbox="456 230 903 264"><b>Communities Scrutiny Group</b></p> <p data-bbox="456 304 815 338"><b>Thursday, 29 April 2021</b></p> <p data-bbox="456 378 852 412"><b>Carbon Management Plan</b></p>
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## **Report of the Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods**

### **1. Purpose of report**

1.1. On 7 March 2019, Rushcliffe Borough Council passed the following motion:

“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 above 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 direct operations and adopted a carbon action plan to monitor progress against this objective.

1.4. Communities Scrutiny Group is requested to consider progress to date and, if satisfied, accept the recommendation of the report.

### **2. Recommendation**

It is RECOMMENDED that the Communities Scrutiny Group:

- a) consider and endorse the progress to date of the adopted carbon management action plan
- b) make comment and contribute towards the emerging carbon management actions for 2021/22.

### 3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. The Council's Corporate Strategy 2019-2023 was adopted in September 2019. In March 2020, the Cabinet set a target to become carbon neutral from its own operations by 2030 and adopted a carbon management action plan to achieve this objective. The carbon management action plan includes 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 business across the Borough.

### 4. Supporting Information

- 4.1. On 26 June 2019, The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 was enacted; this Order changes the Climate Change Act 2008 to require that the net UK carbon account for the year 2050 must be 100% lower than the 1990 baseline, i.e. net-zero emissions. 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 emissions 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.

- 4.3. There were 67 actions in the first version 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. The carbon management action plan is a live document which is regularly updated. It is constantly evolving as research and technology develops. The carbon management action plan dashboard (Appendix 1) provides a snapshot of progress to date. The Team Manager for Environment will deliver a presentation providing a detailed overview on Carbon action plan activity and a road map to 2030.

## **5. Risks and Uncertainties**

- 5.1. There is a strong 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 has had an impact on the Council's resources to deliver its corporate priorities, there is current uncertainty on how this has impacted the progress of the carbon management action plan timetable to reach its carbon neutral target from its own emission by 2030 and if any additional action will be required to meet the Council's objectives.

## **6. Implications**

### **6.1. Financial Implications**

Improving the environment and reducing carbon emissions represents a significant challenge for the Council which requires both revenue and capital commitment. As part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy presented to Council on 5 March 2020, it was resolved that £1m be transferred from the Organisation Stabilisation Reserve to a new Climate Change Action Reserve.

Cabinet, on 10 November 2020, approved the allocation of £200k from the Climate Change Action Reserve in recognition of the proposal for the National Centre for Integrated Zero Carbon Futures project at Ratcliffe on Soar.

### **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.
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. Recommendations

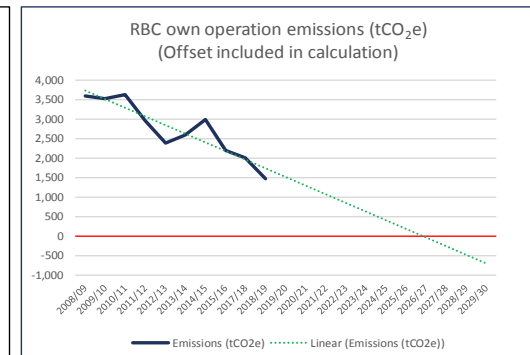
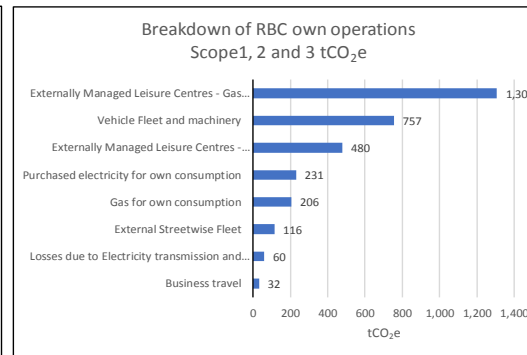
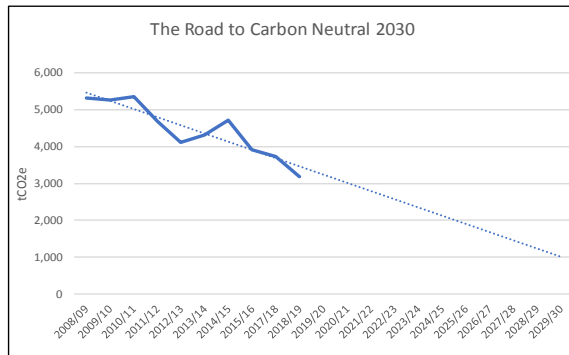
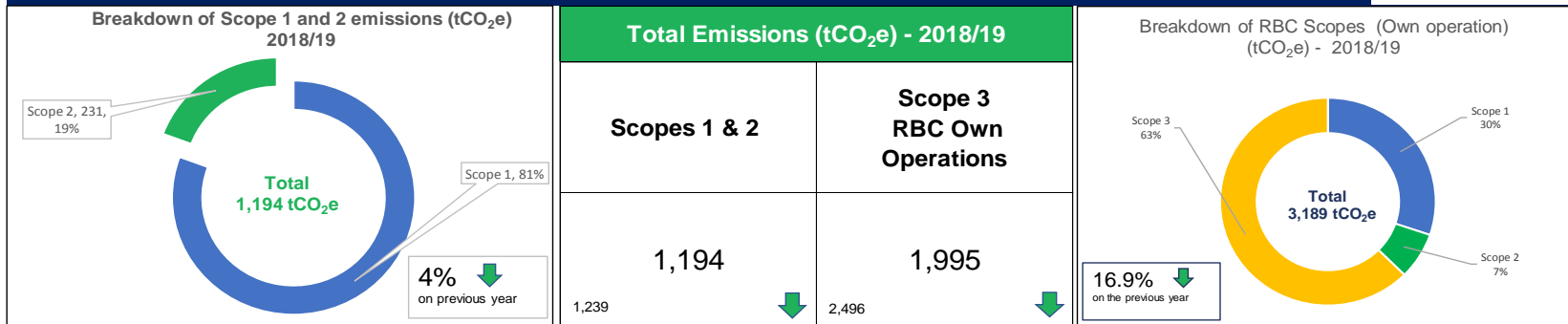
It is RECOMMENDED that the Communities Scrutiny Group:

- a) consider and endorse the progress to date of the adopted carbon management action plan
- b) make comment and contribute towards the emerging carbon management actions for 2021/22.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Dave Banks Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods Tel: 0115 9148438 dbanks@rushcliffe.gov.uk
<b>Background papers available for Inspection:</b>	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'
<b>List of appendices:</b>	<b>Appendix 1 - Carbon Management Action Plan Dashboard</b>

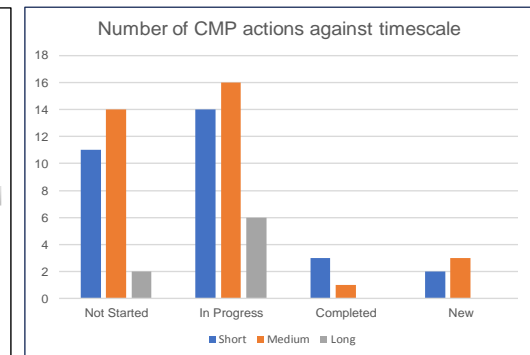
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# Carbon Clever Progress Dashboard



### CMP Summary

Not Started	22
In Progress	41
Completed	4
New	14



## RBC CARBON ACTION PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

- 11 EVC's being developed across Rushcliffe in 2021 including the installation of a solar canopy at Gamston Community Centre
- New LC at Bingham being built to BREEAM 'very good'. Install of £367k worth of Carbon reduction technology
- In December 2020, nearly 2,000 trees (a mix of Crab Apple and Hazel) were delivered to RBC residents
- In April over 90kg of wildflower seed will be distributed to RBC Parish Council's.
- £100k Salix funding award to enable delivery of LED lighting upgrade for RBC estate

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**Growth and Development Scrutiny****Thursday 29 April 2021****Work Programme****Report of the Executive Manager – Finance and Corporate Services****1. Summary**

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 in the table below.

**3. Reasons for Recommendation****July 2021**

- Safeguarding Adults & Children Strategy
- Work Programme

**October 2021**

- Police Performance and Resources for Rushcliffe
- Work Programme

**January 2022**

- Housing Delivery Plan
- Work Programme

**April 2022**

- Carbon Management Plan
- Waste Strategy
- Work Programme

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Pete Linfield Executive Manager – Finance and Corporate Services 0115 914 8349 <a href="mailto:plinfield@rushcliffe.gov.uk">plinfield@rushcliffe.gov.uk</a>
<b>Background papers Available for Inspection:</b>	None.
<b>List of appendices (if any):</b>	None.