



Communities Scrutiny Group

Thursday, 21 March 2024

Carbon Management Plan Review

Report of the Director – Neighbourhoods

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. 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 Action Plan is a working document and is scrutinised annually by the Communities Scrutiny Group most recently in March 2023.
- 1.2. The Communities Scrutiny Group is requested to consider progress to date for the year 2023-24 financial year and, if satisfied, accept the recommendation of the report.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Communities Scrutiny Group:

- a) considers the progress to date of the adopted carbon management action plan; and
- b) contributes towards the emerging carbon management actions for 2024/25.

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 also 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.

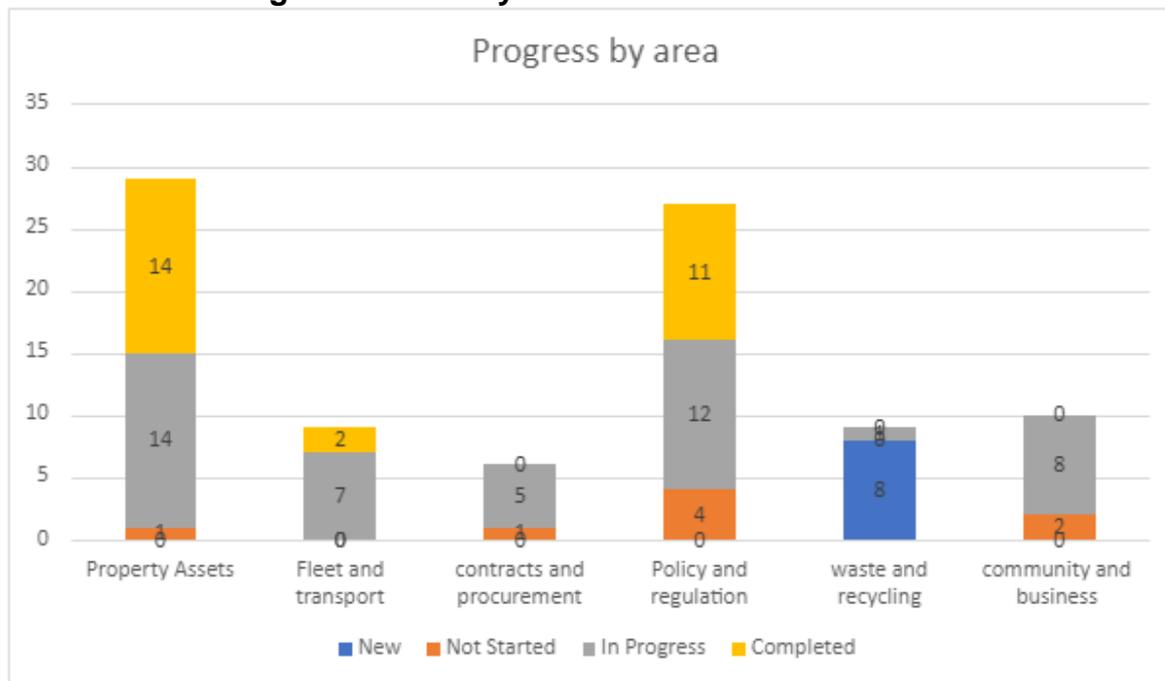
Scope 3 – All Other Indirect Emissions from activities of the organisation, occurring from sources that they do not own or control. These are usually the greatest share of the carbon footprint, covering emissions associated with business travel, procurement, waste and water, staff commuting, business 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 63% for 2023/24 This has primarily been achieved by improvements in both the Council’s estate and leisure centres 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 76%.
- 4.4. It must be noted however that in current review period the ‘Scope 1 Emissions’ have shown an increasing trend. There are three primary drivers for this increasing trend, firstly the return to business-as-usual operating levels in a post covid working environment, secondly the insourcing of Streetwise Environmental back into the Council and thirdly the opening of the Rushcliffe Oaks Crematorium with its electric cremator. Looking ahead it is anticipated that when the conversion from diesel fuel to HVO (Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil) on our Waste Fleet vehicles is introduced, the carbon emissions for our vehicles will decrease significantly and have a positive impact on our emission trends.
- 4.5. 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, overall actions have now increased to 90, due to new intelligence and new funding opportunities becoming available.

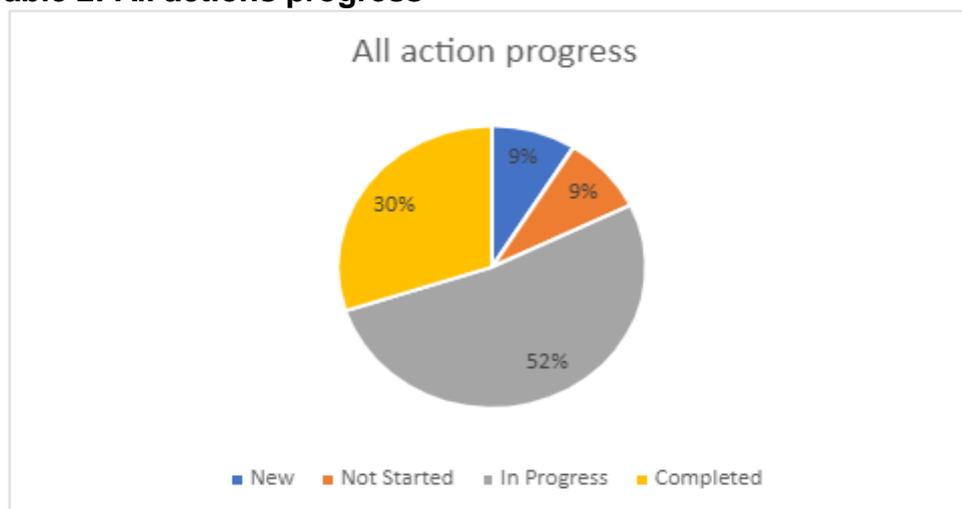
4.6. The Carbon Management Action Plan is a live document which is regularly updated. The current plan has 47 live actions, 8 new, 8 not started, 27 completed actions, Table 1 below shows the progress to date by theme.

Table 1: Progress to date by theme



4.7. In this reporting period, the majority of completed actions are around property assets and policy and regulation. This is a result of the completion of decarbonisation audits for our property assets, the nationally funded housing schemes, and the implementation of the new Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements launched in February 2024.

Table 2: All actions progress



2030 Own Operations Net Zero Target

- 4.8. The major project identified this period as having the most significant impact on RBC carbon reduction is the completion of the Cotgrave Leisure Centre PSDS (Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme) project which will see the complete replacement of the gas boiler system with an air source heat pump alternative. A bid for PSDS funding was successful attracting a grant of £1.215m. In addition, the Council have also been successful in gaining and additional £250k from Sports England's Swimming Pool Support fund for a Solar Photovoltaic (PVs) system at Cotgrave Leisure Centre. The scheme demonstrates the current works that are being done within the RBC owned estate to meet the 2030 net zero target.

2050 Borough Wide Net Zero Target

- 4.9. Major outreach interventions with residents, businesses and parish councils have also been carried out. The HUG 1/LAD 3 (Heating Upgrade Grant 1 / Local Authority Delivery 3) schemes to specifically target fuel poor properties within the Borough. This has enabled the Council to intervene with front line customers and businesses to tailor bespoke advice to specific situations. Examples of this are the Bunny Home Energy Advice Team (HEAT) project for decarbonising listed homes in a conservation area, along with energy audits for businesses making them ready for Rural Shared Prosperity Fund bids. These interventions have a positive impact on the Borough wide net zero target by 2050.
- 4.10. The Carbon Management Action Plan Dashboard **Appendix 1** provides a summary of progress to date. The Communities Manager will deliver a presentation at the meeting to provide an overview on the action plan activity.
- 4.11. Key priorities for 2024/25 will be to finalise all the heat decarbonisation reports that have been generated from the UKSPF funding (United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund) and the decarbonisation of Julian Cahn Pavilion and Gamston Community Centre which are currently submitted application for grant funding.
- 4.12. The HDP (Heat Decarbonisation Plan) will allow the Council to have pre prepared bids to submit to future SALIX PSDS funding rounds. To make this as enticing as possible to SALIX, the Council will be looking to put in a large collective bid to maximise the amount of carbon works across the RBC commercial stock. The Council will also keep up to date on any future Sports England pots to fund solar electric on our leisure stock and other venues.
- 4.13. The Council now has the completed CENEX fleet and transport review report, and this has proven to be an excellent independent review of the council's fleet vehicles. The document sets out the transition for the fleet to reach the net zero by 2030. The report has also supported the decision to transition to HVO for our refuse fleet/ larger Streetwise vans with the potential reduction of emissions of up to (90%) until Hydrogen or other technologies become more viable and cost effective particularly for larger HGV transport.

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 Council had experienced difficulties with the HVO usage due to factors outside of the Councils control. The Council were scheduled to start fuelling the fleet at the Nottingham City Council's Eastcroft Depot in January; however, this is now expected to progress in April 2024.

6. Implications

6.1. Financial Implications

- 6.1.1. See **Appendix 2** for the movements and commitments of the Climate Change Reserve. The original Climate Change Reserve was established at £1m; the projected balance remaining at the end of 2023/24 is £228k.
- 6.1.2. The 2024/25 Budget will see the reserve topped up by £850k from New Homes Bonus (£750k) and additional Government Grants (£100k). The projected balance at the end of 2024/25 is £805k. The award of external energy efficiency grants and the use of the Climate Change Reserve to match fund bids has levered in over £6m of additional funding. This funding significantly helps with Rushcliffe's decarbonisation programme.
- 6.1.3. For any further potential funding bids, a business case will be produced to demonstrate the non-financial and financial benefits/costs in line with Financial Regulations. This will ensure that grant submissions cover anticipated costs and, where match funding is required, the appropriate approval and budgetary provision is sought.
- 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 the Council strive to meet the commitment to achieve a carbon neutral target by 2030. In the outturn report for 2024/25, any underspends will be assessed with a view to identifying a top-up to the Climate Change Reserve.

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.

6.5. Biodiversity Net Gain

Since the last report there has been a change to the Ecology Team with the new Senior Ecologist and Sustainability Officer along with the introduction of the Assistant Ecologist and Sustainability Officer. This has put the Council in a very strong position to deliver the BNG when it came live on 12/02/2024. The intention is for the team to work in partnership with Planning to deal with the BNG applications on a case-by-case basis. The Assistant will be responsible for conducting the site assessments and follow up inspections as the years go on. This will be an ever-growing commitment as the sites need to be maintained for 30 years.

7. Link to Corporate Priorities

The Environment	Implementing a carbon reduction action plan and providing a budget to support delivery, are all designed to improve and safeguard the environment.
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.
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.

8. Recommendation

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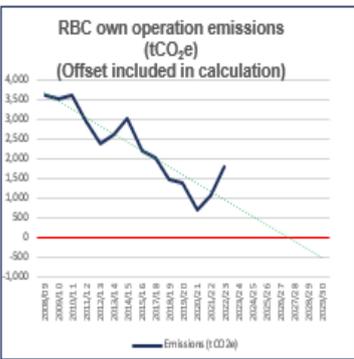
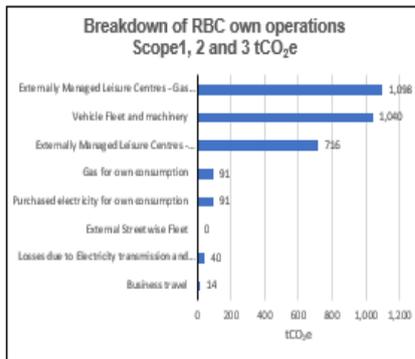
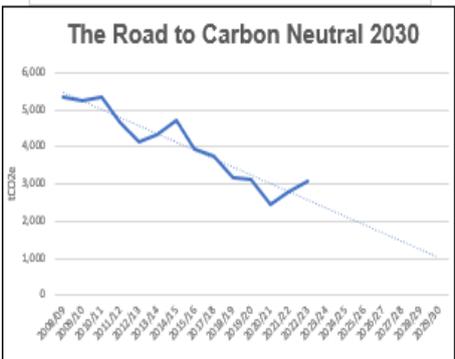
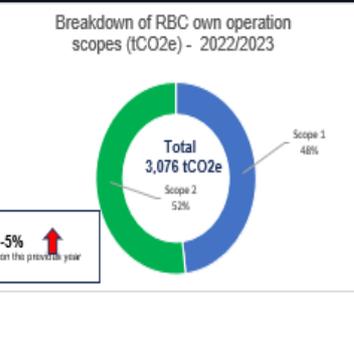
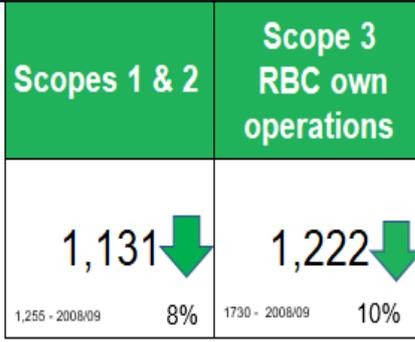
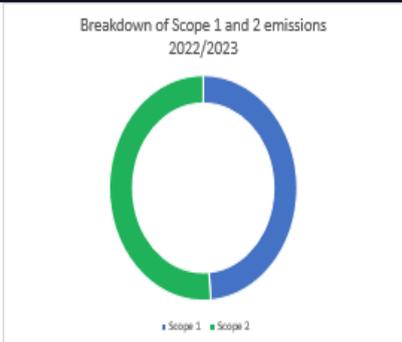
For more information contact:	David Banks Director - Neighbourhoods Tel: 0115 9148438 dbanks@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for Inspection:	Report to Communities Scrutiny 16 March 2023 Carbon Management Plan annual scrutiny Report to Cabinet 14 December 2021 'Climate Change Strategy 2021-2030' 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 Appendix 2 – Climate Change Reserve Appendix 3 - Rushcliffe Borough Council Carbon Management Plan 2024

Appendix 1

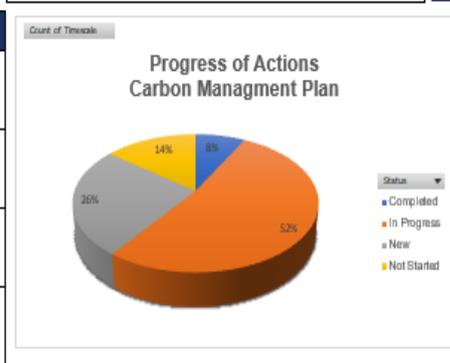
Carbon Clever Progress Dashboard

Days remaining to CN 2030: 2129

Total Emissions (tCO₂e) - 2023/24



Action Progress Summary	
Not Started	13
In Progress	47
Completed	7
New	23



Appendix 2

		Amount £000	Detail
4	Climate Change Reserve		
5	Established Council 05.03.20	1,000	
6	Allocation Cabinet 10.11.20	(200)	National Centre for Integrated Zero Carbon Futures project at Ratcliffe on Soar
7	Top-up Council 03.03.22	200	
8	RCP	(30)	£22k PV Panels; £8k air source heat-pump
9	The Crematorium	(300)	Green Tech measures
10	Bingham Arena	(300)	Green Tech measures
11	Gamston CH	(7)	Insulaton
12	Gresham	(9)	EVCP ancillary works
13	Rushcliffe Country Park	(25)	EVCP Bays and ancillary works
14	Arena	(8)	CHP and PV Structural Roof Survey
15	Fleet	(20)	Cenex Fleet and Infrastructure Audit
16	Cotgrave LC 50%	(73)	Match funding for Salix Bid decarbonisation works
17			
18	BALANCE of approvals 23-24:	228	
19	Schemes identified 24-25:		
20	CLC 50%	(73)	Match funding for Salix Bid decarbonisation works
21	U10 Moorbridge	(200)	Heat decarbonisation works
22	Top Up:		
23	Budget Report Council 07.03.24	750	From New Homes Bonus
24	Budget Report Council 07.03.24	100	From additional Government Grant
25			
26	Balance including schemes identified	805	
27	To be determined:		
28	West Park Enhancements Windows/Solar Panels	tbd	
29	Vehicles - electric vehicles	tbd	
30	Edwalton Golf Course Enhancements - heating upgrade	tbd	
31			
32	Climate Change Expenditure Met from other Grants:		
33	Gresham Floodlights Existing	(31)	Football Foundation Grant/S106s
34	Gresham Floodlights New	(66)	Football Foundation Grant/S106s
35	LED Energy Efficient Lighting schemes Operational and	(101)	SALIX Grant
36	RBC EV Network	(53)	OZEV Grant from Dept of Transport
37	Energy Efficiency Grants to owner occupiers	(899)	LAD2 Grants
38	Energy Efficiency Grants to owner occupiers	(1,149)	LAD3 and HUG Grants
39	Energy Efficiency Grants to owner occupiers	(984)	HUG2
40	Energy Efficiency Grants to owner occupiers	(583)	RETROFIT Grants
41	Public Sector De-Carb Scheme 16.01.23 CLC	(1,215)	Salix Award
42	Energy Audit	(50)	UKSPF
43	Gamston CH and Sir Julien Cahn Pavilion decarbonisation	(132)	Salix
44	Edwalton Community Facility - PV and air source heat pu	(250)	UKSPF
45	Cotgrave LC decarbonisation	(110)	UKSPF
46	Keyworth LC decarbonisation	(150)	UKSPF
47	U10 Moorbridge EVCP	(40)	UKSPF
48	Cotgrave LC PV panels	(250)	Sport England
49	TOTAL External Funding:	(6,063)	