



Communities Scrutiny Group

Thursday, 16 March 2023

Carbon Management Plan

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. The Carbon Management plan is a working document and is scrutinised annually by the Communities Scrutiny Group most recently in April 2022.
- 1.4. The Communities Scrutiny Group is requested to consider progress to date for the year 2022/23 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 2023/24.

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.

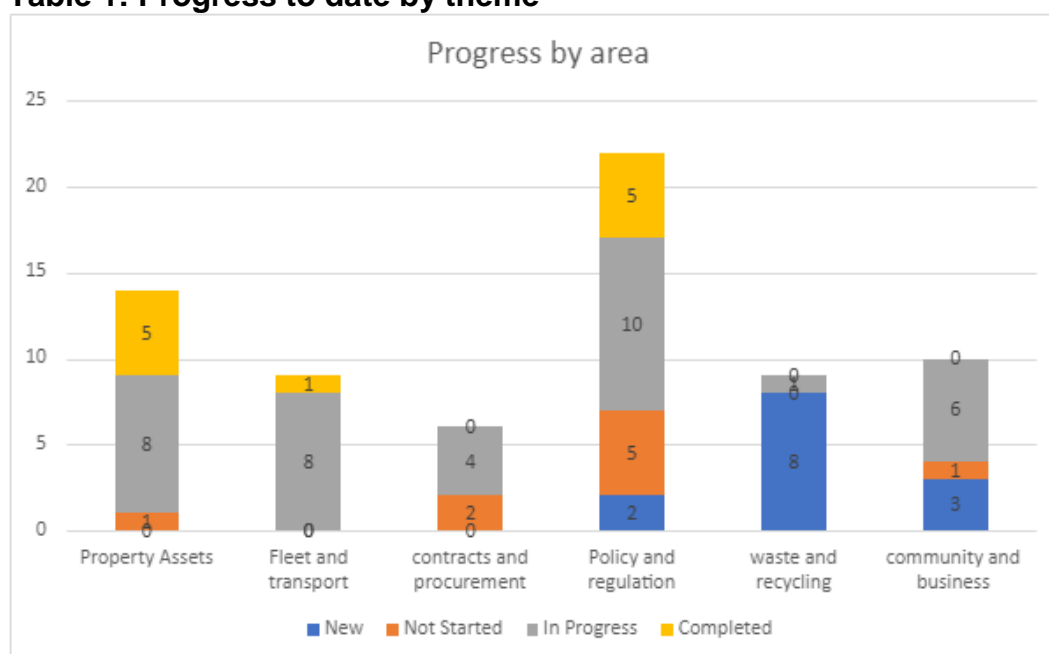
Scope 3 – All Other Indirect Emissions from activities of the organisation, occurring from sources that they do not own or control. These are usually the greatest share of the carbon footprint, covering emissions associated with business travel, procurement, waste and water, staff commuting, business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

Carbon Management Action Plan

- 4.3. Overall, the latest data for gas and electric Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions provide evidence that the Council continues to make very good progress against the original 2008/09 baseline with a carbon reduction of 59% for 2021/22. This has primarily been achieved by improvements in both the Council's estate and leisure centre resulting in less gas and electric consumption. Furthermore, if the Council's renewable energy guarantees of origin (REGO) green sourced electricity was incorporated then the reduction would be even greater at 72%.

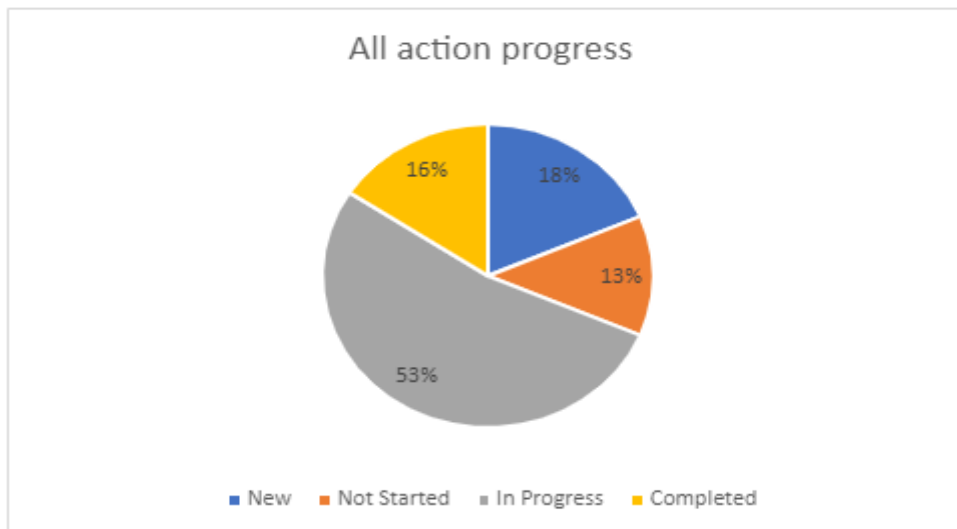
- 4.4. There were 67 actions in the first iteration of the Carbon Management Action Plan. These were spread across eight key theme areas: property assets, fleet and transport, contracts and procurement, policy and regulation, waste and recycling, operation activity, community and business and offsetting. Since the last review, these actions have now increased to 70, thanks to new funding opportunities and new identified areas within the business.
- 4.5. The Carbon Management Action Plan is a live document which is regularly updated. The current plan has 59 live actions and 11 completed actions, Table 1 below shows the progress to date by theme.

Table 1: Progress to date by theme



- 4.6. The plan is constantly evolving as research and technology develops; 13% 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



- 4.7. 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 procuring the Council’s electricity with a REGO tariff coupled with the completion/near completion of major projects such as Bingham Arena, Rushcliffe Country Park and Rushcliffe Oaks have all had a major impact on the carbon footprint of the Council.
- 4.8. Other significant achievements are the installation of multiple electric vehicle charge points and the successful delivery of the Local Authority Delivery Schemes 2 and 3 which support the wider target of being carbon neutral for the local authority area by 2050.
- 4.9. The Carbon Management Action Plan dashboard (Appendix 1) provides a summary snapshot of progress to date. The Team Manager for Environment and Communities Manager will deliver a presentation to the meeting to provide an overview on the action plan activity to date and next steps.
- 4.10. Key priorities for 2023/24 will focus on the Council’s successful bid into the SALIX Public Sector Decarbonisation Plan 3b (PSDS 3b) £1.2m grant to decarbonise the Cotgrave Leisure Centre. This will include removing the old gas boilers and replacing them with state-of-the-art air source heat pump technologies along with fabric improvements and solar electric system. This is forecast to save the Council in excess of 300 tonnes of CO₂e per year.
- 4.11. Throughout 2023, the Council will continue to review the energy performance of its operational and commercial stock. The grant funding allocated from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund towards this project is being utilised to source a qualified surveyor to work through the stock. Alongside this, a specialist leisure centre contractor has also been commissioned to review major potential energy improvements to the Rushcliffe Arena. This will include efficiencies to the existing combined heat and power plant, solar electricity and building management system. Such interventions will improve on the gas/electricity consumption to make major cost/carbon savings.

- 4.12. The Council will also be continuing to tackle its fleet emissions and will be conducting a full fleet review now that the new Transport Manager is in post. A specialist consultant has been appointed to work with the fleet in order to conduct a comprehensive review. This will inform the Council on the most appropriate and cost-effective ways to decarbonise the existing fleet from tools, vans, tractors all the way up to and including refuse collection vehicles. This is essential as in addition to cost volatility, work is continuing to explore the storage and dispensing options for biodiesel and the cost of/viability of an electric refuse freighter is not a feasible option until the range improves. This does not however, mean that major improvements in emissions cannot still be made between now and 2030 as the Council continues to invest and replace older fleet vehicles with new.

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

- 6.1.1. 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. The reserve was topped back up to £1m as approved at the Council meeting on 3 March 2022.

6.1.2. £30k has been approved 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.

6.1.3. Table 3 shows the movement on the Climate Change Reserve; schemes that may potentially be considered for funding from the reserve; and Climate Change Expenditure met from other Grants

Table 3 – Climate Change Reserve Summary

Climate Change Reserve	Amount £000	Detail
Established Council 05.03.20	1,000	
Allocation Cabinet 10.11.20	(200)	National Centre for Integrated Zero Carbon Futures project at Ratcliffe on Soar
Top-up Council 03.03.22	200	
Rushcliffe Country Park (RCP)	(30)	£22k PV Panels; £8k air source heat-pump
BALANCE of approvals	970	
Schemes identified:		
RCP Parking Bays for EVCP	(25)	
Energy Audit of Council Properties - installation smart meters etc	(50)	
PV for Arena to replace Combined Heat and Power (CHP)	(200)	
PV for other Operational Buildings - Gresham etc	(160)	
Gamston Community Hall Insulation	(8)	
Gresham Sports Park alterations for EVCP	(9)	
Cenex Fleet and Infrastructure Audit	(20)	
Gamston Community Centre replacement heating plant 23/24	(50)	
Bingham Leisure Hub	(340)	
Balance including schemes identified	108	
To be determined:		
CLC Enhancements also have Salix funding £1.2m	tbd	
KLC Enhancements	tbd	
West Park Enhancements Windows/Solar Panels	tbd	
Vehicles - electric vehicles	tbd	
Edwalton Golf Course Enhancements - heating	tbd	

upgrade		
Edwalton Community Facility - PV and air source heat pump	tbd	
The Crematorium Green Tech Measures Cremator approx £1m	tbd	Underfloor heating, sedum roof, air source heat pump, heat recovery, environmentally friendly landscaping, and electric cremator -circa £1m
Climate Change Expenditure Met from other Grants:		
Gresham Floodlights Existing	(31)	Football Foundation Grant/S106s
Gresham Floodlights New	(66)	Football Foundation Grant/S106s
LED Energy Efficient Lighting Schemes Operational and Investment Properties	(101)	SALIX Grant
RBC EV Network	(53)	OZEV Grant from Dept of Transport
LAD2 Green Energy Grants - CAPITAL	(635)	LAD2 Grants
LAD2 Green Energy Grants Admin - REVENUE	(60)	LAD2 Grants
LAD3 and HUG Green Energy Grants - CAPITAL	(770)	LAD3 and HUG Grants
LAD3 and HUG Green Energy Grants Admin - REVENUE	(77)	LAD3 and HUG Grants
LAD2 Extension Award CAPITAL	(240)	LAD2 Grants
LAD2 Extension Award REVENUE	(22)	LAD2 Grants
Pub Sector De-Carb Scheme 16.01.23 CLC	(1,215)	Salix Award
TOTAL External Funding:	(3,270)	

6.1.4. At the end of each financial year, the schemes identified are assessed for funding from the Climate Change Reserve and will be included in the Outturn Report for approval.

6.1.5. There is pressure on this Reserve going forwards as we strive to meet the commitment to achieve a carbon neutral target by 2030. In the outturn report for 2022/23, any underspends will be assessed with a view to identifying a top-up to the Climate Change Reserve.

6.1.6. It should be noted that Rushcliffe has received significant external funding to deliver Carbon reduction measures of £3.2m. Significant elements of this are: government capital and revenue grants to support Green Energy Measures under LAD2: total £695k and LAD3 and HUG1 £847k. The Council has now completed the LAD 2 scheme and pulled in an extra £262k underspend from the scheme to deliver further interventions. Not only this, a further £191k underspend top-up is being sought for LAD3/HUG due to our success in the current delivery of the schemes.

6.1.7. A further £1,215m has been awarded from the Department of Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to carry out the low Carbon Heating Project at Cotgrave Leisure Centre which will require 10% match funding of £122k

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. 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 2023/24.

For more information contact:	David Banks Director - Neighbourhoods Tel: 0115 9148438 dbanks@rushcliffe.gov.uk
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<p>Background papers available for Inspection:</p>	<p>Report to Communities Scrutiny 28 April 2022 Carbon Management Plan annual scrutiny</p> <p>Report to Cabinet 14 December 2021 'Climate Change Strategy 2021-2030'</p> <p>Report to Cabinet 10 March 2020 'Carbon Management'</p> <p>Report to Cabinet 11 February 2020 '2020/21 Budget and Financial Strategy'</p> <p>Report to Communities Scrutiny Group 9 January 2020 'Carbon Management Plan Development and Review'</p>
<p>List of appendices:</p>	<p>Appendix 1 - Carbon Management Action Plan Dashboard</p>

