

REPORT TITLE: CARBON NEUTRALITY ANNUAL REPORT AND ACTION PLAN

5 JULY 2022

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER: Councillor Kelsie Learney, Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency

Contact Officer: Steve Lincoln Tel No: 01962 848 110 Email slincoln@winchester.gov.uk

WARD(S): ALL

PURPOSE

This report provides a review of progress over the past year against 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 2022/23.

The review covers the period April 2021 to end of March 2022 and is the second 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 brings together a summary in one place. It also provides the opportunity to report on the most recent carbon emissions data for both the council and the district.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Housing and Environment Policy Committee is asked to:

1. Note the draft report - Winchester City Council's Carbon Neutral Programme: Review April 2021 to March 2022 & Priorities for 2022/23 in appendix 1.
2. Consider the priority actions proposed at the end of appendix 1 and provide comment and feedback to enable the Corporate Head of Economy & Community to include the top priority actions in the final version of the review.
3. Note and comment on the presentation given at the meeting from consultants WSP on their initial findings for a 'roadmap' to a decarbonised district.

1 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 1.1 The Council has allocated a one-off revenue budget of £840k to support the delivery of Winchester district carbon neutrality programmes, of which £215k was spent in 2021/22. In addition to this, additional capital spend on carbon related projects totalled over £6M in 2021/22, the most significant of which was the provision of a decked car park at the former Vaultex site.
- 1.2 A total of £15.861m has been included in the Housing Revenue Account capital programme to fund “retrofitting” of energy measures to council homes over the next ten years. Further investment has been made in the new homes programme to provide high standard green energy schemes and to test and deploy green design and technologies.
- 1.3 The Council has also sought external funding for carbon projects and to date has been successful in securing more than £6m from external sources.
- 1.4 An area of focus that has been identified as needing additional resource as the work has not progressed as well as anticipated is sustainable transport. Efforts to recruit to a dedicated Sustainable Transport post (funded from the existing carbon neutrality programme budget) have been unsuccessful to date, so an alternative approach is now being pursued and will be funded from within the existing carbon neutrality budget.

2 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 The draft report in appendix 1 covers the period April 2021 to end of March 2022 and is the second 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 brings together a summary in one place. It provides a review of progress over the last year and includes:
 - a) A summary of actions that have been completed or progressed;
 - b) The most recent carbon emissions data for both the council and the district;
 - c) Case studies of successful projects or initiatives: and

- d) A set of priority actions to be the focus of the council's efforts in 2022/23.
- 2.3 Last year it was identified that a resource commitment was 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. Consultants WSP have been commissioned to prepare this 'roadmap' to a decarbonised district and will attend the meeting to present their initial findings to the committee.
- 3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED
- 3.1 Not to undertake an annual review: this was rejected as the council is committed to achieving its carbon neutrality targets, which require monitoring of data and reporting on progress. This review enables the council to demonstrate what progress has been made and also to understand the future work still required, not only by the council.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

Previous Committee Reports:-

HEP013 – Carbon Neutrality Action Plan 2020 - 6 July 2021

CAB3203 - Winchester Carbon Neutrality Action Plan - 23 December 2019

CAB3171 - Declaration of Climate Emergency - 5 June 2019

Other Background Documents:-

- Winchester Climate Emergency Carbon Neutrality Action Plan 2020 - 2030
<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/no-listing/carbon-neutrality-action-plan>
- Winchester City Council carbon footprint reports
<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/climate-change-and-energy/climate-emergency-what-we-are-doing-now/our-carbon-emissions/council-energy-and-carbon-management>
- Greenhouse gas emissions in Winchester District: Part XI Estimates, trends (2005-2019) and future mitigation - Bob Whitmarsh and Robin Speed (WinACC) - October 2021
<https://www.winacc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/greenhouse-gas-emissions-in-winchester-district-2021-web-version.pdf>
- 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>

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 - Winchester City Council's Carbon Neutral Programme: Review April 2021 to March 2022 & Priorities for 2022/23