

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN - PROGRESS UPDATE

Head of Service:	Justin Turvey, Interim Head of Place Development
Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	
Appendices (attached):	Climate Change Action Plan Progress Update

Summary

This report provides an update on the progress of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

Recognising the Council's role in helping address the serious and accelerating impact of climate change on the environment and people's lives, the Council approved an ambitious climate change action plan at its meeting on 20 January 2020. The plan was agreed as a living document that would be updated and reviewed annually.

The Council further committed to achieving net carbon neutral operations by 2035.

Progress has been made in the delivery of actions over the past year and a full update of the Action Plan is set out in Appendix 1.

Figures for 2022/23 show that the Council has reduced its own operational emissions by 14% (200 tonnes of CO₂) since the baseline year 2019/20.

Work will continue during 2024 to deliver, monitor and review the Climate Change Action Plan.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Consider and note the progress made on the delivery of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan over the past year.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 This report outlines the progress over the past 12 months in delivering the Council's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP).

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- 1.2 The plan was agreed as a living document that would be updated and reviewed annually, as a minimum.
- 1.3 Reviewing and updating the plan ensures the actions it contains remain relevant and deliverable by the Council and continues to support the Council's carbon neutral commitment.
- 1.4 The Council's Annual Plan for 2023/24 set out priorities of the CCAP that would be focused on in 2023/24.
- 1.5 This report outlines the progress and positive actions that have been made against the priorities set out in the action plan.

2 Background

- 2.1 A cross party task and finish group was established to oversee the development of the Council's first Climate Action Plan. This was approved by this Committee and full Council on 20 January 2020 alongside the approval of the target, that the Council would be carbon neutral by 2035.
- 2.2 The CCAP details objectives to be completed over a 4-year period in order to combat climate change. The Council aims to be net carbon neutral by 2035 and this is proposed through six themes:
 - Theme 1 - Council Leadership and influencing others
 - Theme 2 – Improvements to the environment
 - Theme 3 - Council buildings and energy use
 - Theme 4 - Tackling and minimising waste
 - Theme 5 - Council transport & switching to lower polluting vehicles
 - Theme 6 - Use of technology & information system
- 2.3 An annual update on the actions has been provided to the Committee each year since the plan was approved in January 2020.
- 2.4 The delivery of the plan is supported by a cross party Members Climate Change Working Group (CCWG), and an officer level Climate Change & Biodiversity Action Group (CCBAG). The updates made to the plan have been shared and discussed with both working groups.

Progress update on Climate Change Action Plan

- 2.5 Work has progressed on delivering the actions within the CCAP in the last year with some of the key achievements set out below:

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- Installation of solar panels and battery storage at Epsom Playhouse. Expected annual carbon savings of 7tCO₂e (tonnes of carbon emissions).
- LED lighting replacement programme completed for Council operated buildings. Expected annual carbon savings of 6tCO₂e.
- Heating improvement works at Longmead Wellbeing Centre providing a 30% reduction in gas usage. Expected annual carbon savings of 10tCO₂e.
- Rollout of Electric Vehicle charge points at the Town Hall, Dorset House and Depot Road car parks. Data for first 6 months of 2023 show over 2,300 successful charges.
- £100k external funding secured to deliver carbon saving projects in 2024. This includes replacing 3 fleet vehicles with electric vans, installing a voltage optimiser at Epsom Playhouse and additional tree planting.
- Tree Management Plan, inclusive of a plan for additional tree planting, adopted.
- Taxi Emissions Policy adopted. Implementing a phased approach to higher emissions standards.
- Ongoing support and promotion of Surrey wide consortium schemes, including home energy grants and a second round of Solar Together. 61 home energy efficiency measures installed in the past year and 28 household solar installations completed through solar together, with more proceeding in the new year.

2.6 Of the 61 actions contained in the main action plan 16 have now been achieved/completed (grey), 32 are on track (green), 12 show some slippage (amber), 1 is not being progressed.

2.7 A full update on the progress of each action in the CCAP is set out in Appendix 1.

2.8 The annex within Appendix 1 contains actions outside of the direct control of the Council and for these the Council seeks to support delivery, where it is possible.

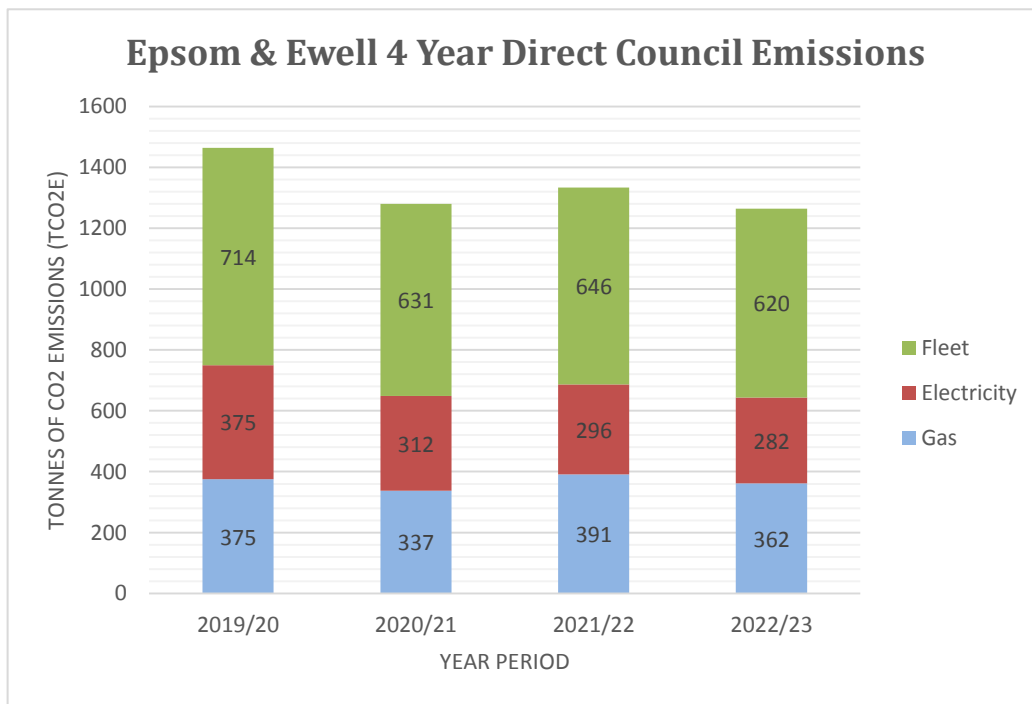
Progress towards Council emissions target

2.9 The Council's carbon emissions baseline data was determined for 2019/20 and covered direct operational buildings energy consumption and fleet activities. The baseline emissions were calculated as 1,464 tonnes of CO₂ (tCO₂e).

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- 2.10 For the 2022/23 period the Council's operational emissions have been calculated as 1,264tCO₂e. This shows a 14% reduction (200tCO₂e) in Council emissions since the baseline year 2019/20.
- 2.11 The reduction in emissions achieved to date can be attributed to a combination of successful measures implemented by the Council as part of the delivery of the CCAP and partly due to the progressive decarbonisation of the National Grid.
- 2.12 The electricity grid (National Grid) has been progressively decarbonising with an increasing proportion of energy generation coming from renewables. This has contributed to approximately 40% of our emissions reductions to date.
- 2.13 A summary of the progress from 2019/20 to 2022/23 is shown in the figure below:



- 2.14 It should be noted that 2020/21 was an unusual year due to the Covid Pandemic, which reflects the larger reduction in emissions. The larger emissions reduction during 2020/21 was more a reflection of a change in the way people worked and the restricted service provision due to restrictions under Covid19 than any deliberate actions to reduce emissions. The reporting years of 2021/22 and 2022/23 provide a more accurate picture of the Council's emissions.
- 2.15 Work will continue during 2024 to deliver, monitor and review the Climate Change Action Plan.

3 Risk Assessment

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Legal or other duties

3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

3.1.1 None arising from this report.

3.2 Crime & Disorder

3.2.1 There are no implications in terms of crime and disorder.

3.3 Safeguarding

3.3.1 None arising from this report.

3.4 Dependencies

3.4.1 None arising from this report.

3.5 Other

3.5.1 None arising from this report.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 Where future initiatives which have a budgetary implication not included in the Environment Committee budget, they will be reported and considered by the Strategy & Resources Committee in accordance with Financial Regulations.

4.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None arising from the contents of this report.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 None arising from this report.

5.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** As above

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:

- Green & Vibrant and supports the delivery of the Four Year Plan.

6.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:**

6.3.1 Climate Change is a key priority throughout the Action Plan with targets included to support reducing emissions throughout EEBC.

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6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:**

6.4.1 Sustainability considered in all targets – positive implications only

6.5 **Partnerships:**

6.5.1 Surrey Environment Partnership (SEP); District & Borough Climate Change Officers Group (Surrey wide)

7 Background papers

7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- E&SC Committee: Climate Change Action Plan – Update & Review 24 January 2023
- E&SC Committee: Climate Change Action Plan - Update 25 January 2022
- E&SC Committee: Climate Change Action Plan Update 26 January 2021
- Full Council Climate Change Action Plan 20 January 2020

Other papers:

- Climate Change motion to full Council 23 July 2019