

REPORT TITLE: CARBON NEUTRALITY ACTION PLAN 2020

6 JULY 2021

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER: Cllr. Lynda Murphy, Cabinet Member for Climate
Emergency

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WARD(S): ALL

PURPOSE

This report provides a review to date of the council's Winchester District Carbon Neutrality Action Plan 2020-2030, published in December 2019. It also proposes a set of priority actions to be the focus of the council's efforts in 2021/22.

The review covers the period January 2020 to end of March 2021 and is the first review of the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan. Although this Committee has received regular up-dates on the delivery of the Plan over the past year, this document is the first time all that information has been brought together into a single place. It also provides the opportunity to report on the latest carbon emissions data for both the council and the district.

The Action Plan identified ten priority actions and this review updates these and proposes a new set of priorities for 2021/22. These will provide the focus for the council carbon neutrality programme delivery for the next year.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Housing and Environment Policy Committee are asked to:

1. Note the Winchester City Council's Carbon Neutral Programme: Review January 2020 to March 2021 & Priorities for 2021/22 in appendix 1.
2. Consider the priority actions proposed at paragraph 2.9 of this report and provide comment and feedback to enable the Corporate Head of Economy &

Community to include the list of the top ten priority actions in the final version of the Review.

3. Comment on the proposal to establish a Climate Emergency Open Forum as detailed in paragraph 2.12.

1 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 1.1 The Council has allocated a revenue budget of £840,000 to support the delivery of Winchester District Carbon Neutrality programmes for the period to March 2023. In addition to this, capital spend on carbon related projects totalled £273,000 in 2020/21. A further £1.26m has been included in the General Fund capital programme over the next three years. In addition, a number of other projects in the programme include carbon reduction measures such as the provision of a decked car park at the former Vaultex site (£6.3m). A total of £15m has been included in the Housing Revenue Account capital programme to fund “retrofitting” of energy measures to council homes. The Council has also sought external funding for carbon projects and to date has been successful in securing £6.2m from external sources.
- 1.2 Two areas of focus that have been identified as needing additional resource as the work has not progressed as well as anticipated are Campaigns & Information and Transport. In liaison with the Communications team a new resource has been agreed and a Campaigns officer starts shortly. Discussions are happening to understand and agree the requirement for additional transport resource. This additional resource is part funded from the existing Carbon Neutrality programme budget.
- 1.3 A resource requirement is needed to develop a detailed forward trajectory of the projects and interventions needed to achieve the carbon neutrality targets; especially the district one at 2030. Based on the carbon emissions data and the level of reduction required a roadmap is needed to set out how this is to be achieved. It is proposed to commission external expertise to assist the team draw up this plan, and utilising work already underway such as the research from University of Southampton that is developing a carbon tracker and the work of Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) with WinACC with parishes and local communities. This work will be funded from the existing Carbon Neutrality programme budget.

2 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

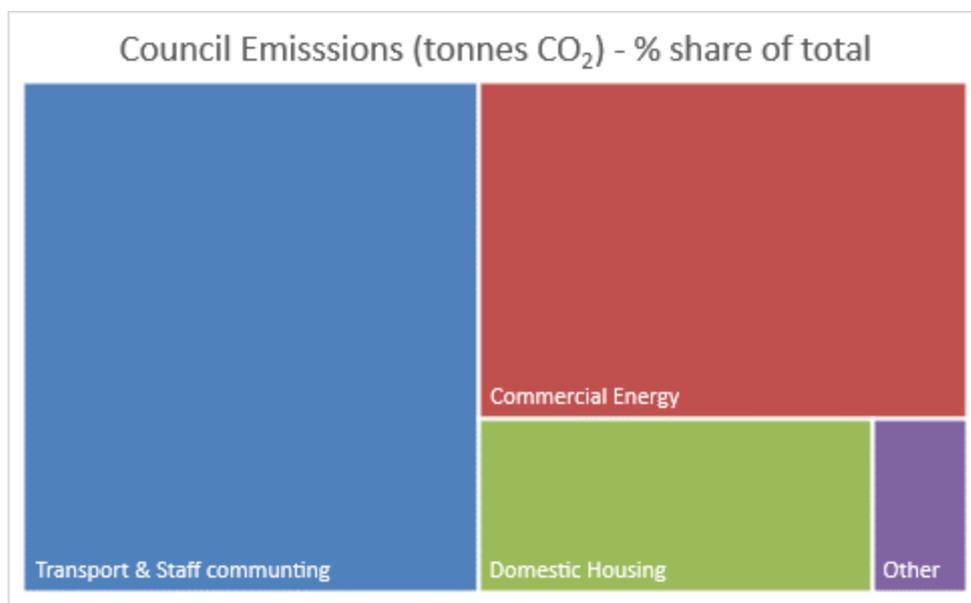
2.1 Background

- 2.2 In December 2019 the council approved its Winchester Climate Emergency Carbon Neutrality Action Plan 2020-2030. This set out the council response to the climate emergency declaration in June 2019 to be a carbon neutral council by 2024 and district by 2030. It outlined actions and interventions for the council and the wider community including ten priority actions grouped under the themes of transport; energy; property & housing and mitigation/offsetting. It also set out the delivery principles and against which are detailed a series of activities. Over the past year a number of these have been completed:

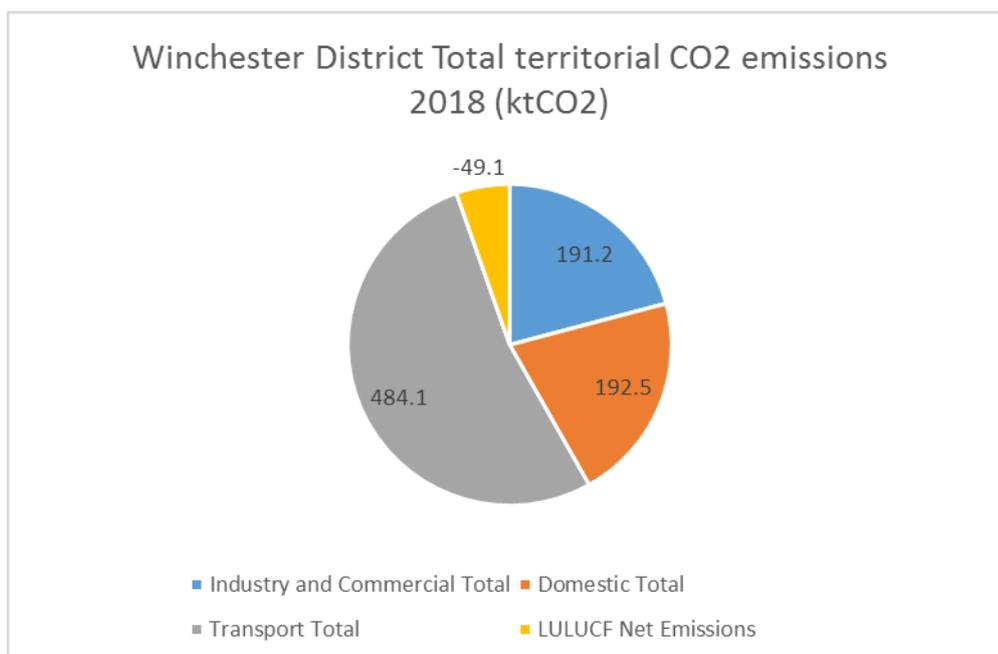
- a) Adapt our way of working

- (i) Procurement strategy will include a requirement to consider environmental and social value within tender evaluations - Minimum 10% weighting now required and a Sustainable Procurement Guide for Officer's is being created by the Procurement Team.
 - (ii) Create a culture of sharing information and ideas across the council – staff Green Team set up and regular tips and advice shared in City Voice.
 - (iii) Introduce a corporate staff training module – Carbon Literacy training now completed by over 60 staff.
- b) Adopt a collaborative approach
- (i) Ensure a district wide approach to engagement - commenced 12-month council project to engage communities run by Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) with WinACC, March/April 2021. 28 parish councils (60%) responded to baseline survey on activity.
- c) Delivery projects and investment
- (i) Deliver projects early to secure the greatest carbon benefit – Project funding secured to install solar PV on the Depot.
 - (ii) Create a fund on the council's crowd funding platform – The Greener Futures Fund has been established which is open to both community organisations and businesses.
 - (iii) Be innovative in seeking funding to deliver capital investments - £560,000 has been secured for installation of PVs and energy efficiency measures at city offices, the Depot and Marwell.
- 2.3 The review of the Action Plan gives more detail on the other delivery principles covering resources, campaigns and collaborations and governance. Feedback and comment from WinACC and Friends of the Earth on the work needed to achieve the carbon neutrality targets has helped inform the drafting of the review and priorities. Their contributions and continued engagement is much appreciated.
- 2.4 Detail Proposals
- 2.5 The review of the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan covers the period from January 2020 to March 2021 and considers the project delivery that has taken place, initiatives and research that have commenced to lay the ground work for future delivery, and importantly it up-dates the carbon emission data for both the city council and the district.

- 2.6 The data from the annual Carbon Footprint report for 2019/20 shows that the council's emissions have decreased by 11.7% on the same scope of emissions in 2018/19. The 2019/20 report included an expanded scope for sources of emissions including Staff Commuting. So as a new baseline the council's total emission were 4383 tonnes CO₂ broken down by 48% from transport; 34% commercial energy; 14% domestic housing) energy; and 4% other.



- 2.7 The latest data for district's emissions from Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) is for 2018/19. This data shows that the district's emission are 818.8 ktonnes CO₂. This is broken down as:



2.8 Both these data sets show that focus on the largest sources of emission must be maintained. Therefore the priority for Carbon Neutrality programme delivery will be on Transport; Commercial Energy and Domestic Energy, alongside work on the natural environment.

2.9 The proposed top priorities for 2021/22 are:

Council Priorities 2021/22	District Priorities 2021/22
<p>Transport</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with Hampshire County Council on a Winchester District Bus Breakthrough plan – to include moving to zero carbon buses – and supports the Hampshire Bus Service Improvement Plan 2. Ensure employee commuting remains at reduced carbon emission levels <p>Commercial Energy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Develop a proposal for energy saving measures at the Guildhall and West Wing <p>Domestic Energy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Identify measures to reduce emissions at Chesil Lodge <p>Natural Environment / LULUCF*</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Agree the council's mitigation / off setting policy 6. Develop a viable business case for investment in energy generation on council land 	<p>Transport</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Pilot emissions-based car parking charges 8. Support expansion of zero emission delivery services. 9. Work with Hampshire County Council to commission a Local Cycling and Walking plan (LCWIP) for the district <p>Commercial Energy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Work with the largest businesses in the district to reduce energy use 11. Create circular economy initiatives that uses waste as resources <p>Domestic Energy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Spend £1.5m on retro-fitting housing stock <p>Natural Environment / LULUCF</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Deliver 80% of the 73 actions from the BAP

* *Land use, land use change and forestry*

2.10 A forward trajectory of the required carbon emission reductions to reach the 2024 and 2030 targets is easy to extrapolate and shows the significant increase in rate of change required. However the roadmap of actions and interventions that will generate that rate of change needs to be produced. It is proposed that external expertise is brought in to work alongside the Sustainability Team and to link to research work already underway to create a forward looking trajectory based on quantified interventions to 2024 and 2030.

2.11 Critical to the delivery of the Carbon Neutrality programme and achievement of the both the council's and district's emission targets is the joint effort, collaboration and change in behaviours from all sections of the districts communities; residents, businesses and organisations, and visitors. Over the past year a Steering Group of key institutions, utility providers and

representative bodies has been established to act as a reference group on issues and areas of common interest and to share information on carbon reduction projects. The first annual Sustainability Conference was held, with another planned for autumn 2021.

- 2.12 To enhance the engagement with the public it is proposed to set up a Climate Emergency Open Forum, modelled on the ones for the Winchester Sport & Leisure Park and Central Winchester Regeneration projects rather than in the style of a citizens' assembly. This forum will provide the platform for wider community involvement, facilitating open discussion on key issues, sharing information with a range of stakeholders and gaining feedback on initiatives and programmes to reduce carbon emissions across the district.
- 2.13 In addition a Campaigns Officers has been appointed by the Communications Team, part funded by the carbon neutrality programme, to focus on sharing information, behaviour change messages, develop an online and social media presence and create a wider profile and sense of a climate emergency "movement" across the district.

3 Conclusion

- 3.1 The Winchester City Council's Carbon Neutral Programme: Review January 2020 to March 2021 & Priorities for 2021/22, provides a summary of delivery over the past 15 months, updates the carbon emissions data for both the council and district and proposes the top priority actions for 2021/22 retaining a focus on transport, commercial energy and domestic energy.
- 3.2 In 2021/22 a new Climate Emergency Open Forum will be set up and greater profile given to the programme and carbon reduction activities across the district through the appointment of the Campaigns officer. Work will also commence on the development a detailed roadmap and forward trajectory of interventions in order to meet the carbon neutrality targets of 2024 and 2030.

4 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 4.1 Not to undertake an annual review: this was rejected as council is committed to achieving the carbon neutrality targets which requires monitoring of data and reporting on progress. This review enables the council to demonstrate what progress has been made and also the future work still required, and not only by the council.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

Previous Committee Reports:-

CAB3203 Winchester Carbon Neutrality Action Plan 23 December 2019

CAB3171 Declaration of Climate Emergency 5 June 2019

Other Background Documents:-

1. Emissions of carbon dioxide for Local Authority areas;_Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

<https://data.gov.uk/dataset/723c243d-2f1a-4d27-8b61-cdb93e5b10ff/emissions-of-carbon-dioxide-for-local-authority-areas>

2. Carbon Footprint reports

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/climate-change-and-energy/climate-emergency-what-we-are-doing-now/council-energy-and-carbon-management>

3. WINCHESTER CLIMATE EMERGENCY CARBON NEUTRALITY ACTION PLAN 2020 - 2030

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/climate-change-and-energy/climate-emergency-what-we-are-doing-now/carbon-neutrality-action-plan>

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1. Winchester City Council's Carbon Neutral Programme: Review January 2020 to March 2021 & Priorities for 2021/22