

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS UPDATE

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Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Urgent Decision? (yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	N/A
Appendices (attached):	Climate Change Action Plan Progress update 2025

Summary

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

The Council approved its first Climate Change Action Plan at its meeting on 20 January 2020, along with a commitment to achieving net carbon neutral operations by 2035. The first action plan reached the end of its term on 31 December 2024 and has been succeeded by the Council's second Climate Change Action Plan (2025-2029), adopted by this Committee on 15 October 2024. The plan was agreed as a living document that would be updated and reviewed annually.

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 2024/25 show that the Council has reduced its own operational emissions by 19% since 2019/20.

Work will continue during 2026 to deliver, monitor and review the second 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 second Climate Change Action Plan over the past year.**

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1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 This report outlines the progress over the past year (2025) in delivering the Council's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP).
- 1.2 The plan was agreed as a living document that would be updated and reviewed annually, as a minimum.
- 1.3 The first action plan reached the end of its 5-year term on 31 December 2024 and has been succeeded by the Council's second CCAP (2025-2029).

2 Background

- 2.1 A cross-party task and finish group was established to oversee the development of the Council's first Climate Change 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 first action plan reached the end of its term on 31 December 2024 and the Council's second Climate Change Action Plan, to cover the 5-year period from 2025 to 2029, was developed and adopted by this Committee in October 2024.
- 2.3 An annual update on the actions has been provided to the Committee each year since the first plan was approved in January 2020.
- 2.4 This will be the first progress update on delivery of the second action plan.
- 2.5 The delivery of the plan is supported by a cross-party Members Environment & Sustainability Working Group (ESWG) and an officer level Climate Change & Biodiversity Action Group (CCBAG).

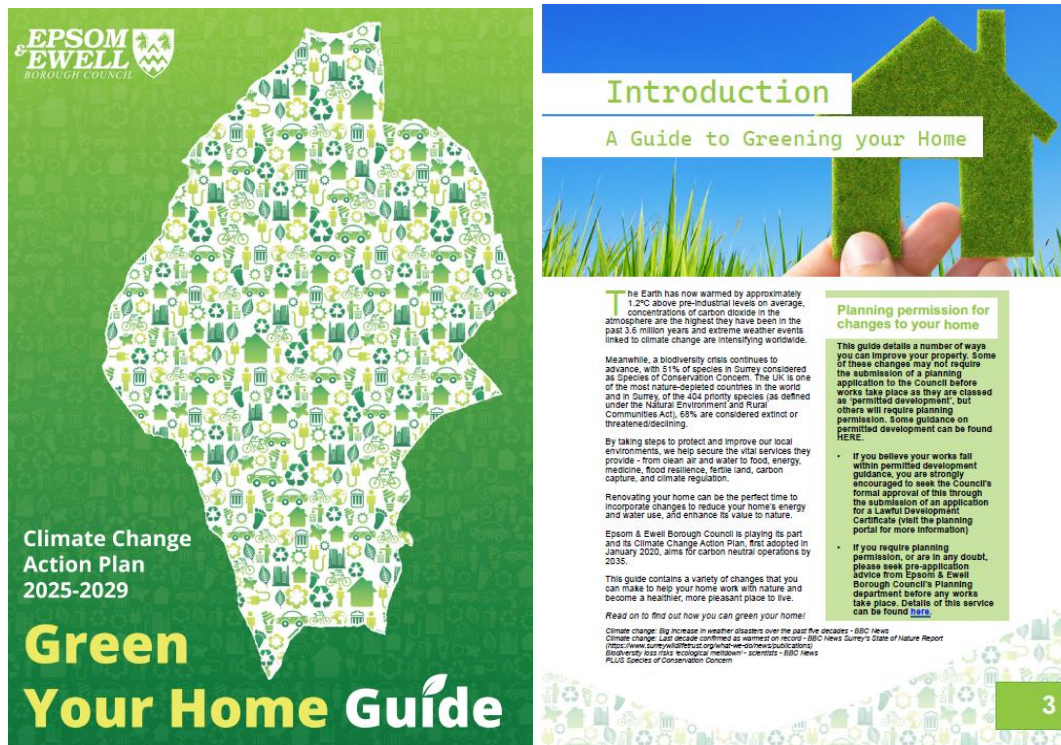
3 Annual progress update on Climate Change Action Plan

- 3.1 Work continued to progress during 2025 on delivering the actions within the CCAP. Some of the key achievements include:
 - Full windows replacement at Bourne Hall with double glazing. Expected annual savings of 20 tonnes of carbon emissions (tCO₂e).
 - All stage lighting at Epsom Playhouse replaced with LEDs. Expected annual savings of 4tCO₂e.
 - Completed the installation of a 177kWp solar PV system on the roof of Rainbow Leisure Centre. Partial year generation figures showing annual savings will be over 30tCO₂e.

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- Launch of the 'Green Your Home Guide'. A digestible guide for residents covering ways you can improve your home and garden for the climate and for nature.



- Completion of the planting of 2,610 new trees across 6 Council owned sites.
 - Agreement to revoke Ewell High Street Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) following sustained and long-term improvement in Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) levels within the AQMA.
 - 62 households supported with a higher energy efficient boiler upgrade through the boiler repair and upgrade scheme and warm at home grant.
 - Continued support and promotion of Surrey wide consortium schemes, including home energy grants and a fourth round of the group purchasing scheme Solar Together. 39 home energy efficiency measures installed in the past year, 14 home energy surveys conducted under the One Stop Shop Home retrofit scheme and 37 household solar installations through solar together.
- 3.2 Of the 52 actions within the action plan, 31 are on track (green), 16 show some slippage (amber), 2 are significantly off track (red), 2 have not yet started and 1 is no longer relevant.
- 3.3 A full update on the progress of each action in the CCAP is set out in Appendix 1.

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- 3.4 Work will continue during 2026 to deliver, monitor and review the second Climate Change Action Plan.

4 Revision of the Council's operational emissions baseline

- 4.1 The Council's CO2 baseline emissions were first determined for the period 2019/20, covering direct operational buildings energy consumption and fleet activities.
- 4.2 In 2025, through on-going engagement with the existing gas and electricity submeter provider, it was found that for 3 sites, the Town Hall, Bourne Hall and Epsom Playhouse, accurate, full year electricity consumption data was held for 2019/20 and 2020/21. This had not been previously made available to the Council leading to the electricity consumption data for those sites, for those year periods, being estimated based on energy billing.
- 4.3 Access to the accurate consumption data has shown electricity usage at these 3 sites was slightly underestimated for the period 2019/20 and slightly overestimated for 2020/21. It has been necessary to revise the emissions calculations for the baseline year of 2019/20 and for 2020/21. The change has been relatively small but has affected the annual percentage calculation of progress towards the Council meeting its 2035 carbon neutral target.
- 4.4 Tables 1 and 2 show the changes to the reported figures.

Council operational emissions (tCO2e)

Year period	Original total	Revised total	Change (tCO2e)
2019/20	1464	1487	+22
2020/21	1281	1268	-13
2021/22	1333	1333	0
2022/23	1264	1264	0
2023/24	1233	1233	0

Table 1: Revised figures for annual Council operational emissions

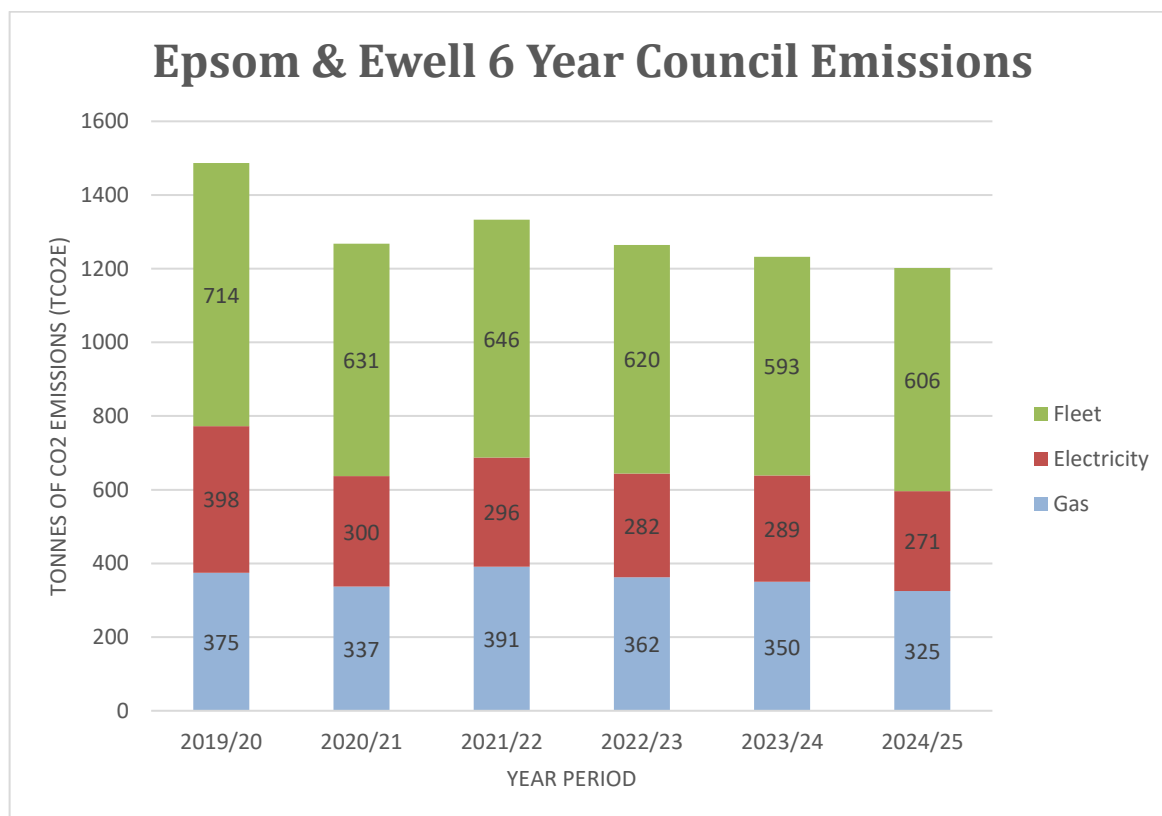
**Annual emissions reduction
from baseline year (%)**

Year period	Original	Revised
2020/21	13%	15%
2021/22	9%	10%
2022/23	14%	15%
2023/24	16%	17%

Table 2: Revised percentage annual reduction in operational emissions from baseline year (2019/20)

5 Progress towards Council emissions target

- 5.1 The Council's CO₂ baseline emissions data was determined for 2019/20 and covered direct operational buildings energy consumption and fleet activities. The (revised) baseline emissions were calculated as 1,487 tonnes of CO₂ (tCO₂e).
- 5.2 For the 2024/25 period the Council's operational emissions have been calculated as 1,201tCO₂e. This shows a 19% reduction (286tCO₂e) in Council emissions since 2019/20.
- 5.3 A summary of the progress from 2019/20 to 2024/25 is shown in the figure below:



- 5.4 There has continued to be a year-on-year reduction in the Council's carbon emissions, except for between the periods of 2020/21 to 2021/22 which were a reflection of a change in the way people worked and the restricted service provision due to restrictions under Covid19.
- 5.5 It is also important to recognise that the electricity grid (National Grid) has been progressively decarbonising with an increasing proportion of energy generation coming from renewables. This has contributed to approximately 30% of our emissions reductions to date.
- 5.6 Whilst the Council's emissions have continued to reduce year on year, we are currently behind a straight-line target for achieving our 2035 target.
- 5.7 Schemes delivered this year and planned schemes, as detailed within the action plan update in Appendix 1, have the potential to contribute to reducing our emissions in the short term and bring us closer to being on track. This includes the recent windows replacement at Bourne Hall, stage lighting upgrade at Epsom Playhouse and business cases for replacing the heating systems at Bourne Hall and Epsom Playhouse.
- 5.8 However, significant challenges remain with decarbonising the Council's fleet. This includes the limited viable low carbon alternatives currently available for the HGV fleet vehicles and the potential additional costs for replacing viable smaller fleet vehicles with electric. Further detail is set out in the progress update for action 29 (Appendix 1).

6 Risk Assessment

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Legal or other duties

6.1 Equality Impact Assessment

6.1.1 None arising from this report.

6.2 Crime & Disorder

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

6.3 Safeguarding

6.3.1 None arising from this report.

6.4 Dependencies

6.4.1 None arising from this report.

6.5 Other

6.5.1 None arising from this report.

7 Financial Implications

7.1 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.

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

8 Legal Implications

8.1 None arising from this report

8.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report

9 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

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

- Green & Vibrant

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

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

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

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

9.4.1 Sustainability considered in all targets – positive implications only.

9.5 **Partnerships:**

9.5.1 Surrey Environment Partnership; District & Borough Climate Change Officers Group (Surrey wide).

9.6 **Local Government Reorganisation Implications:** None for the purposes of this report.

10 **Background papers**

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

Previous reports:

- Environment Committee: Climate Change Action Plan – Progress Update 17 March 2025
- Environment Committee: Climate Change Action Plan (2025-2029) – 15 October 2024
- Environment Committee: Climate Change Action Plan – Progress Update 23 January 2024
- Environment & Safer Communities Committee: Climate Change Action Plan – Update & Review 24 January 2023
- Environment & Safer Communities Committee: Climate Change Action Plan - Update 25 January 2022
- Environment & Safer Communities 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