

REPORT TITLE: CARBON ROAD MAP AND ACTIONS

6 DECEMBER 2022

REPORT OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Cllr Learney, Cabinet Member for the Climate
Emergency

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WARD(S): ALL

PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to share with the Policy Committee the Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality for Winchester District by 2030 (referred to as Carbon Neutrality Roadmap) that has been developed by consultants WSP. The final Carbon Neutrality Roadmap is an extensive and comprehensive piece of work that advises the council, its partners and stakeholders of the nature and scale of interventions that would be required to help the district reach carbon neutrality.

The Carbon Neutrality Roadmap is provided in Appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Policy Committee are asked to comment upon the Carbon Neutrality Roadmap and in particular that in recognition of the need to be greener faster in order to meet carbon neutrality targets by 2030 as a matter of urgency to:
 - a. Prioritise and seek funding for highest impact actions within our scope.
 - b. Identify ways to use developer (Community Infrastructure Levy) and other funding to drive or unlock change.
 - c. Put carbon at heart of relationship with key partners to accelerate delivery.
 - d. Scale up actions and increase pace of delivery.
2. That the Policy Committee supports the adoption of the Carbon Neutrality Roadmap as the evidence base from which to develop future council strategy.

1 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 1.1 The council has invested significantly, both in terms of finance and staff resources, to become a carbon neutral authority and district. It has also attracted grant funding from government and external agencies to help invest in carbon reduction measures. It was known that in order to make the transformational change needed to reach carbon neutrality, large scale investment would be needed and not just by the council. The Carbon Neutrality Roadmap has help to demonstrate the scale of investment and its phasing that is required.
- 1.2 For context a 2020 report¹ by government advisory group, the Committee on Climate Change found:
- “that effectively eliminating all emissions by 2050 would require investment of 1 to 2 per cent of GDP per year – with the switch to renewable energy and better insulation for buildings costing between £20 and £40 billion a year.”
- 1.3 The Roadmap (p43 to 46) estimates the capital cost for the interventions for 2030 targets to be in the order of £600-£100m in total over the next eight years and proposes the potential owners of the interventions. A funding strategy is needed to consider who the delivery agency is and therefore has responsibility for making investments, the availability of finance and routes to grants and who can access these.

2 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Background

- 2.1 In Spring 2022, a competitive quotation process was undertaken to procure a consultant to develop a Carbon Neutrality Roadmap for the Winchester district. The Roadmap was to identify the interventions required to meet the council’s two climate emergency declaration targets of being carbon neutral council by 2024 and district by 2030. WSP was appointed in June 2022.
- 2.2 To develop the Roadmap WSP
- a) Held a series of stakeholder workshops. This included a workshop with Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC), in-depth interviews with Hampshire County Council officers and Wessex Green Hub and a session with a wide range of stakeholders including Cycle Winchester, Friends of the Earth, Sustrans, Hampshire & IoW Wildlife Trust, BID and many more. A questionnaire was also used to engage with officers across the council to build knowledge of specific initiatives already happening or planned. Feedback from stakeholders is summarised in Chapter 2 (Table 2.1) of the report.
 - b) Evaluated key council policies including the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan (CNAP), the Green Economic Development Strategy (GEDS), the Council Plan

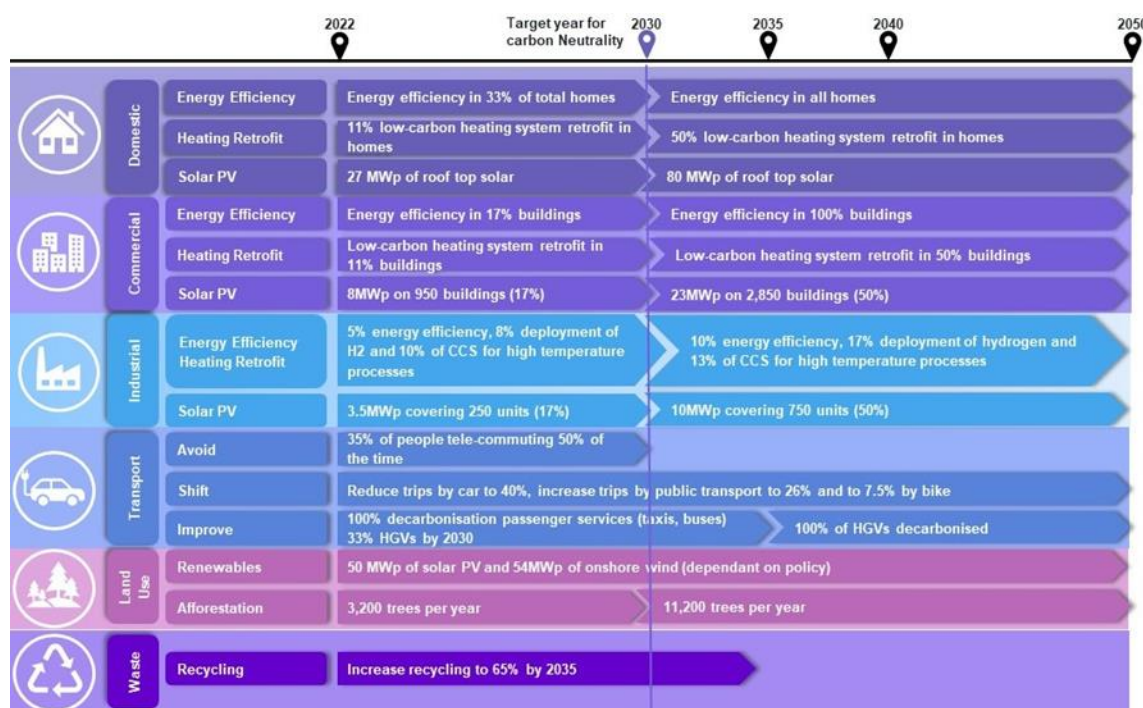
¹ CCC Insights Briefing 3: The UK's Net Zero target, October 2020

2020-25 and the emerging Local Plan, as well as national strategies and policies and those of HCC. A summary of policies evaluated can be found in Appendix E of the Roadmap.

- c) Identified total emissions of 634 kt CO₂e as the baseline for the district in 2019. This is in line with the emission 603 ktCO₂ (excluding motorways) reported in the 2021 CNAP review.
- d) Modelled the potential carbon reduction from the projects in the CNAP and concluded these would be insufficient on their own to achieve district carbon neutrality by 2030.
- e) Identified 16 interventions and modelled and quantified their carbon reduction impact for 2030. The Roadmap suggests that these interventions could deliver a cumulative reduction of 1,116 kt CO₂e by 2030. The detail behind this is outlined in Figure 6.3 (P42) of the Roadmap.
- f) Estimated the cost for each intervention and that these large scale projects are estimated to require capital investment of between £600m and £100m.

2.3 Key Findings

2.4 The 16 interventions modelled in the Roadmap are detailed in Chapter 6 and is summarised in Figure 6.3 (p42), reproduced below.



- 2.5 Of these 16 intervention WSP advise that three have the great potential to reduce emissions of the 1,116 kt CO₂e identified:

Intervention	Quantum	Carbon reduction cumulative by 2030	Share of cumulative reduction
Generating 50 MW of utility scale solar PV	This would generate the average energy demand of 3,100 UK households	147 kt CO ₂ e	13%
Electric vehicle (EV) charging to decarbonise private cars	Infrastructure sufficient to support 11,400 EVs (16% of all vehicles).	600 kt CO ₂ e	53%
Renewable heating measures in homes	Renewable heating and hot water systems in 5,940 homes (33% of domestic dwellings).	68 kt CO ₂ e	6%
Totals		812 kt CO₂e	73%

- 2.6 The Roadmap makes four recommendations on how the council sequester carbon through nature based approaches. These are contained in section 6.11: Carbon in Habitats Assessment. The Roadmap estimates that an additional 558 kt CO₂ will be removed through carbon sequestration by 2030, approximately 100 kt CO₂/yr. The four actions recommended are:

- a) Review of land management strategy
- b) Agricultural land management strategy
- c) Carbon sequestration through soils; and
- d) Green Infrastructure such as verge management.

2.7 **Next Steps**

- 2.8 This Roadmap represents expert advice to the council and now full consideration and analysis of this needs to be completed in order to develop a comprehensive response to the recommendations. This includes work to:

- a) Create or review relevant policies and implementation plans to facilitate delivery, for example off-setting, renewable energy generation.
- b) Align interventions with the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan and present a revised Action Plan for 2023 and 2024 and up to 2030
- c) Develop the funding strategy required to deliver the interventions and actions identified.
- d) Briefings and engagement with partners and stakeholders
 - (i) A members briefing will be arranged

- (ii) Stakeholders briefing through a Carbon Neutrality Open Forum (Greener Faster) Forum
- (iii) Members Decision Day January to adopt the Carbon Neutrality Roadmap as the evidence base from which to develop future strategy.

2.9 Conclusion

2.10 The Carbon Neutrality Roadmap sets out the scale of the challenge for the district on meeting the 2030 target for carbon neutrality. Many of the interventions identified are underway, but not at the scale and pace required. The need to be greener faster is clearly evidenced and as a matter of urgency there is a need to:

- a) Prioritise and seek funding for highest impact actions within our scope.
- b) Identify ways to use developer (Community Infrastructure Levy) and other funding to drive or unlock change.
- c) Put carbon at heart of relationship with key partners to accelerate delivery.
- d) Scale up actions and increase pace of delivery.

2.11 This Roadmap is an important stage in providing the guidance needed to focus everyone's efforts to the most effective carbon reduction strategies to help meet the carbon neutrality target for the district. Vital to its success will be the contribution made by not only the council but also the district residents, businesses and institutions. The reports key messages are:

- a) Net zero strategies should sit within a broader policy framework that connects with issues such as wellbeing, inequality, and biodiversity.
- b) Communication is a key issue and working with local partners and citizens is vital in achieving carbon neutrality and a just transition
- c) Winchester needs to be realistic and targeted in what it can achieve.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3.1 Not to accept the Roadmap. This is rejected as without the identification and quantification of the intervention required to become a carbon neutral district this will not be achieved.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

Previous Committee Reports:-

[Carbon Neutrality Annual Report and Action Plan 2021/22 \(HEP027\); 5 July, 2022](#)

Other Background Documents:-

[Carbon Neutrality Action Plan](#)

Appendices to Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality (available on request)

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: A Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality for the Winchester District by 2030