

REPORT TITLE: VISION FOR A SUSTAINABLE, DECARBONISED FUTURE  
WINCHESTER DISTRICT

30 SEPTEMBER 2021

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

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WARD(S): ALL

PURPOSE

It has been identified that there is a need for a roadmap setting out our route towards carbon neutrality, which will inform a delivery plan and other associated council plans and strategies.

This roadmap will be informed by work undertaken by WinACC that shows the latest trends in district carbon emissions and by Wessex Green Hub on an approach upon which such a roadmap could be built.

Both organisations will present their findings and discuss them with the Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Policy Committee is asked to:

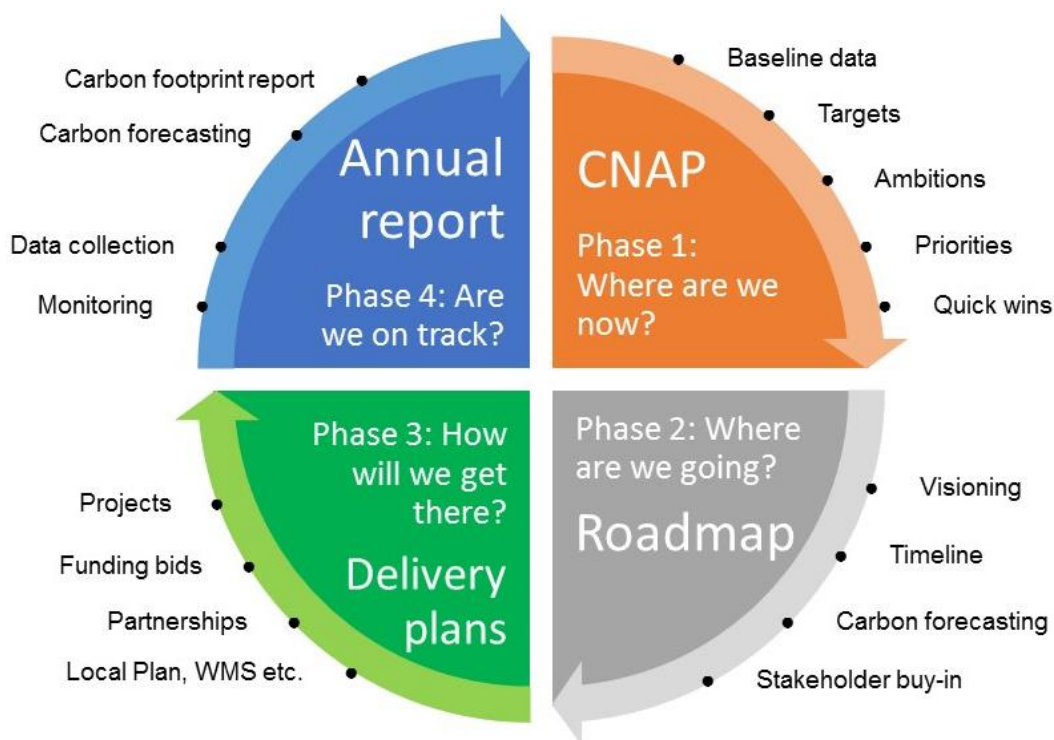
1. Note the following:
  - a. The latest emissions data emerging from WinACC's district emissions report for 2019; and
  - b. The intention to procure consultancy support to develop a roadmap to decarbonisation of the district.
2. Consider and comment on the methodology proposed by Wessex Green Hub as the basis of a roadmap to decarbonisation of the district.

IMPLICATIONS:**1 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 1.1 A budget of £850,000 was made available for delivery of the Council's Carbon Neutrality Action Plan (CNAP) in 2019, of which £77,000 was spent by 2020/21 and a further £324,000 forecasted for 2021/22. This leaves £449,000 for future years.
- 1.2 There has been notable success in securing external funding to supplement the council's budget. More than £500,000 has been secured to date and this will enable works such as improved energy efficiency of council operational estate, renewable energy generation and retrofit of a small number of residential properties. There will be a continued focus on securing funding to enable further projects.
- 1.3 Further consultancy work will be required to fully develop a roadmap to decarbonisation of the district, as discussed in this report. That roadmap will then inform the application of further funding to maximise the carbon benefit.

**2 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:**

- 2.1 The CNAP was published in December 2019, setting out ambitious and challenging carbon neutrality targets for the council and district. It is clear what needs to be done to make the council carbon neutral and good progress has been made. However, district neutrality is more complicated, with many contributors and stakeholders and the vast majority of carbon emissions beyond the council's control.
- 2.2 Various pieces of work have started - some as a direct result of the CNAP and others through delivery plans such as the Winchester Movement Strategy (WMS) and Local Plan which are influenced and shaped by the aim to become carbon neutral.
- 2.3 WinACC produces a district carbon footprint report each year that shows the trends in carbon emission reduction and this forms part of the council's annual report, highlighting progress each year. The 2019 district carbon footprint report is being prepared (data only becomes available from BEIS with a 2-year lag) but WinACC has produced a summary of the emerging headlines, which can be seen at appendix 1. Representatives from WinACC will attend the meeting to present and discuss the emerging report and its findings.
- 2.4 Most of the components of our CNAP planning process are in place, but we do not have a clear roadmap showing our route to becoming a carbon neutral district. The diagram below shows how the components fit together and where the roadmap sits within the planning, monitoring and reporting cycle.



- 2.5 The council has worked with Wessex Green Hub for the last year on a piece of work called 'Portrait of Winchester' which engaged various stakeholders to consider what our city and district should look like as we move towards 2030. This work generated lots of ideas and enthusiasm, but reinforced the need for a roadmap setting out our route towards carbon neutrality, so Wessex Green Hub was commissioned to consider a methodology upon which the roadmap could be based. Representatives from Wessex Green Hub will attend the meeting to present their findings.
- 2.6 When the CNAP annual report was considered at the last Policy Committee, it was agreed that a trajectory of projects was needed to set out how we will become carbon neutral. Many stakeholder have ideas and suggestions for how this might be achieved, including those that will appear in the full version of WinACC's 2019 report when it is published. The work by Wessex Green Hub demonstrates how the Doughnut Economics model could be the foundation of a roadmap that would inform future delivery plans.
- 3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED
- 3.1 It is possible to continue without a clear roadmap setting out our route towards carbon neutrality. However, this would risk future decisions being disjointed, inconsistent and not making maximum benefit in terms of carbon reduction so it is suggested that a roadmap should be developed.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

Previous Committee Reports:-

Carbon Neutrality Annual Report and Action Plan (HEP013); Housing and Environment Policy Committee; 6 July 2021

Other Background Documents:-

Winchester Climate Emergency Carbon Neutrality Action Plan 2020-2030

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 - Greenhouse gas emissions in Winchester District: Part XI: Estimates, trends (2005-2019) and future mitigation: Executive Summary – WinACC, 2021

Appendix 2 – Portrait of Winchester: An outline roadmap – Wessex Green Hub, 2021