



## Communities Scrutiny Group

Thursday, 9 January 2020

### Carbon Management Plan Development and Review

## 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.*

*The commitment to review and implement a refreshed target should also be integrated into the Council's commitment and leadership to parish councils, business and strategic partners, to deliver widespread carbon reductions across the borough. Rushcliffe Borough Council will continue to call on the Government to provide the necessary powers and resources to make local action on climate change easier.*

1.2. In October 2019, the Communities Scrutiny Group considered local carbon emissions, past Council performance in reducing emissions, and the approach to developing a new action plan. Members agreed that the Council's own operations should be the primary focus of work to reduce emissions.

1.3. This report contains a draft of the Council's Carbon Reduction Action Plan (Appendix 1) for consideration and discussion to further inform development prior to adoption as a working document. A presentation of the most significant actions and 'quick wins' will be delivered to Councillors at the meeting.

1.4. It is proposed that the action plan is scrutinised and updated annually. Although it is not currently possible to quantify the full level of investment required to achieve carbon neutral status by 2030, the Communities Scrutiny Group is asked to consider recommending to Cabinet that this target should be adopted and a budget established to support delivery.

## 2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Communities Scrutiny Group:

- a) Comments on the Carbon Reduction Action Plan (draft) as detailed in Appendix 1;
- b) Requests that Cabinet sets a target for becoming carbon neutral for the Council's own emissions by 2030;
- c) Requests that Cabinet supports budget provision within the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy to deliver carbon reduction actions.

## 3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. The Council's Corporate Strategy 2019-2023 was adopted in September 2019. The Strategy includes a new corporate priority of 'The Environment'. The associated Corporate Action Plan 'Environment' theme states that a target date should be set for the Council to achieve carbon neutral status.
- 3.2. The significant scale of reduction in carbon emissions required to meet carbon neutral status will not be achievable without additional investment. Establishing a carbon reduction budget within the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy could be used to purchase more efficient plant, vehicles and equipment, provide staffing resources to deliver new initiatives and measures to off-set residual emissions. It is expected that this budget would lead to on-going revenue savings and potentially income returns from any new green investments.

## 4. Supporting Information

### Background

- 4.1. The table below summarises the position of other local authorities within Nottinghamshire. In Derbyshire, six districts have set a 2030 target for Carbon neutral in-house, one district set 2050 and two are still considering a target date.

	Date	Statement	In-house carbon neutral target	Area-wide carbon neutral target
<b>NOTTINGHAM</b>	21/01/19	Commitment made	2028	2028
<b>Rushcliffe</b>	07/03/19	Commitment made	2030 <sup>1</sup>	No target
<b>Mansfield</b>	05/03/19	Emergency declared <sup>2</sup>	2040	2040

<b>NOTTINGHAMSHIRE</b>	16/05/19	Commitment made	No target	No target
<b>Newark</b>	16/07/19	Emergency declared	No target	No target
<b>Bassetlaw</b>	27/06/19	Commitment made	No target	No target
<b>Broxtowe</b>	17/07/19	Emergency declared	2027	2027
<b>Ashfield</b>	26/09/19	Commitment made	No target	No target
<b>Gedling</b>	20/11/2019	Emergency declared	2030	2030

<sup>1</sup> To be considered

<sup>2</sup> In principle

- 4.2. It is important to note that carbon neutral is not the same as zero emissions and it is expected that by 2030 there will still be some residual emissions from the Council's operations and that a degree of offsetting will be required.

#### Rushcliffe Carbon Reduction Action Plan (draft)

- 4.3. Prior to developing this action plan, a wide range of best practice has been gathered. Rushcliffe has hosted and led a Nottinghamshire Environmental Strategy workshop to align delivery with the D2N2 Energy Strategy. Officers have taken part in webinars and attended various climate change events held by the Carbon Trust, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authority Energy Partnership, Midlands Energy Hub, private training providers and Western Power Distribution.
- 4.4. An internal officer group, with representatives from 11 different service areas, has met twice, in October and December, to identify and develop co-ordinated actions across the Council and devise a logo and strapline of 'Carbon Clever' to raise awareness of this important work.
- 4.5. The draft action plan has seven themes which are mirrored over two sections covering 'Internal Actions' and 'Influencing Actions'. The timescale for delivery set is short term = within 12 months, medium term = 1 to 5 years and long term 5 to 10 years. There is also a further theme for Offsetting actions.

Action plan themes:

- 4.5.1. Property Assets
- 4.5.2. Fleet and Transport
- 4.5.3. Contracts and procurement
- 4.5.4. Policy and Regulation
- 4.5.5. Waste and Recycling
- 4.5.6. Operational Activities
- 4.5.7. Community and Businesses
- 4.5.8. Offsetting

## Delivery, development and scrutiny

- 4.6. Delivery of the action plan will be driven through quarterly meetings of the carbon reduction officer team. The Council's Executive Management Team will monitor performance on a rolling six-week basis and updates on new initiatives will be promoted to Councillors through Councillors' Connections and portfolio holder briefings.
- 4.7. It is proposed to set a programme of annual scrutiny through the Communities Scrutiny Group which would cover a review of delivery, priorities for the following year and revisions to actions.

## **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 and a process of due diligence of the available options is needed to reduce the level of risk to the Council. However, this should be balanced against making faster carbon reductions through early adoption. For example, electric refuse vehicles are not currently operationally or financially viable within Rushcliffe and research indicates that hydrogen or bio-fuel may be more appropriate, although comparable national case-study examples are limited.

## **6. Implications**

### **6.1. Financial Implications**

The Council is likely to have to identify additional resources to fund actions that will lead to carbon reduction measures. This will need considering as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy going forward (to be considered by Full Council in March 2020). Furthermore, ongoing costs and savings will be identified as part of the business case for potential carbon reduction measures and will subsequently be included in the budget going forward.

### **6.2. Legal Implications**

Achieving carbon neutral status by 2030 is not in a legal requirement, however Council has agreed a motion that establishes an expectation to deliver widespread carbon reductions. This report supports delivery of the expectation.

### 6.3. Equalities Implications

There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

### 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 action plan will contribute to improvements in public health for example through improved air quality, food consumption and more physical activity.
Efficient Services	Enhancing the energy efficiency of the Council's assets will 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	Setting a carbon neutral target by 2030, implementing a carbon reduction action plan and establishing 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) Comments on the Carbon Reduction Action Plan (draft) as detailed in Appendix 1;
- b) Requests that Cabinet sets a target for becoming carbon neutral for the Council's own emissions by 2030;
- c) Requests that Cabinet supports budget provision within the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy to deliver carbon reduction actions.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	David Banks Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods 0115 9148438 dbanks@rushcliffe.gov.uk
<b>Background papers available for Inspection:</b>	Minutes of full Council 7 March 2019 – Notice of Motion a.  Communities Scrutiny Group 3 October 2019 – ‘Carbon Management’
<b>List of appendices:</b>	<b>Appendix 1</b> - Carbon Reduction Action Plan (draft 23 December 2019)

## Appendix 1 - Carbon Reduction Action Plan (draft – 23 Dec 2019)

### Themes:

1. Property Assets;
2. Fleet and Transport;
3. Contracts and Procurement;
4. Policy and Regulation;
5. Waste and Recycling;
6. Operational Activities;
7. Community and Businesses;
8. Offsetting

**Timescale:** I = Implemented / ongoing; S = within 1 year; M = between 1 year and 5 years; L = 5 - 10 years

**Co-benefits:** Cost Saving = £; Energy Saving = ⚡ Economic Benefit = 💰 Health Benefit = 🏠 Equity = 🏘️ resilience = ⚡ wildlife = 🦋

CO2 saving Low, Medium , High

### A. Internal actions

Ref.	Action	Lead Specialist	Timescale	Potential CO2e Saving	Financial Cost (in addition to officer time)	Co-benefits	Link to D2N2 Energy Strategy
1. Property Assets							
1.1.	Estate improvements and detailed monitoring (including provision of Energy Performance Certificate for estate buildings??)	Property Services	S	TBC	TBC		

Ref.	Action	Lead Specialist	Timescale	Potential CO2e Saving	Financial Cost (in addition to officer time)	Co-benefits	Link to D2N2 Energy Strategy
1.2.	Continue the roll out of energy efficient plant equipment and lighting across the property portfolio including community buildings and facilities (e.g. Gresham Playing field lit sports pitches) and car park lighting (e.g. LED lighting, power controls, heating systems (possibly heat pumps including water source at Country Park), etc.)	Property Services	M	TBC	~£2m (possible for Salix interest free loan) <i>£0.8m one off cost for a 1MW heat pump - but income may be generated from the government's Renewable Heat Incentive</i>		
1.3.	Carry out an audit across the existing property portfolio of potential fabric thermal upgrades (insulation), water consumption and all plant, confirming all is optimised in terms of operation and deliver upgrades (including filtration pumps at leisure centres as necessary).	Property Services	S	TBC	~£1m (possible for Salix interest free loan loan)		
1.4.	Investigate purchasing green energy tariffs	Property Services	S	TBC	TBC		
1.5.	Undertake a feasibility study of using Natural Ventilation mechanisms on property portfolio buildings	Property Services	M	TBC	TBC		
1.6.	Deliver upgrade to power supply on Croquet Lawn to reduce use of diesel generators	Property Services	S	TBC	TBC		
1.7.	Review portfolio of leisure centres (provision and replacement) (Cotgrave?, East Leake? and Keyworth) Consider retro install of CHP units to leisure portfolio where appropriate.	Waste and Contracts	L	TBC	TBC ( ~£310k per site for CHP)		
1.8.	Carry out review of opportunities to replace ICT plant with lower carbon equipment (including server equipment, printers, workstations etc)	ICT	S	TBC	TBC		



Ref.	Action	Lead Specialist	Timescale	Potential CO2e Saving	Financial Cost (in addition to officer time)	Co-benefits	Link to D2N2 Energy Strategy
1.9.	Review the carbon footprint of cloud-based services and consider how council service can best be delivered (including e-services, documents transfer and electronic postage and online public services).	ICT	S	TBC	TBC		
1.10.	Review future play space specifications to include Sustainable play and Natural Play equipment and sustainable surfacing and landscaping (shade and drainage)	Community Development	S	TBC	TBC		
<b>2. Fleet and Transport</b>							
2.1.	Investigate a programme to replace / upgrade refuse trucks with ULEV / Biogas / Hydrogen fuelled vehicles (including establishing fuel infrastructure)	Waste and Contracts	L	TBC	£45k per vehicle for dual fuel conversion (not cost of vehicle) plus £?? – potential saving on running costs		
2.2.	Investigate and replace / upgrade, all vans with electric powered vehicles (including establishing charging infrastructure) [including R2Go, facilities and dog control van]	Waste and Contracts	M	TBC	£25-35k per vehicle plus £1k per chargepoint?? Potential saving on running cost		
2.3.	Investigate the need for driver training and 'in cab' monitoring and route optimisation	Waste and Contracts	S	TBC	TBC		
<b>3. Contracts and procurement</b>							
3.1.	Leisure operator contractual obligations. - Build energy targets into the new leisure provider contract and monthly energy use monitoring (supporting time controls, use of pool blankets etc.) (including Rushcliffe Golf Course	Waste and Contracts	I	TBC	Potential expense for implementation of monitoring		

Ref.	Action	Lead Specialist	Timescale	Potential CO2e Saving	Financial Cost (in addition to officer time)	Co-benefits	Link to D2N2 Energy Strategy
3.2.	Build into current contract extension for leisure operator negotiation that green energy supplier must be used at New Bingham LC	Waste and Contracts	I	TBC	May be pass on of cost if green energy is more expensive than contractor's normal supplier		
3.3.	Ground Maintenance operator contractual obligations. - Build travel / fuel emission targets into the Ground Maintenance provider contract and monthly fuel monitoring of Rushcliffe contract (supporting conversion of fleet, plant and tools etc to low carbon)	Waste and Contracts	M	TBC	Potential expense for implementation of monitoring		
3.4.	Review purchasing / procurement policy to prioritise sustainability	Financial Services	S	TBC	May be increased purchase costs		
3.5.	Consider 'better than building regs' fabric thermal insulation specification for new buildings and review works specifications/procurement to avoid high embodied carbon materials or those with high carbon operation or maintenance regimes	Property Services	L	TBC	TBC		
<b>4. Policy and Regulation</b>							
4.1.	Develop an SPD on energy efficient and low carbon development	Planning Policy	M	TBC	TBC		
4.2.	Develop an SPD on Renewable Energy Generation (identifying opportunities and promoting investment)	Planning Policy	M	TBC	TBC		
4.3.	Develop / update SPD on Building design for Climate Adaptation	Planning Policy	M	TBC	TBC		

Ref.	Action	Lead Specialist	Timescale	Potential CO2e Saving	Financial Cost (in addition to officer time)	Co-benefits	Link to D2N2 Energy Strategy
4.4.	Develop an SPD on Green Infrastructure including sequestration elements e.g. / Trees / Wetlands Meadows / Hedgerows plus provision of allotments; green walls and roofs; flooding avoidance measures in new developments (including SUD's and Natural flood management (NFM))	Planning Policy	M	TBC	TBC		
4.5.	Develop an SPD on Travel Plans and associated works – encouraging modal shift and active travel, provision of EV charging points (inc. ebikes), car club parking bays, cycle routes and connectivity investment)	Planning Policy	M	TBC	TBC		
4.6.	Develop a Masterplan for re-development of Ratcliffe on Soar Power station to include low carbon business promotion and low carbon technologies	Economic Development	L	TBC	TBC		
4.7.	Promote carbon reduction policies and guidance to developers working in Rushcliffe	Planning and growth	I	TBC	TBC		
4.8.	Ensure Health Development Checklist used for all appropriate planning applications	Planning and growth	I	TBC	TBC		
4.9.	All HIMOs to have conditions on licence for minimum energy efficiency standards (e.g. EPC rating E or better)	Environmental Health	S	TBC	TBC		
4.10.	Enforcement of minimum energy efficiency standards in the private rented sector (PRS)	Environmental Health	S	TBC	Enforcement costs		

Ref.	Action	Lead Specialist	Timescale	Potential CO2e Saving	Financial Cost (in addition to officer time)	Co-benefits	Link to D2N2 Energy Strategy
4.11.	Introduce Taxi licencing minimum vehicle emission requirement (e.g. maximum age of vehicle, EURO class, emissions monitoring etc)	Environmental Health	S	Carbon Footprint of conventional Taxis 600 g per passenger km	Enforcement costs		
4.12.	Review Air Quality Strategy to include carbon reduction targets	Environmental Health	S	TBC	- TBC		
4.13.	Implement an Ethical Investment Policy	Financial Services	S	TBC	May have lower returns		
4.14.	Review Service level agreements to include sustainability criteria (including RCAN, RCVS, Young Project etc)	Community Development	S	TBC	TBC		
4.15.	Review the standards and conditions document for allotments (including West Bridgford allotments)– sustainability, materials, waste, energy, water supply and capture etc.	Property Services	S	TBC	TBC		
4.16.	Review the market quality and standards documents to address sustainability, food miles etc	Economic growth	S	TBC	TBC		
4.17.	Review minimum energy efficiency standards in commission services e.g. new social housing, [Investigate non gas grid solutions]	Strategic Housing	S	TBC	TBC		
<b>5. Waste and Recycling</b>							
5.1.	Prepare for the requirements of the Resources and Waste Strategy for England and Environment Bill on waste and recycling collection and segregation	Waste and Contracts	M	TBC	TBC		
<b>6. Operational activities</b>							
6.1.	Provide strategic and financial direction and support and ongoing resource implications of implementation	Senior Management / Cabinet	I	TBC	TBC		

Ref.	Action	Lead Specialist	Timescale	Potential CO2e Saving	Financial Cost (in addition to officer time)	Co-benefits	Link to D2N2 Energy Strategy
6.2.	Review implementations of Climate Change Act and subsequent legislation	Legal Services	I	TBC	TBC		
6.3.	Develop Brand (e.g. Carbon Clever)	Performance, Reputation and Democratic Services	S	TBC	TBC		
6.4.	Review council publications and see if reduced carbon options are possible (e.g. e-publications)	Performance, Reputation and Democratic Services	S	TBC	TBC		
6.5.	Carry out assessment of facilities single plastic use and review options to reduce	Community Development	S	TBC	TBC		
6.6.	Audit carbon footprint of events and review options to reduce	Community Development	S	TBC	TBC		
6.7.	Use electronic payments and documentation where possible. Move away from sending cheques and look to make payments electronically. Switch over to e-billing for companies that we still receive paper invoices from (where available). Increase use of email for remittances / invoices / reminders etc.	Financial Services	S	TBC	TBC		
6.8.	Establish a Carbon Capital Fund	Financial Services	S	TBC	TBC		
<b>7. Community and Businesses</b>							
	Actions included within 'influencing section			TBC	TBC		
	Further actions to be considered			TBC	TBC		
<b>8. Offsetting</b>							
8.1.	Undertake a feasibility study of opportunities to fit PV / alternative energy generation and storage to property portfolio (including land, buildings and in car parks) – <b>See also B8.1</b>	Property Services	M	TBC	Bingham PV 200 sq. m = £75k; PV car ports = £900 per kilowatt 'peak'		
8.2.	Consider investing in alternative energy production off estate (e.g. hydroelectric facility, PV farms, wind turbines)	Property Services	M	TBC	TBC		

Ref.	Action	Lead Specialist	Timescale	Potential CO2e Saving	Financial Cost (in addition to officer time)	Co-benefits	Link to D2N2 Energy Strategy
8.3.	Investigate set up a Carbon Offset Fund through Section 106 agreements / CIL. Will generate funds for investment in low carbon projects. (NB the Government's proposed Future Homes Standard may prohibit this?).	Planning and Growth	M	TBC	TBC		
8.4.	Develop a tree planting plan on council estate e.g.; Rushcliffe Country Park, Collington Common, Bridge Field, Edwalton Golf Course, Gamston open space, The Hook, Gresham (next to tram line), Bridge Field (next to houses), Boundary Road, Meadow Park - East Leake, Miss Machin's Field and Land off Landmere Ln (need to be aware of existing ecological value)	Community Development / Property Services	S	TBC	£348k to cover 100 street trees (at an average of £3k per tree), a hectare of 2,250 trees costing £8,500, (may also require further land purchase?)		
8.5.	Start RBC's own tree nursery (so trees can be grown from seeds (gathered by RBC staff?), using compost from green waste facility... sell/give surplus saplings to other LA's)	Community Development	S	TBC	Low cost		
8.6.	Replace wind turbines at Rushcliffe Country Park if cost effective to do so	Community Development	M	TBC	TBC		

#### B. Influencing Actions

Ref.	Action	Lead Specialist	Timescale	Potential CO2e Saving	Financial Cost (in addition to officer time)	Co-benefits	Link to D2N2 Energy Strategy
1. Property Assets							
1.1.	Provide free to use cold-water dispenser in all public areas of property portfolio (including Leisure Centres)	Property Services	M	TBC	TBC		
2. Fleet and Transport							

Ref.	Action	Lead Specialist	Timescale	Potential CO2e Saving	Financial Cost (in addition to officer time)	Co-benefits	Link to D2N2 Energy Strategy
2.1.	Develop a staff travel promotion / incentive scheme for alternative travel (ULEV car lease scheme, car passenger allowance, cycle allowance, cycle purchase scheme, staff business travel card etc).	Financial services	I	TBC	TBC		
2.2.	Consider introducing Staff travel schemes through NCT and NET etc	Financial services	S	TBC	TBC		
2.3.	Consider a staff alternative travel reward competition	Human Resources	S	TBC	TBC		
2.4.	Widen access to the Staff Cycle purchase scheme	Financial Services	S	TBC	TBC		
2.5.	Provide e-bike charging point at properties used by staff	Property Services	M	TBC	TBC		
2.6.	Provide EV charging points on the Rushcliffe estate e.g. in borough car parks [ <i>currently 2 sites in Rushcliffe - Arena and County Hall; Bingham, Cotgrave and Ruddington Fields business park rejected by city scheme as not economically viable!</i> ].	Property Services	M	TBC	£2.5k per public chargepoint after government grants		

Ref.	Action	Lead Specialist	Timescale	Potential CO2e Saving	Financial Cost (in addition to officer time)	Co-benefits	Link to D2N2 Energy Strategy
2.7.	Promote active travel to the public (e.g. school travel plans including accreditation (stars) and walking bus; travel choice programme including active travel; well-being at work scheme / work place health; Business e-bike scheme; healthy futures fund – cycling on prescription; Community cycling groups; Ridewise training)	Community Development (Working with NCC and public health)		TBC	Up to ~£5m pa (based on recommended cycle investment of £50/person/pa). from e.g. require office developments to have secure cycle parking; education/training programmes; to e segregated cycle lanes.		
<b>3. Contracts and procurement</b>							
3.1.	Actions to be developed			TBC	TBC		
<b>4. Policy and Regulation</b>							
4.1.	Working collectively to support the delivery of the D2N2 Energy Strategy and develop and deliver tangible energy action plans	Senior Management	M	TBC	TBC		
4.2.	Call on the Government to provide the necessary powers and resources to make local action on climate change easier	Senior Management / Cabinet	M	TBC	TBC		
<b>5. Waste and Recycling</b>							
5.1.	Actions to be developed			TBC	TBC		
<b>6. Operational activities</b>							
6.1.	Make emailing of employee payslips easier	Financial Services	S	TBC	TBC		-
<b>7. Community and Businesses</b>							



Ref.	Action	Lead Specialist	Timescale	Potential CO2e Saving	Financial Cost (in addition to officer time)	Co-benefits	Link to D2N2 Energy Strategy
7.1.	Promotion of green business issues including energy efficiency, transport / travel planning, low carbon technology, 'green' accreditation and signposting to grants and support services etc.	Economic Development /Community Development	M	TBC	TBC		
7.2.	Promote local / sustainable food / food growing (Allotments, Diet for the world, Incredible Edible, Rushcliffe Roots, Abundance Projects, links to local fruit and veg businesses)	Community Development	M	TBC	TBC		
7.3.	Promote use of green spaces through social proscribing (including green gym, health walks, forest school etc)	Community Development	M	TBC	TBC		
7.4.	Support sustainable management of sports clubs / grounds (best practice case studies, grants etc?)	Community Development	M	TBC	TBC		
7.5.	Run a climate promotion (internal, parish council, businesses and public) (possible use Green Office Week also - Carbon reduction team could support)	Performance, Reputation and Democratic Services		TBC	TBC		
<b>8. Offsetting</b>							
8.1.	Consider establishing a community energy scheme	Community development		TBC	TBC		