

**Winchester City Council's Carbon Neutral Programme  
Review January 2020 to March 2021  
& Priorities for 2021/22**



**Carbon Neutrality Action Plan 2020-2030 –  
 Review January 2020 to March 2021**

Introduction

In the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan the council made a commitment that “The Plan will be annually reviewed to enable new issues, challenges, opportunities and solutions to be considered, and projects added over the life time of the document”

This review sets what has been achieved over the past 15 months, and includes an up-date on the carbon emission data, case studies on a number of exciting projects that have been started to show case the work undertaken to reduce carbon emission in the priority areas for transport, housing and energy and natural environment

Throughout the year the council has been keeping people informed on what it has been doing by providing up-dates and progress reports on its work and that of its partners on reducing carbon emission. This had included three presentations for the Housing and Environment Policy Committee, a stakeholder conference and establishing a Steering Group of external institutions and providers.

At the time of agreeing the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan and starting on its first year of delivery it was impossible to know what lay ahead and the COVID19 pandemic. Without a doubt this impacted on the council's resources and its ability to deliver the action plan's programme of work.

Challenges from COVID-19 measures

External	Internal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced investment – concentrate on business critical</li> <li>• Unknown level and duration of impacts yet to come</li> <li>• Disrupted supply chains / available resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diverted resources</li> <li>• Financial pressures and budget constraints</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

As with any challenge there can be benefits and opportunities and this is never more so in relation the positive impact on sustainability from the changing habits, ways of working and reduced travel as a consequence of COVID-19 restrictions. These present a chance to generate a green recovery and create a positive legacy by retaining these beneficial changes. For example:

- More online services developed
  - Businesses have created online services, local delivery by bike, virtual tours and access – some reaching communities they have not engaged with before.
- Reduced car travel and increased remote working
  - Many employees now working at home utilising digital tools and platforms – need to ensure connectivity across the district

- Increased walking and cycling
  - With reduced car traffic there has been increased walking and cycling and improved air quality. Schemes to reopen district centres have included priority for pedestrians and space for cyclists – need to plan for how to retain these temporary changes.
- Increased use of local centres
  - With travel restrictions people are using their local centres for goods, services and supplies - need to maintain a campaign of use local and strengthened community resilience.
- Launched the green fund on our Crowd funder platform
- Local Plan consultation place climate emergency and sustainability at the heart of our development

#### Action Plan Achievement 2020/21

Despite these challenges the council and its partners have still delivered or commenced many of the top ten priority actions agreed in the plan. These are detailed in the next section and include:

- Installation of 34 electric vehicle charging points in council-owned carparks
- Green energy tariff signed up April 2020, cutting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 19%
- 400 solar panels on new Winchester Sport & Leisure Park will provide enough energy to power the main swimming pool hall for 21.5 hours a day
- £115k secured from BEIS to enable energy efficiency works to homes with the lowest energy ratings and experiencing fuel poverty.
- Biodiversity Action Plan launched

**What we have achieved**

**Review of Delivery - January 2020 to March 2021**

<b>Transport</b>	
Priority Action	2020-2021
Council emissions: 1500 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub>	1456 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> (2019)   ↔
District emissions: (ex. Motorways) 287,400 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub>	282,300 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> (2018)   ↔
1. Deliver key studies in 2020 to take forward the City Movement Strategy which have a focus on achieving carbon emission reduction: a. Walking & Cycling strategy b. Freight Strategy c. Parking & Access strategy	Phase 1 Summary Reports Issued.  Phase 2 reports - Comments on draft completed. WMS Board has approved.
2. Install 46 EV charging points across the council estate at key locations by 2024	Installation of 34 electric vehicle charging points in council-owned carparks completed
3. Develop additional park & ride facilities to increase capacity starting with the Vaultex site with at least 130 new car parking spaces	Vaultex site has secured £5.6m to develop decked car park with sustainability measures. Planning permission submitted in January 2021 to provide 287 additional car parking spaces with 800sqm of solar PV panels and 16 EVCPs
Other achievements	2 of 5 WCC's Neighbourhood Services vehicles are now electric and our Parking Team has replaced one of its higher

emissions vehicles with a hybrid vehicle  University of Southampton commissioned to research where to best locate more electric vehicle charging points across the district  New Homes team has updated their new build requirements to include provision of EV charging points in new affordable housing schemes  Taxi licensing policy approved by Cabinet in November 2020 incentivises uptake of electric taxi vehicles
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Commercial ENERGY	
Priority Action	2020-2021
Council emissions 1,780 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub>	1,500 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> (2019) ↓
District emissions (2017) 192,300 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub>	191,200 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> (2018) ↔
4. 100% of all electricity purchased by the council to be from renewable sources by 2021	COMPLETE - green energy tariff signed up April 2020, cutting CO <sub>2</sub> emissions by 19%
5. Build or invest in large scale renewable generation project(s) e.g. solar farms, heat pumps, solar battery car ports, anaerobic digester, wind farm	£38k secured for solar panels at the Biffa depot in Bar End  400 solar panels on new Winchester Sport & Leisure Park will provide enough energy to power the main swimming pool hall for 21.5 hours a day  Littleton Triangle procured contract for feasibility study

Domestic HOUSING	
Priority Action	2020-2021
Council emissions (2017) 420 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub>	620.39CO <sub>2</sub> e (2019) ↑
District emissions (2017) 193,000 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub>	192,500 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> ↔
6. To develop a council let pilot Passiv Haus housing scheme in Micheldever by 2021	Scheme submitted for Planning (due July 2021). Design meets all accreditation tests and on track to achieve "net carbon neutral" if not better.
7. To invest an additional £1m per annum on energy and water efficiency measures to council housing stock	Council now approved £15m (£1.5m pa). Programme approved to focus on "fabric first" insulation of void properties
8. To bring forward the Local Plan up-date with an emphasis on low carbon housing development by 2021	Local Plan consultation event on Strategic Issues included climate emergency and sustainable development.
Other Achievements	£115k secured from BEIS to enable energy efficiency works to homes with the lowest energy ratings and experiencing fuel poverty.  New Homes' Employers Requirements (ERs) amended to reflect no gas heating with immediate effect and new homes to be built to AECB (Association for Environment Conscious Building) standard as minimum

Natural Environment (LULUCF*)	
Priority Action	2020-2021
Council emissions  District (2017) -48.1 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub>	-49.1 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> 
To plant as least 100 trees annually on council ground	800 trees have been planted cross the district
In collaboration with partners and landowners identify up to 100 hectares of land to support additional tree planting and/or creation of grassland / wetland habitat / rewilding	12 wildflower areas have been created

\* Land use, land use change and forestry

### Feedback on the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan 2019

The council welcomes feedback on the action plan and WinACC and Friends of the Earth have both provided comments and suggestion on how the Action Plan can be improved and how the work needed to reach the carbon neutrality target. We thank them for the time and effort they have given to providing this feedback.

### Key improvements

#### WinACC

“We suggest that future iterations of the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan need a clearly delineated path showing what actions will result in emissions reductions that achieve the two targets – net-zero emissions for the City Council by 2024; net-zero emissions for Winchester District by 2030. This requires:

- identification in detail of where the greatest emissions occur
- concentration on where actions can have the greatest impact
- an increase in the range and number of initiatives
- an increase in the scale of the proposals
- more details on how to secure public commitment and action – including a clearer and simpler layout for the plan that dispenses with overlap and repetition”

This review and action plan has endeavoured to include the improvements of:

- Clearer focus on the areas of highest emission
- Separated the council and district targets for greater clarity
- Consistent terms from BEIS reporting.

However both WinACC and Friends of the Earth have called for an evidence based forward trajectory and details actions required to meet the carbon neutrality targets. This work has not been completed and must be addressed in this year's delivery.

A key action for 2021 is to commission this work.

**SECTION 1: Council - What must we do meet the 2024 carbon neutrality targets**

**Source of Council emissions**

Since the Action Plan's publication in December 2019, two carbon footprint reports have been completed in order to bring the data monitored up to date.

All emissions	2019/20 Tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> e	% Share of total emissions
Transport	1456	33.2%
Domestic Housing	620	14.2%
Commercial Energy	1501	34.2%
Employee commuting (new transport scope)	657	15.0%
Refrigerants	123	2.8%
Water & waste	26	0.6%
Other	1	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4383</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Carbon footprint – Winchester City Council (Carbon Footprint Report 2019-20, August 2020)**

The scope of the assessment has been expanded this year to include, inter alia, employee commuting and water consumption for all non-housing sites. These new elements account for 846.34 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e, increasing GHG emissions by 9.4% since the previous year. However, if

comparing like-for-like, the council's emissions in 2019/20 are 11.7% lower compared to the base line for the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan baseline of 2018/19.

The most significant emission sources are electricity and gas consumption, together accounting for 48.3% of Winchester City Council's carbon footprint.

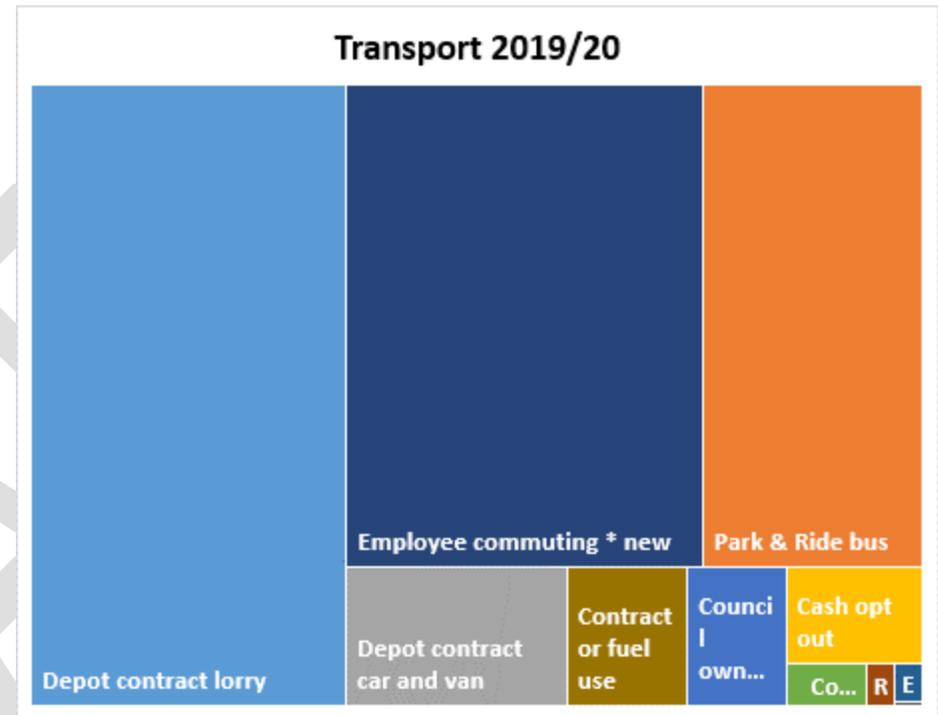
**Key message**

- Right direction travel for transport and energy, but focus still required on these
- Increase in domestic energy CO<sub>2</sub> emission is due to the inclusion of Chesil Lodge development.
- Transport emissions reporting has increased in scope to now included employee commuting.

### Council Transport

Transport accounted for 37.4% of the council's emission when we published the Action Plan. From the 2019/20 Carbon Footprint report transport now accounts for 33.2%. However new for 2019/20 was the staff commuting data that accounts for 656.55 CO<sub>2</sub>e emission which is 15% of the total.

Transport	Carbon emissions tonnes CO <sub>2</sub>		
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Depot contract lorry	824.39	903.91	<b>747.1</b>
Park & Ride bus	386.42	409.29	<b>404.04</b>
Depot contract car and van	152.93	112.14	<b>117.06</b>
cash opt out	45.67	45.43	<b>50.65</b>
Council owned van	43.4	153.62	<b>52.41</b>
Council owed car	22.65	23.53	<b>12.86</b>
Employee car travel	10.66	15.18	<b>4.01</b>
Rail	6.57	6.34	<b>4.28</b>
Flights	0.86	0.16	<b>0.46</b>
contractor fuel use		17.99	<b>63.51</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1493.55</b>	<b>1687.59</b>	<b>1456.38</b>
Employee commuting * new			<b>656.55</b>



#### Key message:

Target for action needs to focus on the depot contract lorries, to reduce employee commuting and park & ride buses emissions.

To note: The council contracts for depot fleet and park & ride buses are not due for renewal until 2024.

Council Housing (Domestic) Energy

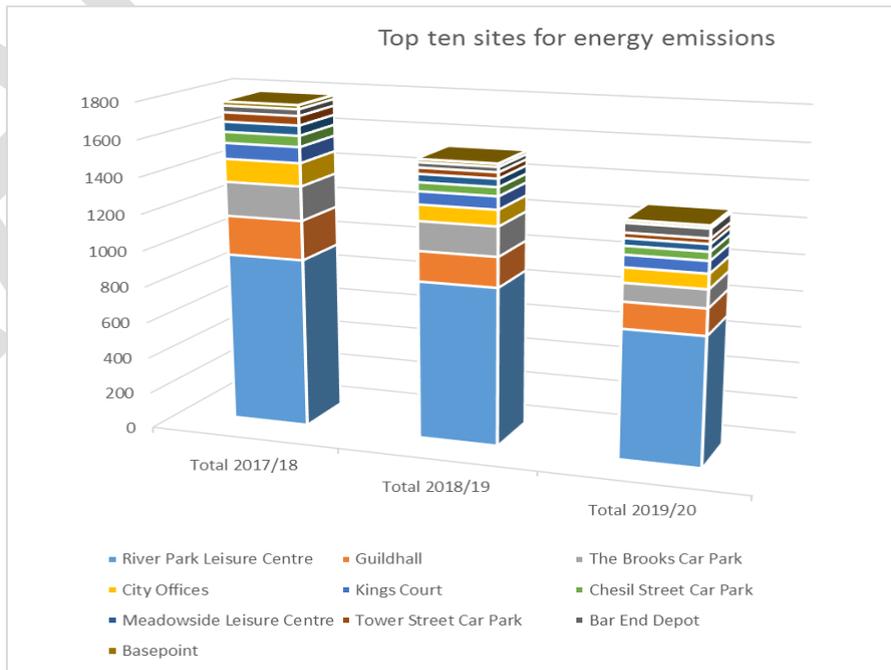
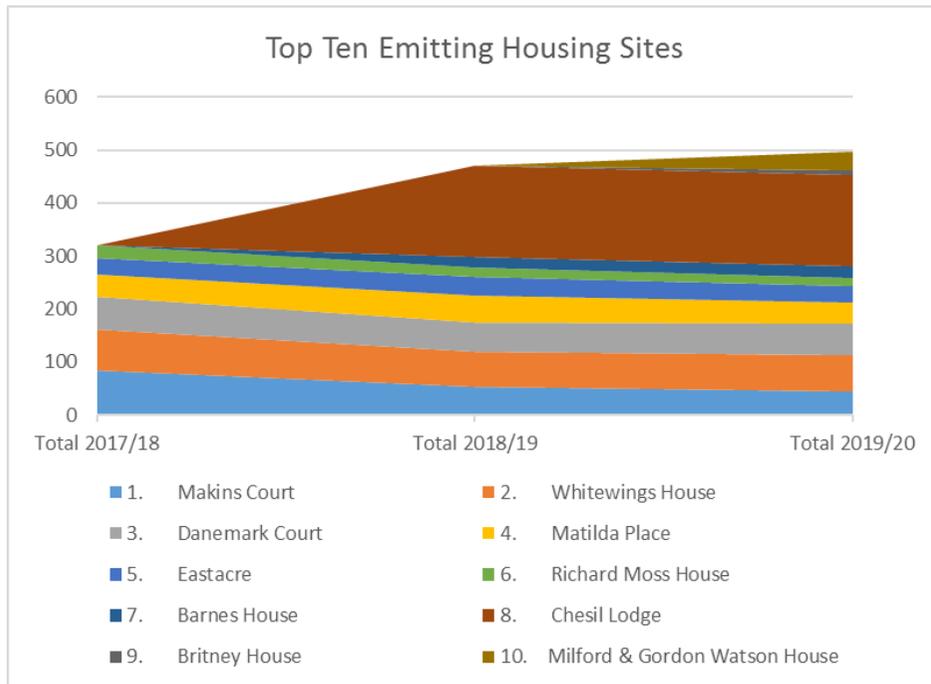
The top 10 (domestic) housing sites account for 80% (497 CO<sub>2</sub>e) of all housing site emissions. For all housing the emission in 2019/20 were 620.39 CO<sub>2</sub>e accounting for 14% of the council's emissions.

efficiency in Chesil Lodge and expect the emissions to reduce next year.

To note: As these figures are for 2019 that do not take account of the move to green electric tariff in April 2020.

Council Commercial Energy

The total commercial energy emissions in 2019/20 were 1500 CO<sub>2</sub>e which is 34% of all council emissions. As with housing sites, 10 properties account for 85% (1280) of all energy use emissions.



**Key message:** There has been an increase in emissions since 2017/18 due to the addition of Chesil Lodge in 2018. Chesil Lodge accounts for a third of the emission from the top ten sites. Measure are already happening to improve energy

**Key Message:**

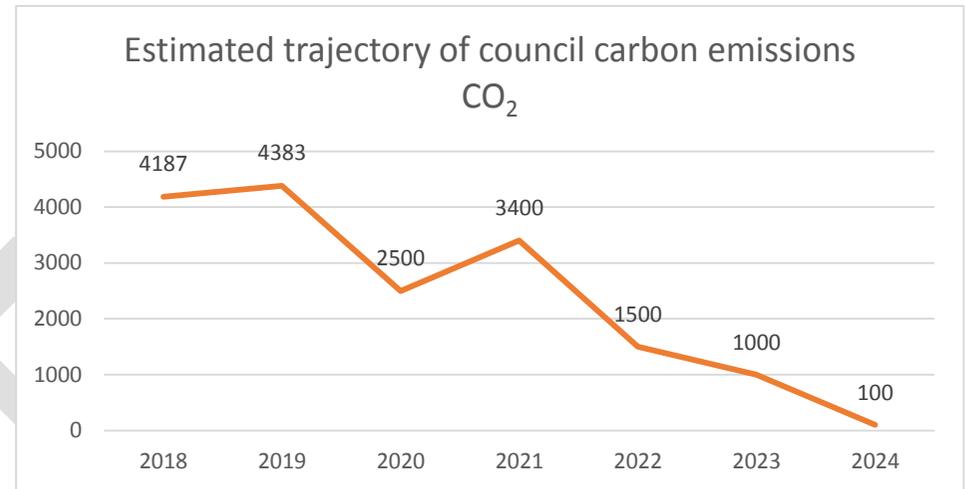
There has been a small overall reduction in energy emission since 2018-19 of 280 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>. It will be important to assess the change in emission with closure of River Park Leisure Centre and replacement with the Winchester Sport & Leisure Park in 2021.

Focus on the Guildhall improvement measures.

**Reduction Trajectory**

Based on 2019 emission levels of 4383 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> for the council there needs to be a reduction per year of on average 800 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> for the next five years if we are to achieve our target.

Already it is known that the move to a green electricity tariff in April 2020 will make a 19% reduction in emissions. In addition with staff working from home for 2020/21 the employee commuting figure (some 15% of total emissions) will be significantly lower. The challenge in 2021/22 will be to keep it so.



Year	Est. Carbon Emission CO <sub>2</sub>	Intervention
2018	4187	
2019	4383	added 656 employee commuting to scope
2020	2500	19% reduction for green electricity, 15% reduction for employee commuting
2021	3400	Leisure centres reopen, resumption of reduced employee commuting minus decarbonisation of City Offices
2022	1500	decarbonisation of remaining housing and non-housing sites
2023	1000	
2024	100	council solar farm comes on line

Focus has to be on concentrating effort to reduce the highest emissions.

**Council top priorities to achieve a 20% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions on 2019 levels**

Transport

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

Commercial Energy

3. Develop a proposal for energy saving measures at the Guildhall and West Wing

Domestic Energy

4. Identify measures to reduce emissions at Chesil Lodge

Natural Environment / LULUCF\*

5. Agree the council's mitigation / off setting policy
6. Develop a viable business case for investment in energy generation on council land

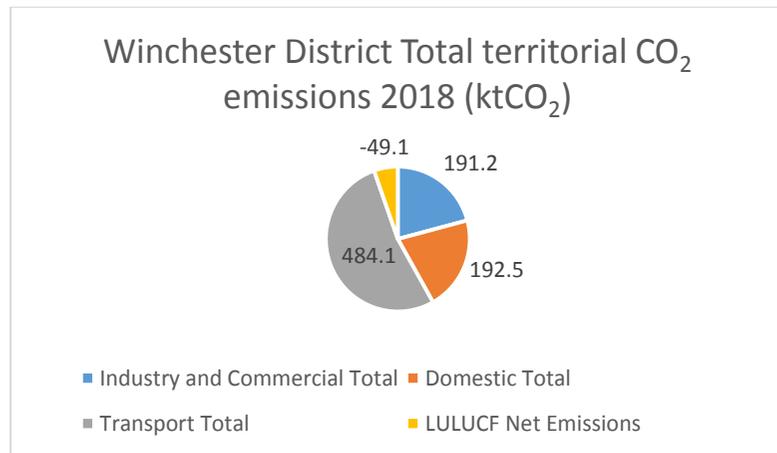
\* Land use, land use change, forestry

**SECTION 2: Winchester District 2030 carbon neutrally target.**

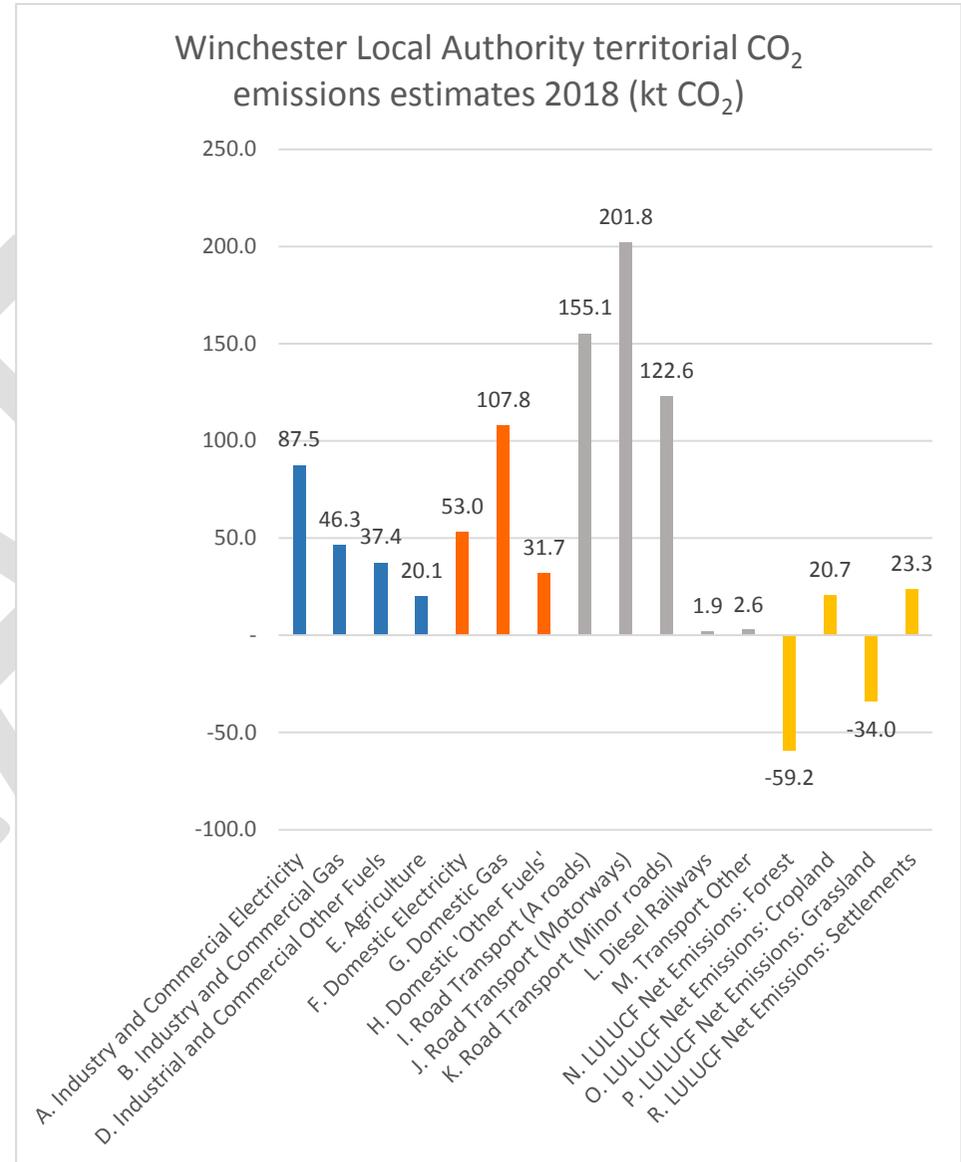
**District Carbon Emissions**

WinACC's report on GHG emissions in the Winchester district summaries that it will not be possible, in present circumstances, to achieve the council's target of reaching carbon neutrality by 2030. It concludes that all sectors within the district must substantially reduce carbon emissions and highlights the most polluting areas as road vehicles, heating homes and commercial electricity consumption.

Total district CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2018 was 818.8 kt

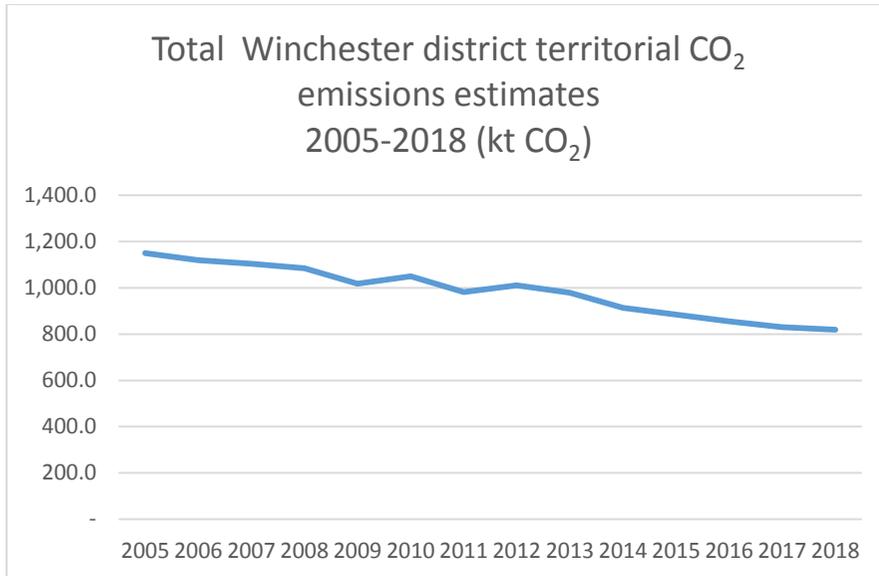


Source: UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2018, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

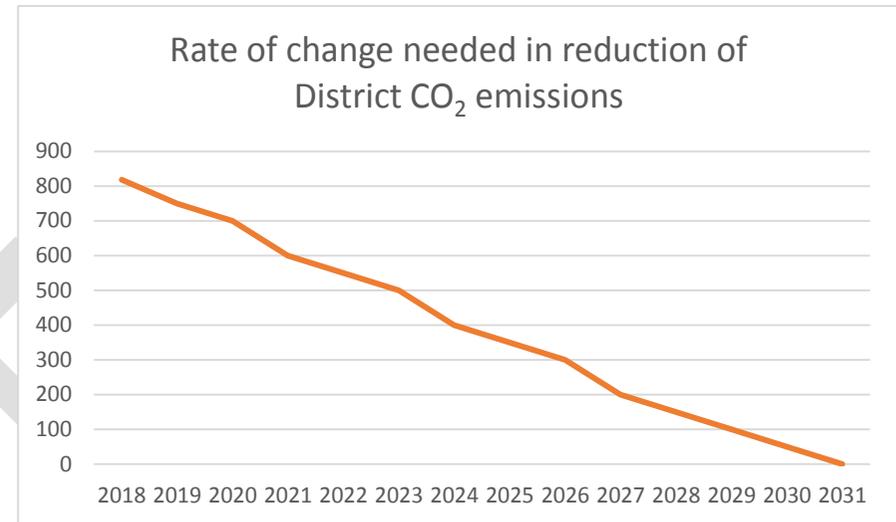


### Reduction trajectory

Over the previous 10 years the districts total emissions has reduced from 1085kt CO<sub>2</sub> to 818.8kt CO<sub>2</sub> or by 266.2kt CO<sub>2</sub>. In order to reach the carbon neutrality target by 2030 the level of reduction over the next ten years needs to triple.



Applying a very simplistic linear trajectory this would be the equivalent of average reduction of 65 kt CO<sub>2</sub> per year. In context the reduction between 2017 and 2018 was just under 12 kt CO<sub>2</sub>



Actions must be focused on the three top emission commercial electricity, domestic gas and road transport.

#### Top district priorities to achieve a 10% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions on 2018 levels

##### Transport

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

##### Commercial Energy

10. Work with the largest businesses in the district to reduce energy use
11. Create circular economy initiatives that uses waste as resources

#### Domestic Energy

12. Spend £1.5m on retro-fitting housing stock

#### Natural Environment / LULUCF

13. Deliver 80% of the 73 actions from the BAP

#### **Key Policy: Green Economic Development Strategy**

By summer 2021 the council will have concluded its work to create Green Economic Development Strategy.

The strategy will set the direction for the next ten years, setting ambitious, bold and dynamic future direction for Winchester district's economy to play a significant role in the district being carbon neutral by 2030. It will support a green recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic whilst presenting a compelling proposition of Winchester district as carbon neutral, sustainable place in which to live, work, study and visit.

The strategy will build on our existing sector, business and skill strengths, using them to springboard to a greener, more technologically driven, creative economy. It will recognise that

growth must be shared by all, reducing inequalities with high quality job opportunities for all demographics across the district. Finally, it will be built on a collaborative consensus of those who live, work and study here now and in the future.

This will be an important policy document but also a practical action plan to transition our economy to a carbon neutral one.

#### **Key Policy: Local Plan**

The consultation on the Strategic Issues and Priorities (SIP) for our new Local Plan and the associated Call for Sites took place between 15 February and 12 April 2021. The council recognises that its planning policies – covering what can be built, where, and how – all have a major impact on the way that places grow and change, helping to protect and shape the future of the district. Also that the target of achieving carbon neutrality must be fully woven into the local plan.

The nine key interlocking topic areas which the new Local Plan needs to address are:

1. Carbon neutrality
2. Biodiversity & the natural environment
3. Conserving & enhancing the historic environment
4. Homes for all
5. Creating a vibrant economy
6. Promoting sustainable transport
7. Living well
8. Low carbon infrastructure & local plan viability
9. Delivery & success of the local plan.

**Key support:**

Campaigns Officer

Creating a sense of a co-ordinated, collaborative effort across the district, generating feeling there is a genuine movement behind tackling the climate emergency requires campaigns, promotions, behaviour changes, sharing information and resources from individuals, community groups to large organisations and institutes.

This will be a key responsibility for a new Campaigns Officer post which the council is creating. They will develop a proactive programme that will:

- Raise awareness and understanding
- Drive behaviour change
- Increase engagement and involvement
- Demonstrate how the climate emergency is central to everything we do
- Highlight and share good practice

## Meeting the Challenge – Case Studies

The four reporting areas for action identified in the Action Plan have the following case studies that demonstrate what has been achieved over this first period of delivery.

### TRANSPORT – Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCPs)

#### Summary

The council has installed 34 EVCPs in council car parks and including additional EVCP's in all new council housing developments. The University of Southampton is undertaking research to map where is best to locate EVCPs across the district.

#### Aim:

To encourage uptake of lower emissions vehicles within Winchester district

#### Outcomes:

- Reduce emissions from vehicles
- Enable 2030 net zero targets to be met

### Commercial energy – Third Party Solar (Marwell and Biffa)

#### Summary:

Winchester City Council lease roof spaces from targeted businesses – for a peppercorn rent – so the council can install solar photovoltaic (PV) panels. Through a Power Purchase Agreement, the council then sells the PV-generated power to the business – at 20% discount on their quoted tariff. After 20 years, when efficiency of the panels has dropped, these are gifted to the business.

#### Aim:

To enable targeted businesses to generate onsite renewable energy

#### Outcomes:

- Enable businesses to reduce their carbon footprint – decarbonisation
- Increase use of renewable technologies and generation of clean energy
- Create significant revenue streams for the council, (the Marwell solar scheme is projected to generate over £300k income for the council over 20 years)



### Commercial Property – Decarbonisation of City Offices and public conveniences

#### Summary:

A feasibility study undertaken in December 2020 proposed options to decarbonise city offices and public conveniences. Options including ceiling insulation, double glazing, air source heat pump and LED lighting were identified, potentially saving 26 tonnes of Co2 and 34,000 kWh of electricity annually. The council has secured for £257k grant funding to cover more than 50% of the costs.

#### Aim:

To improve energy efficiency of city offices and public conveniences

#### Outcomes:

- Lower energy bills – reduced carbon footprint
- Increase use of renewable technologies and generation of clean energy



### Natural Environment – Bio-diversity Action Plan approved and launched

#### Summary

The Winchester City Council Biodiversity Action Plan 2021 (Winchester BAP 2021) sets the strategic direction for how Winchester City Council will respond to the need to protect, enhance and restore key biodiversity across the district with a particular focus on the Council's own operations.

#### Aims

1. Identify realistic and achievable actions:
  - a. Halting the loss of habitats and species;
  - b. Recreating habitat to restore biodiversity;
  - c. Adaptation and resilience for species and habitats.
2. Provide clear evidence, support and input for key policy documents.
3. Monitor biodiversity decline and the effectiveness of the work undertaken.
4. Engage with others and effectively communicate the work of the council a wide audience.

#### Outcomes

1. Ensuring the council is delivering work which benefits biodiversity and helps deliver the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP).
2. Ensuring the council is best placed to respond to drivers such as Biodiversity Net Gain and the Climate Emergency declaration.
3. Deliver works which protect, support and enhance the council's existing tree stock.
4. Increase the number of wildflower meadows, grassland and wetland on council owned land.
5. Raising awareness of the opportunities available to everyone to help make a difference on the ground.



## Resources

In the 2020-21 financial year approximately £100k from the “Transitional Reserve” was spent on the carbon reduction programme, half of which was used on research and feasibility studies. This reflects the early stage of the programme and sets the scene for the delivery of projects in future years. The University of Southampton is undertaking research in a number of areas to support future initiatives including: mapping locations of future electric vehicle infrastructure; costing retrofit options for buildings; and exploring the feasibility of a low energy hub within the district.

Other projects listed below have also contributed to the delivery of the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan.

### Expenditure in 2020/21:

<u>Carbon neutrality transitional reserve:</u>	
<i>Project delivery</i>	£29,000
<i>Feasibility and research</i>	£50,000
<i>Resourcing, communications and engagement</i>	£18,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£97,000</b>
<u>Other projects:</u>	
<i>Vaultex P&amp;R site</i>	£619,000
<i>Electric vehicle charging points</i>	£102,000
<i>Passivhaus scheme at Micheldever</i>	£90,000
<i>Additional carbon works at WSLP</i>	£203,500
<i>Retrofit of council housing stock</i>	£60,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£1,171,500</b>

Certain costs associated with projects in 2020-21 will not be realised until 2021-22 owing to project delays. The budget allocated to the carbon neutrality programme is set to increase in 2021-22 and again in 2022-23 reflecting the amount of the work ahead.

Some costs have been offset by grants and other funding that has been secured to aid delivery of the carbon neutrality programme.

### External Funding secured for work

<i>Decarbonisation plan for Guildhall &amp; West Wing</i>	<b>£22,000</b>
<i>Decarbonisation plan for City Offices and public conveniences</i>	£14,000
<u>Work to start in 2021/22:</u>	
<i>Vaultex P&amp;R site</i>	£5,650,000
<i>Energy efficiency works at City Offices and public conveniences</i>	£258,000
<i>Installation of solar PV panels at Biffa depot and Marwell Zoo</i>	£157,000
<i>Retrofit of 3 council homes and 10 private sector homes</i>	£115,000
<b>Total funding secured</b>	<b>£6,216,000</b>

## Campaigns and Collaboration

The council recognised in the Action Plan that in order to meet the challenge of becoming a carbon neutral authority and district we would have to work together and act collectively. Campaigns and collaboration would need to form an integral part of the delivery approach and much has been achieved over the past year to bring people together.

### Sustainability Conference

The first virtual Sustainability Conference; Routes to Carbon Neutrality was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020. The purpose of the conference was to engage with key stakeholders on the themes, initiatives and ambitions of the climate emergency agenda. Topics included climate emergency declarations, threats to sustainable energy transition, decarbonisation of buildings, transport and gas and electricity grids and sustainability in local businesses. The speakers included Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, University of Southampton, Sustrans and Marwell Zoo.

Live attendance to the conference had an average of 68 people per session with many more listening on catch up. Positive feedback was received and a second conference is planned for October 2021.



**Portrait of Winchester District – University of Winchester**

The Portrait of Winchester piece of work was commissioned to engage members of the public and industry experts to help create a vision for Winchester and drive the climate emergency. It is a joint project with the University of Winchester and Wessex Green Hub. Two workshops have been held with high levels of public engagement, with a final one to be held in late spring before the policies, projects and pathways identified by the public are heard by the HEP committee.

So far it has been successful in creating new ideas and building movement within the district for the public to engage with the council and the climate emergency. It has also enabled the sustainability team to consider how other vision and strategy documents can be linked together in a way which

enables the climate emergency to create a joined up approach thus enabling the targets to be reached.

### **University of Southampton (UoS) partnership**

The council is working closely with UoS on a number of projects in order to decarbonise Winchester city and district. One project is, that the UoS is creating a carbon neutrality progress tracker which is unique to Winchester. This will enable the council to quantify progress in achieving the agreed targets for carbon neutrality, thus ensuring robust monitoring and progression. Other projects include mapping of EV charging points and network resilience, low carbon energy hub for the District and options for retrofitting listed and non-listed buildings.

### **Green Week**

Winchester Green Week 2020 'Doing more together' was held on 27th September – 4th October.

The aim of the Green Week festival is to highlight the growing movement in the Winchester District towards sustainable ways of living. This was our third Winchester Green Week and was organised by the same steering group of seven volunteers, as in 2019.

This year 65 events, with 25 lasting all week, were put on during Green week and these were provided by over 30 organisations, across all sectors of society: community groups: faith groups: local authorities: businesses: charities: schools

For the first time the Green week website and programme was on line with 1500 unique visitors to the WGW Events web page.

Winchester City Council helped to facilitate a number of events such as the Sustainability Conference held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> and Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Free Carbon Literacy Training which provided an understanding of the basics of climate change and a Sustainability Competition for those aged 4-16 who lived or attended school in the Winchester District.

**Project appraisal monitoring and evaluation**

The carbon neutrality programme incorporates a number of different decarbonisation projects being managed across the council to maximise and capture carbon savings contributing our carbon reduction targets.

Through the carbon neutrality board, implementation, delivery and steering groups, stakeholders are regularly updated about progress and consulted on emerging plans.

Quarterly highlight reports are submitted to and scrutinised by the recently-established PAC (Programme and Capital) Board, which aligns with the quarterly Finance and Performance reports.

The University of Southampton will be developing a carbon tracker to monitor progress of the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan across key areas, visually representing the council's progress toward meeting its ambitious carbon reduction targets.

**Governance**

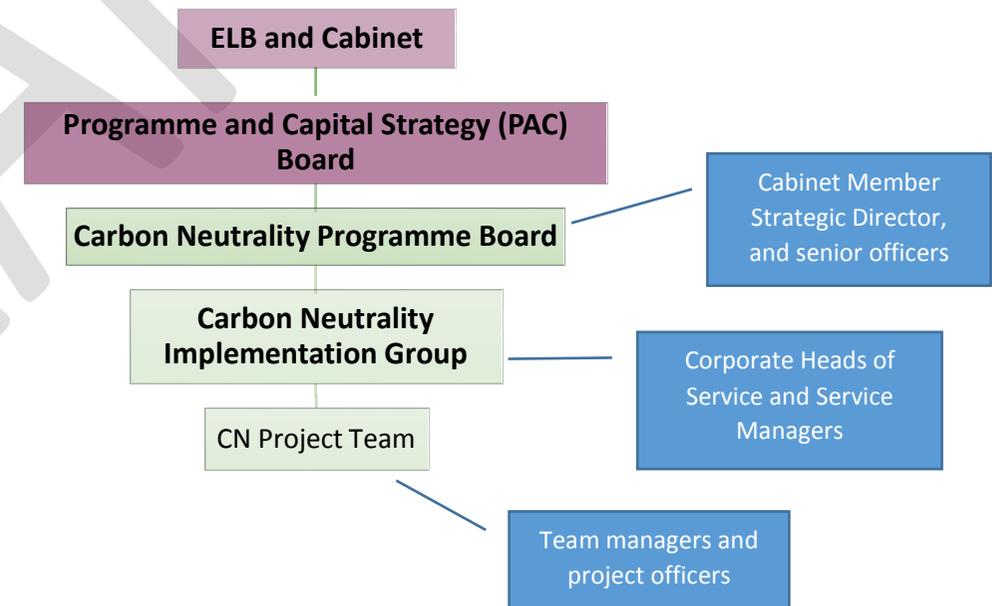
The council has set up governance arrangements to ensure the projects and work undertaken to deliver carbon saving initiatives are reported, reviewed and kept on track. These groups use existing council reporting process so as not to duplicate and to embed and mainstream the carbon neutrality agenda with all the council's work.

Over the past year the team has also been reporting to each meeting of the Health and Environment Policy Committee on the progress of the Action Plan delivery and to showcase

projects. This included an up-date in July 2020 as a one year on from the climate emergency declaration.

Member trainings and briefings were held to provide the opportunity to debate issues and approaches in more detail on net carbon zero development and carbon footprint reporting.

Details of council governance arrangements



### Steering Group

A group of influential stakeholders meets regularly to provide a shared focus on achieving carbon neutrality across the district. This includes representatives of local government, business, environmental groups, the education sector and utility companies.

This group can act as leaders, setting an example for others to follow and encouraging commitment to, and a clear path towards, carbon neutrality.

### Staff involvement

Carbon literacy – 60 staff now undertaken training and the council awarded carbon literate bronze accreditation. Further training scheduled and intention to roll out to councillors and external organisations.

The Green Team formed in January 2020 from a small group of officers from various teams within the council with an aim to support the Council's Climate Emergency through encouraging sustainable practice within the council. Since it formed:

- 80% of the Green team have undertaken "Carbon Literacy" training and are now certified as Carbon Literate. Some members of the Green Team are working with the Carbon Neutrality group to roll out Carbon Literacy to the wider council, with the aim of securing a Bronze award accreditation for the Council.
- There are weekly submissions in City Voice, and so raising awareness and increasing knowledge of sustainable issues. Examples of articles have included how to reduce

your plastic footprint, attracting wildlife to your garden, and a six week series on enjoying a "Green Christmas".

- Supporting the council's composting initiative trial within the office, thus encouraging the council's staff to compost on site. Other sustainable office initiatives are also being considered for example terra- cycling.

The Green Team are launching a new monthly publication within the next few weeks which will be contained within a staff publication to raise awareness of all things sustainable and providing helpful ways in which we can all make greener lifestyle choices.

### **New:** Climate Emergency Open Forum

In 2021 the council will set up a new Climate Emergency Open Forum. Based on and learning for the open forums for the Winchester Sport and Leisure Park and Central Winchester Regeneration, this open forum will provide the platform for wider community involvement.

It will facilitate open discuss in key issues, share information and gain feedback on initiatives and programmes to reduce carbon emissions across the district.

**Top Priority Actions for 2021/22**

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