

<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>		
<b>MEETING</b>	<b>Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development &amp; Scrutiny Panel</b>	
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	<b>24 January 2022</b>	
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Climate Emergency Annual Action Plan Update Report</b>	
<b>WARD:</b>	All	
<b>1 AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b>		
APPENDIX 1 Climate Emergency Highlight report		

## **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 The council declared a Climate Emergency in March 2019, committing the it to provide the leadership to enable Bath and North East Somerset to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.
- 1.2 Work is underway developing the Ecological Emergency Action Plan which will be available later in 2022.
- 1.3 A refreshed Climate Emergency Strategy, Highlight Report 2021 and Action Plan 2022/23 will be taken to Full Council in March 2022.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

## **The Panel is asked to:**

### 2.1 To note:

- i. Progress on the delivery of the Year 2 (2021) Climate Emergency Action Plan.
- ii. The extensive and wide-ranging action being taken across the council to tackle the climate emergency

### To review:

- i. The Council's performance against to LGA 10-point climate checklist for scrutiny panels.
- ii. The latest available data relating to carbon emissions (District wide and from council operations).
- iii. Initial proposals for Year 3 (2022/23) in response to the Climate Emergency.
- iv. The draft Highlight Report Appendix 1, which will be taken to Full Council in March 2022.

## **3 THE REPORT**

### 3.1 This report provides an update on progress made in Year 2 of the Climate Emergency Action Plan. It has been prepared in the following context:

- The Covid pandemic and the resulting economic crisis, continued to affect business and life, in 2021. The council with partners has continued to play key roles in the pandemic response, including the vaccination programme. This has involved a co-ordinated response across all the council's services, including public health, social care, community wellbeing and support, enforcement, Business support and communications.
- In August 2021, the International Panel on Climate Change released its 6th Report Sixth Assessment Report.
- In November 2021, the global 'conference of the parties' (COP26) took place in Glasgow which further focused citizen awareness on the climate emergency and the need for action at local, national and global levels. The council's contribution to COP26 is outlined below. We will also be closely monitoring changes in central government policies and programmes resulting from commitments made at the conference.

### 3.2 The Centre for Public Scrutiny, Local Government Association (LGA) has provided 10 Questions to scrutinize climate action. It provides a practical approach for scrutineers to understand and seek oversight on climate action in their localities. The table below outlines how B&NES is performing against the 10 LGA Scrutiny questions.

LGA 10 Questions for Scrutineers of Climate Emergency Strategies and Plans		B&NES Council activity and action
1	How well does the council understand the need to take action locally?	The Council's detailed research and analysis undertaken in 2019 identified the sources of carbon emissions, priority areas for action and modelling about the scale of action required to meet the zero carbon by 2030 ambition. Council scope of influence and Just Transition are also considered.
2	How does the council's leadership champion and direct action on climate change?	Climate Emergency Cabinet position created 2019 and Deputy Leader position created 2021. The Council is active in leading debate in various national lobbying groups including Deputy Leader speaking at: Manchester Air Quality News Conference Sept 21, the ADEPT conference Nov 21, UK100's Clean Air Frameworks webinar Sept 21, as witness at Bristol Airport Expansion Enquiry. Leader actively championing and directing action with WECA
3	How is the council adopting a clear and detailed strategic plan, and how is it mainstreaming climate change mitigation and adaptation?	Tacking the climate and nature emergencies is one of the Council's two core policies in the Corporate Plan. It is being mainstreamed through Service Planning process and in-depth work underway across Services to align policies and strategies. Also, through partnerships and work with stakeholders, such as One Shared Vision to enable district-wide action towards zero carbon by 2030, and the related partnership development. The Council leads the Public Services Climate Emergency Group, whose member organisations all have climate action underway.
4	Has the council reviewed its investment strategy, supply chains and procurement models to give due consideration to climate change impacts?	Treasury Management Strategy reviewed and Treasury funds being invested into Environmental, Social and Governance Funds. Avon Pension Fund have a climate emergency strategy in place and are divesting from fossil fuels. The recently adopted ' <i>Procurement Strategy 2021-2024, Think Local, Think Climate, Think Innovation</i> ', has been aligned with the Council's commitments.
5	How is the council integrating sustainability and resilience into its transport and energy plans?	Council Sustainable Transport Team, Journey to Net Zero Active Travel fund, and City Region Sustainable Transport Fund. Council buys 100% renewable energy for its buildings and we are increasing renewables capacity on Council buildings. Local Plan planning policy has been updated ahead of schedule to align with Climate Emergency.

6	How is the council planning to understand and act on the need to adapt existing properties and estates to address the impacts of climate change – and to plan for new housing stock which is resilient to these impacts?	Any Council specified housing will be designed to meet the highest energy efficiency standards and where new-build the AECB (or similar) standard for energy efficiency. Pipeline developed of carbon reduction refurbishments of Council-owned residential properties including 3 care homes. Each due to cut energy/carbon usage by 40%- 50% compared to the current baseline. The new build shared-ownership properties delivered by Aequus at St Joseph's Terrace, Sladebrook Road, have achieved an EPC A rating and predicted to be carbon neutral in use. Planning Policy updated. Supplementary Planning Document on Retrofit recast to positively encourage retrofit.
7	How is the council promoting climate education, diversifying the labour market and focusing on sectors that are sustainable?	Renewed B&NES Economic Strategy will have key focus on green economy and skills. Work underway through WECA and with Bath College. Range of WECA and Business sector projects to support business through green grants and business support to begin low carbon transition.
8	What measures are being taken to ensure that health and social care systems will be resilient with the extra pressures they will come under due to climate change?	<i>The response will be developed once the Public Health Team have emerged from the COVID pandemic.</i>
9	How does the council identify those who are most at risk from the impacts of climate change, and what is being done to assist the most vulnerable?	Research and analysis undertaken in 2019 about of carbon emissions by household income and a Just Transition identifies different community needs. Able to focus and target some measures through Business Intelligence and JSNA, Energy Performance Certificate rating data. E.g. government and locally supported Green Home Grant scheme accessed via Energy at Home. These grants being targeted at those on low incomes.
10	How is the council supporting and working with all relevant private and civic actors in the area towards climate change mitigation and adaptation?	One Shared Vision partnership development, Civic agreement and partnership with the Unis, Public Services and Business Leaders. Community Forum and Climate Community Engagement Programme providing support and connections with civic actors.

3.3 A benchmarking exercise against other Local Authorities will be carried out by Audit West and will inform the reporting to full Council in March on the revised Climate Emergency strategy, action plan and route map.

3.4 Progress and actions during 2021

- See draft Highlight Report, Appendix 1 for summary of what is set out in the section below.
- This section (3.5 – 3.9) covers an update for the Panel on strategic commitments made in the original action plan, staffing, community engagement and the council’s leadership role.

3.5 Table: Activity against strategic commitments made in the original Action Plan

Action Plan		Progress
Review Council strategies and plans to re-align to the Climate Emergency	✓	<p>Strategy Alignment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First local authority outside of London to introduce a charging Clean Air Zone</li> <li>• First local authority to enact a Local Plan Partial Update to respond to the climate emergency – due for adoption 2022</li> <li>• Procurement &amp; Commissioning Strategy – adopted</li> <li>• Woodland and Tree Planting Delivery Plan- adopted</li> <li>• Treasury Management strategy reviewed Avon Pension Fund have a climate emergency strategy in place.</li> <li>• Economic Strategy – in progress. Providing the opportunity to look at ways to decarbonise the economy (due for adoption Summer 2022)</li> <li>• Journey to Net Zero – Transport Strategy- revised timetable, due for adoption and implementation during 2022</li> <li>• Liveable Neighbourhoods programme- in progress</li> </ul>
Developing a new Climate Emergency Commissioning and Procurement Strategy to ensure all future contracts deliver against the declaration	✓	<p>Procurement &amp; Commissioning Strategy 2021-2024- <i>Think Climate, Think Local, Think Innovation</i>. Approved by Cabinet September 2021. This provides a framework for the Council to make future purchasing and commissioning decisions aligned with carbon neutrality ambition.</p>
The Planning service has begun a Partial Update of the Local Plan (coming into force in 2022) to fast track climate and ecological emergency policy updates in	✓	<p>Draft Policy consultation completed October 2021. The next stage is the Examination, prior to adoption. Additionally, it Includes a revised and updated Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on Retrofitting.</p>

advance of a full Local Plan review (2023).		
Creating a new Climate Emergency website to improve advice and support across the community	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Climate Emergency webpages have been completely revised and updated to provide clear information and signposting. Phase 2 of this revision is scheduled for Spring 2022.</li> <li>• To support, share and connect, the online 'Zero Carbon, Nature Positive Network' has been developed to enable more detailed sharing and conversation.</li> </ul>
A climate literacy training programme rollout to staff later in the year. This includes a day long climate leadership course for members and senior managers in March	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An e-learning course has been developed and launched on the Staff Learning Zone.</li> <li>• A day-long course has been adapted for virtual delivery and roll-out is underway. This will continue throughout 2022.</li> <li>• A day-long leadership and elected members' course was held in March 2021.</li> </ul>
A review of the value of Citizens' Juries will be conducted in early 2021, as part of the development of the next phase of the Community Engagement Programme	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Citizen's transport panel will run this quarter, looking at transport options for travel to the university, as well as wider questions of transport policy</li> <li>• The Community Engagement Programme has covered a range of activity, including online discussions, webinars, forums and community meetings and social media. The first B&amp;NES Climate and Biodiversity Festival was held in September, when over 35 in-person and virtual events took place, the majority were community organised.</li> </ul>
Develop a robust performance monitoring framework to record and monitor actions and progress taking place to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies across all service areas.	✓	Tackling the climate and ecological emergencies and driving down carbon emissions is one of the Council's two key priorities in the Corporate Plan. This priority has been introduced for consideration for all council decision-making. Tackling the Climate & Ecological Emergencies has been built into the Service Planning process ensuring all service areas are aligning their work to the commitments. The Integrated Performance Framework includes monitoring metrics that will help us to monitor progress. Refer to Highlight report for key numbers and sections 3.10 and 3.11 below.

3.6 Organisational and staffing changes have been made to align and prioritise Council policy and service delivery.

- Appointment of a new Sustainable Communities Director role and the recruitment of two Head of Service roles for Sustainable Transport and Green Transformation. The Climate and Ecological Emergency work will report to the Head of Service for Green Transformation.
- 3 new officers were recruited to the Climate and Sustainability Team in the last quarter of 2021. Four more new posts will be recruited to in the first half of 2022.
- One Shared Vision, the Future Ambition Board's cross-district local strategic vision and partnership development includes a new Green Theme Partnership. The Green Theme Partnership enabling action across the community will be set up during 2022.

### 3.7 Community engagement activity

- Questions relating to tackling the Climate Emergency were included in the Council's Voicebox 2021 Survey. Voicebox is a survey mailed to a random sample of 3,875 residential addresses in the local authority area to find out how satisfied residents are with their local area as a place to live and the services currently provided by the Council. The report on responses and feedback is due in January/February 2022
- A summary of how we are supporting community climate engagement and action, against the key principles of informing, sharing, leading, connecting, enabling and inspiring is set out in the Highlight Report Appendix 1

### 3.8 Leadership, lobbying and shaping national policy.

- The council leader, supported by the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainable Transport, called for WECA's proposed Climate Emergency Strategy, to include for more significant strategic ambition to enable the region to lead a zero carbon transition.
- The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainable Transport spoke as a witness at the Bristol Airport Expansion Enquiry
- Responses submitted to Government Consultations including to the Waste and Resources Strategy – polluter pays and deposit return scheme, BEIS greenhouse gas dataset, Heat Decarbonisation Strategy, Transport Strategy, Planning Policy White Paper.
- The council attended the UK100 Leaders' Summit and is a signatory of UK100's COP26 Letter calling for stronger climate leadership from the Government.
- In addition to the two-week long programme of Climate and Biodiversity Festival events, the Council participated in COP26 in a number of ways. The Local Government Association (LGA) were provided with six case

studies showing positive, proactive climate action from Bath and North Somerset; Bath & North East Somerset Council are signatories of the C40 Race to Zero; promotion of the Together for our Planet engagement campaign including partner contributions from the Climate & Biodiversity Festival and entries created for the mass participation art installation.

### 3.9 Planned action for 2022/23 that will form the Action Plan presented to full Council in March 2022.

- Leadership, Vision and Plan
  - Develop and refresh Climate Emergency strategy and longer term action plan, including clearer timeline and milestones to 2025 and 2030. Audit West will provide support and benchmarking against other local authorities.
  - Green Partnership development ensuring that climate is a cross-cutting theme in all One Shared Vision partnerships.
  - Working with WECA and West of England councils on a collaborative and regional Climate Emergency action plan and Green Recovery Fund to ensure action against the key B&NES climate priorities: home energy efficiency retrofit and local renewable energy development (alongside existing funding for transport and green infrastructure initiatives).
  - Continue to lobby and input into regional and national policy development.
  - Continue the work to revise and align council plans and policy with the council's climate commitments.
- Leading carbon reduction in buildings
  - Develop area-wide retrofit approach to address skills, supply chain and delivery aspects.
  - Implementation of project on minimum Energy Efficiency Standards for private Landlords.
  - Working with WECA and partners to support business to decarbonise and transition to low carbon economy.
  - Deliver pipeline of Council residential building refurbishments
  - Local Plan Partial update adoption and implementation. Begin full Local Plan update.
- Leading carbon reduction in transport
  - Implementation of Journey to Net Zero plan
  - Implementation of first schemes of Liveable Neighbourhoods
  - Completion of final phase of Go Ultra Low West funded electric vehicle charging projects
  - Begin delivery of projects funded through City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement 2022-2027
- Increasing renewable energy generation
  - Allocate next tranche of renewables capital for solar installations on further two care homes, as the first step in development of longer term pipeline of projects

- Business case development for commissioning further installations of renewable energy and storage on council assets.
- Developing leadership role in partnership, including with the community energy sector, to accelerate renewable energy delivery across the district in line with the 2030 net zero target.
- Community engagement including a second community-led festival, building a community network, implement a regular campaign programme and further webpage development.
- Developing interactive online carbon emission inventory in the JSNA.

### 3.10 Carbon emissions inventory

The carbon emissions inventory is updated each year to monitor and report progress against the commitments in the Climate Emergency declaration, to lead the district to carbon neutrality by 2030. The inventory captures scope 1 and 2 emissions. Scope 1 is defined as carbon emissions directly from the burning of fossil fuels for heating and transport: gas, coal and vehicle fuel. Scope 2 emissions are indirect carbon emissions calculated through the consumption of electricity for heating, cooling, equipment and lighting. The carbon emissions inventory report is also used to submit the council's annual returns to the Covenant of Mayors and CDP reporting programmes. The inventory monitors carbon emissions:

- Area-wide
- Council buildings and operations

In summary, area wide emissions continue to reduce in a downward trend (BEIS annual data). Total emissions for **2019** are **671.3 ktCO<sub>2</sub>**, down from 695.6ktCO<sub>2</sub> the previous year. A reduction of 63% when compared to 2005 the baseline year of 1,063.3ktCO<sub>2</sub>.

Emissions from council buildings and operations for the year **2020/21** are **3,031.53 tCO<sub>2</sub>e** similar to 2019/20. It should be noted that the council has achieved a substantial cut in its emissions by two thirds (66%) compared to the baseline year of 2009. Achieved through a range of mitigation measures, covering building measures, street lighting, technology upgrades, greater efficiency and renewable energy installation.

See Appendix 1.

### 3.11 Monitoring progress

The carbon emission monitoring and inventory outlined in 3.13 is due for inclusion in the Joint Spatial Needs Assessment (JSNA) refresh. Following testing this should be made available on the council's website mid-2022.

The council's Integrated Reporting Framework has been developed by the Business Intelligence Team. This includes monitoring of council service actions addressing the climate and ecological emergency. Services with direct or partial influence on the main sources of carbon emissions were

prioritised by the Data Intelligence Team for the first phase of this project. A set of indicators has been established with further work ongoing. In some cases, this will require identifying new data sources that can be collected with accuracy and in a timely way.

### 3.12 Draft Route map

A draft route map is in development that will form part of the revised Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan to be presented to full Council in March 2022. The route map will outline the key national climate and carbon emission policy context alongside area-wide milestones. In collaboration with other local stakeholders and citizens, the council will play a range of roles to lead, facilitate or enable area-wide emissions to be cut and targets achieved.

To note, the route mapping exercise planned for 2021 has been delayed due to prioritisation of resource and capacity in response to COVID and to allow for staff capacity building. Therefore this action has been carried forward to the Action Plan for 2022/23.

## **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1 The activity outlined in this report is fully in line with the expectation on local authorities to take local action on the climate issue contained in the Climate Change Act 2008. And, further, is in line with the 2018 UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report on the need to reduce carbon emissions more quickly in order to prevent the world from warming by more than 1.5°C.

## **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

- 5.1 The recruitment programme underway to expand capacity in the Climate and sustainability Team are budgeted for.

## **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance.

## **7 CLIMATE CHANGE**

- 7.1 This report updates on the corporate effort to drive, coordinate and support action across the Council and the area in pursuit of the commitments made in the Climate Emergency Progress Report to Council in October 2020, to enable delivery of the March 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration.

## 8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 The Council's approach to tackling the Climate Emergency referred to in this report was developed and determined following discussions at senior officer and Cabinet member level, informed by specialist consultants, who conducted the first stage of evidence gathering and research during the summer of 2019.

## 9 CONSULTATION

9.1 The report has been reviewed by the Sustainable Communities Leadership Team, Corporate Management Team, Chief Executive, the S151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer.

<b>Contact person</b>	Jane Wildblood, Strategic Manager: Climate & Environmental Sustainability
<b>Background papers</b>	<i>Climate Emergency background papers are available via the following link to the Council's website:</i> <a href="https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/climate-emergency">https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/climate-emergency</a>
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	