



Communities Scrutiny Group

Thursday, 28 April 2022

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.
- 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.

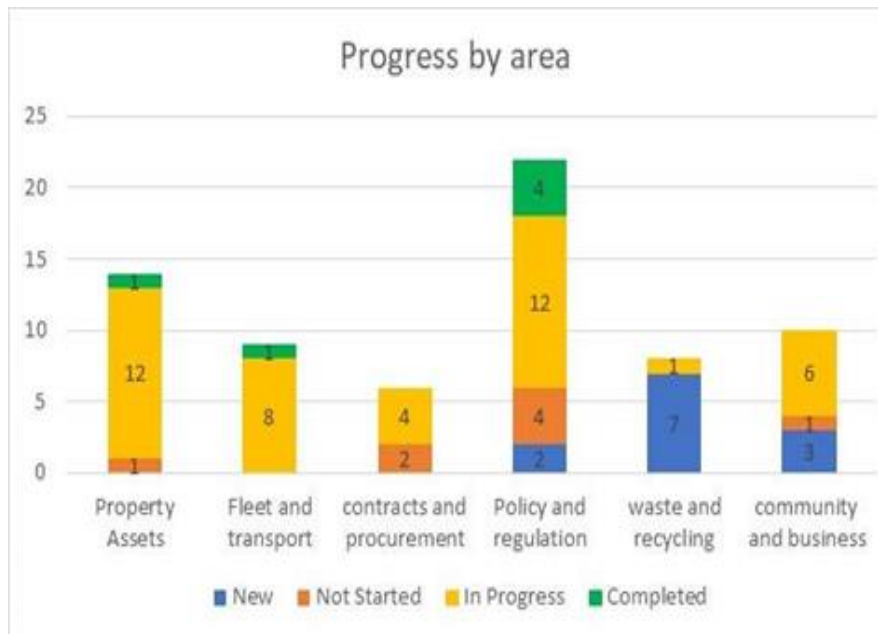
Scope 3 – All Other Indirect Emissions from activities of the organisation, occurring from sources that they do not own or control. These are usually the greatest share of the carbon footprint, covering emissions associated with business travel, procurement, waste and water, staff commuting, business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

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- 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

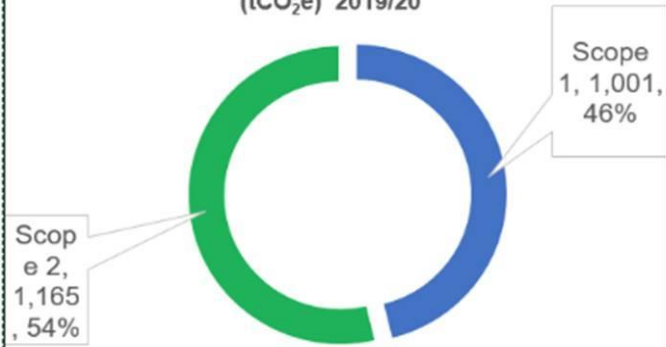
Carbon Clever Progress Dashboard



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

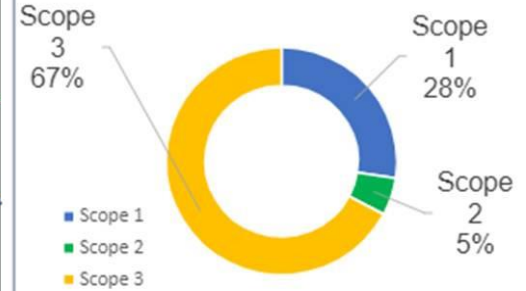
2,090



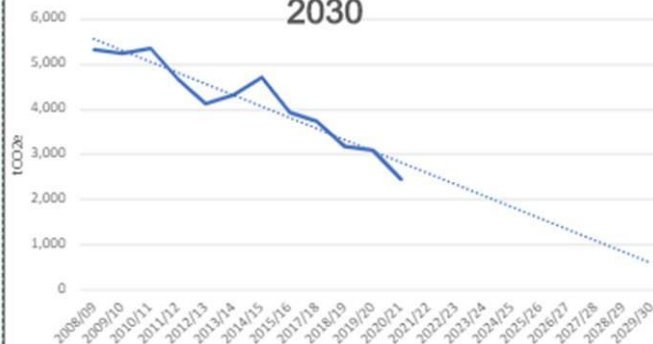
5%

1,995 - 2018/19

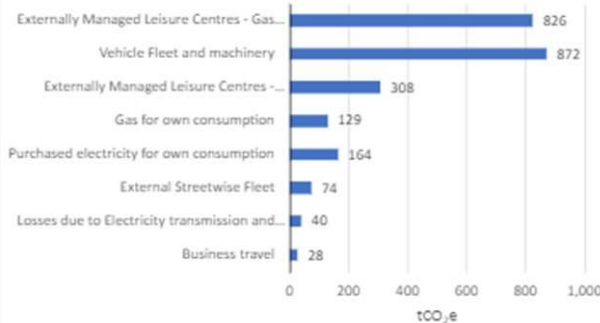
Breakdown of RBC own operation scopes (tCO₂e) - 2019/20



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)

