

additional papers 1



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Mon 25 Nov
2024
6.30 pm

Oakenshaw Community
Centre, Castleditch Lane,
Redditch, B98 7YB



**If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact
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Overview and Scrutiny

Monday, 25th November, 2024

6.30 pm

Oakenshaw Community Centre

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:

Matthew Dormer
(Chair)
Craig Warhurst
(Vice-Chair)
William Boyd
Andrew Fry
Joanna Kane

Sachin Mathur
David Munro
Rita Rogers
Paul Wren

- 5. Carbon Reduction Strategy and Implementation Plan Annual Review - Pre-Scrutiny (Pages 5 - 50)**

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**Executive
Committee**

26/11/2024

Carbon Reduction Strategy Annual Review

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Jen Snape
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Judith Wills
Report Author	Job Title: Climate Change Manager Contact email: matthew.eccles@BromsgroveandRedditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 07816112073
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	All
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS**The Executive Committee RECOMMEND that:-**

- 1) The Council endorse the findings of this annual review of the Carbon Reduction Strategy (Appendix 2).**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2022 Redditch Borough Council issued a Carbon Reduction Plan to assist the Borough achieve Net Zero by 2040. This report is to provide an update on progress against the identified actions on the Carbon Reduction Plan. (See Appendix 1 for Copy of Carbon Reduction Plan)
- 2.2 Globally, governments have committed to keep within a 1.5°C increase in temperature to avoid catastrophic impacts from climate change. The UK Government has committed to Net Zero by 2050.
- 2.3 Redditch Borough Council has a significant role to play in taking and influencing action on climate change due to the services it delivers, the regulatory functions, strategic functions, procurement powers and responsibilities as a major employer. Evidence supports that Redditch Borough Council should make carbon reduction key to what it does as a council to support national, regional & local targets.
- 2.4 Redditch Borough Council declared a climate emergency at Council on 24th July 2019. On declaration of a climate emergency, an LA is

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affirming that it will place the Climate Emergency at the centre of its decision-making process. LA's are then expected to develop carbon reduction targets and action plans to assist in the reduction of carbon emissions, from their own council functions and, using their sphere of influence.

- 2.5 Each of the council's service areas have contributed to the Carbon Reduction Strategy and Action Plan (Appendix 1) in order to produce 'carbon reduction pathways. Through this approach carbon reduction will become 'business as usual' and truly embedded throughout the organisation.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- 3.1 The proposals set out in the Action Plan require changes to or new ways of working and operating by service areas. Any operational changes brought about as a consequence will be considered in the business case for each project and as part of any project planning.
- 3.2 This Strategy and Action Plan is our route map to 'net zero' for our internal activities across all service areas. It also highlights where we are trying to influence the reduction of carbon emissions from other places outside the council's activities.
- 3.3 This plan will be refreshed every 3 years and reviewed annually.
- 3.4 The key actions of the strategy and action plan have provided the focus, steer and priority for the Climate Change Panel.
- 3.5 Of the key actions outlined in the strategy and action plan there were 11 key actions identified with 7 actions where work has started or is underway and 4 actions identified to be started in 2024.
- 3.6 A review of the Carbon Reduction Implementation Plan has been undertaken and this is attached as Appendix 2.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The strategic objectives and projects outlined in the strategy and action plan will require financial and resource investment to be made to achieve carbon reduction. In some instances, this may lead to longer term savings e.g., reduction in energy consumption costs.
- 4.2 All projects and proposals detailed in the action plan that are not currently resourced and which have financial implications, will be

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subject to business plans which including all of the financial requirements (staffing costs and all revenue and capital resources) which will be considered and require endorsement via the appropriate decision-making processes.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 sets the legally binding UK-wide target to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- 5.2 The Environment Act, 2021, acts as the UK's new framework of environmental protection. The Act provides the Government with powers to set new binding targets, including for air quality, water, biodiversity, and waste reduction.
- 5.3 As a requirement of the Climate Change Act, the government published the Clean Growth Strategy in October 2017. This strategy has two key aims: To meet domestic emissions reduction commitments at the lowest possible net cost to UK taxpayers, consumers and businesses; and to maximise the social and economic benefits for the UK of doing so.
- 5.4 The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995, obliges us to submit biennial reports setting out the practical, cost-effective measures, which are likely to significantly improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in our area.
- 5.5 Chapter 14 of the National Planning Policy Framework covers meeting the challenge of climate change.

6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS**Relevant Strategic Purpose**

- 6.1 The Strategy and Action Plan support the Council's strategic purpose of 'Communities which are safe, well maintained & green'. In addition, it underpins the green thread that runs through the Council Plan and supports the delivery of achieving carbon reduction across council services. It also contributes to each of the Council's four other Strategic Purposes all of which have measures that support climate change initiatives.
- 6.2 It is recognised that the Council needs to concentrate on areas of work that will deliver the highest levels of carbon reduction. The strategy and action plan detail these areas but also acknowledges other actions of

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lower importance from a carbon reduction point of view, but which contribute to the overall greening of the authority.

- 6.3 In addition to the Strategic purposes, the Council's Plan also sets out its organisational priorities, and within a sustainability framework a requirement on any review of services to understand how we can adapt to climate change. The development of this Strategy supports this action.

Climate Change Implications

- 6.5 This Strategy is specifically to achieve carbon reduction and net zero for our internal activities across all service areas. Further, the Strategy also identifies our influencing role in supporting the reduction of carbon emissions from other organisations e.g., our contractors.
- 6.6 The Section on Measuring and Setting Emissions Targets in the Strategy outlines the targets to be achieved to ensure net zero by 2040. The Strategy is key to addressing Climate Change. The Strategy and action plan seek to deliver a 50% reduction by 2030 and 100% by 2040.
- 6.7 The Council was able to achieve radical change in response to a pandemic by the many actions taken and so there is every opportunity to respond and develop our actions in response to global warming and biodiversity collapse.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.3 Any equality implications of carbon reduction proposals changing will be considered on a project by project basis through the use of Equality Assessments, if required.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 The Strategy sets out the Council's plan to achieve net zero by 2040. This target will only be achieved if all services deliver on the actions set out in the Strategy over the next three years and beyond.
- 7.2 To ensure the actions are implemented the Strategy will be co-ordinated and reviewed a by the Climate Change Manager and the Climate Change Working Group will receive regular reports on progress.
- 7.3 Failure to provide adequate resources will mean an increased risk that the strategy and action plan will not be delivered.

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8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 Carbon Reduction Strategy.

Appendix 2 Carbon Reduction Strategy Review.

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9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Jen Snape, Portfolio Holder for Climate Change	
Lead Director / Head of Service	Judith Willis, Head of Community & Housing Services	30 October 2024
Financial Services	Debra Goodall of Finance & Customer Services	23 October 2024
Legal Services	Claire Felton, Head of Legal & Property Services	23 October 2024
Climate Change Team (if climate change implications apply)	Matthew Eccles Climate Change Manager	23 October 2023

Updated February 2024

Redditch Borough Council Carbon Reduction Strategy & Implementation Plan V4.5



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Background & Introduction

Globally, governments have committed to keep within 1.5°C increase in temperature to avoid catastrophic impacts from climate change¹. UK Government has committed to Net Zero by 2050. Local Authorities (LA's) are key in taking and influencing action on climate change due to the services they deliver, their regulatory functions, strategic functions, procurement powers and responsibilities as social landlords and major employers. This evidence supports that Redditch Borough Council should make carbon reduction key to what we do as a council.

Redditch Borough Council declared a climate emergency in 2019. On declaration of a climate emergency, an LA is affirming it will place the Climate Emergency at the centre of its decision-making process. LA's are then expected to develop carbon reduction targets and Implementation plans to assist in the reduction of carbon emissions, from their own council functions and, using their sphere of influence.

Our thanks go to Alex Pearson from Nottingham City Council and the Midlands Net Zero Hub for his support and work authoring this document.

This plan will be refreshed every 3 years, and reviewed annually. Progress against targets will be reviewed twice a year.

Climate Change is a very real and existing threat and is no longer an issue we can afford to ignore. Redditch Borough Council has acknowledged the climate and environmental crisis declaring a climate emergency.

Our outline Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan sets out how we will work collaboratively, to protect our future together in the uncertain times ahead.

To achieve our target date of carbon neutrality, we need to radically rethink how we live, work and invest in the Borough. To do this we have to work effectively.

We therefore call on you, as people who live, work, visit and invest in our borough, to join us in creating a Redditch Borough that is resilient to the impacts of climate change and work towards a zero carbon, sustainable future for all.

Councillor Jen Snape, Portfolio Holder



Figure 1 Councillor Jen Snape, Portfolio Holder – Climate Change



Figure 2 Sue Hanley - Chief Executive, Bromsgrove & Redditch Councils

Commitment & Integration

Background: The council is committed to carbon reduction through its declaration of a climate emergency in 2019. Our commitment to reducing our carbon emissions and influencing the reduction of local carbon emissions goes hand in hand with the 'net zero by 2050' target set by the UK Government, a goal that requires us and all sectors to pull together to achieve.

What we are currently doing? We have embarked on a journey of delivering Carbon Literacy Training to our Staff and Councillors and this will put climate action into the hands of everyone and can deliver between 5-15% real carbon savings per individual. Each of the council's service areas has contributed to this plan in order to produce 'carbon reduction pathways'. Through this approach carbon reduction will become 'business as usual' and truly embedded throughout the organisation. The Council employs a Climate Change and Energy Support Officer currently supported by an Environmental Policy and Awareness Officer, these posts are shared across both Bromsgrove & Redditch Councils. Each service area in Redditch Borough Council has been involved in the formulation of this plan and are committed to delivering the actions in the implementation plan.

What further actions are we going to take? This Plan will be our route map to 'net zero' for our internal activities. It will also highlight where we are trying to influence the reduction of carbon emissions from other places outside the council's activities.

The views of residents and partners are reflected in this plan and they have helped to shape the actions that we are going to take. We are committed to considering the environmental impact of our decisions as a council at every stage.

Our implementation plan (forming part of this strategy) will deliver real and quantifiable carbon reductions. This strategy will be monitored twice yearly by the Climate Change Panel within the council with annual progress reports being sent to the Executive committee. Key to the delivery of this strategy is the integration of plan objectives and targets with every aspect of council service delivery. To this end a collaborative approach involving all heads of service and their teams has been taken. We will link this strategy to corporate performance indicators, and provide a specific 'project based' focus for the council.

Our Key Successes and Top Five Future Actions

Key successes: The council has been successful in securing funding through to install new more efficient glazing, better heating controls and a heat pump at the town hall. When this project is completed over 100 tonnes of carbon emissions will be saved per year. Over the past year the council has also participated in a ‘micro mobility trial’ seeing hi tech electric scooters available for hire by Redditch residents. The crematorium has been supplying surplus heat to the Abbey Stadium leisure centre for nearly 10 years now, saving both costs and carbon emissions from the sports facility. Greenlands business centre has also received funding in order to improve the fabric of the building and install a low carbon heating system. We will be looking to continue these successes with similar projects as shown in the table below.

Top five future actions:

Measure	Estimated Saving in tonnes CO ₂	Service area	Target Completion Date / Review Date
Assess low carbon fleet fuel options	486	Environmental Services	Review Spring 2023, completion of fuel switch 2040
Refurbish Crossgates depot to include renewable energy & resource efficiency	100	Environmental & Housing Property Services / Legal, Democratic & Property Services	June 2023 for review
Apply for funding to improve energy efficiency of the council’s housing stock	250	Community & Housing Services	June 2023 for completion of some funded schemes
Set up a rolling programme of works to improve energy efficiency / renewable generation in the buildings with the highest consumption	100	Legal, Democratic & Property Services	Various deadlines for applications to the Salix funding scheme
Work with Rubicon leisure to further reduce carbon emissions at Abbey Stadium, Needle museum & Forge Mill visitor centre	66	Legal, Democratic & Property Services	Dec 2025

Partnership Working

Background: In order to deliver this it is vital that we work closely with our partners, in order to reduce the carbon emissions of the district as a whole. The councils own emissions are a small part of the overall figure and it is important that we use our sphere of influence to encourage others to address their own emissions. Shared learning is a powerful tool to enable carbon reduction and the council can both learn from and influence a wide range of stakeholders across the Borough. The council can also benefit from partnership working with county, regional and national organisations by seeking out and engaging the support that may be available.

What are we currently doing? We currently work closely on a borough level with partners such as 'Rubicon Leisure' who run our sports and leisure facilities. Rubicon Leisure have benefitted from council led actions to reduce energy usage at sites such as Abbey Stadium where waste heat from the crematorium makes a meaningful contribution to the facility's annual energy needs. Our Housing team work closely with Act on Energy, an energy advice charity - to advise tenants on the best ways to cut carbon and reduce bills. Our 'Local plan' will ensure that new developments meet new higher standards for building efficiency. We work closely with the county council to ensure that homes and businesses can benefit from the advice and grants that are made available through the sustainability team. The council is also part of the Joint Worcestershire and Herefordshire Waste Partnership group working towards waste reduction and better waste management across the county. We are also working closely with Worcestershire Regulatory Services to promote Electric Taxi's through the licencing system. Another county wide organisation that we enjoy a close working relationship with is the Local Enterprise Partnership and some of the targets set in this strategy reflect the LEP Energy Strategy of 2019. On a regional level we work with the Midlands Net Zero Hub on several carbon reduction projects (some of which form part of the implementation plan), the West Midlands Combined Authority, and Sustainability West Midlands. On a national Level we have recently worked with the Energy Saving Trust to look at carbon reduction options across our vehicle fleet.

What further actions are we going to take? Redditch Borough Council will continue to work with local, regional & national partners to share learning, refine our carbon reduction plans and make the best possible use of funding opportunities. We will investigate opportunities for carbon reduction with our suppliers and delivery partners whilst ensuring that our carbon reduction strategy is in line with the other Worcestershire district councils. We will work with Worcestershire Regulatory Services to investigate how we might develop street trading policy to encourage low carbon and sustainable trades to operate in the local area. We will also continue to explore options with Worcestershire County Council & local businesses to encourage walking and cycling to work

Community Engagement & Communication

Background: The residents of Redditch have expressed a wish for their council to address the climate emergency and lead the way through carbon reduction. A recent survey indicated that 85% of residents are concerned about climate change and the impact it is having and 76% told us that dealing with climate change should be a key priority for the Council.

What we are currently doing? Carbon reduction has a dedicated webpage on the council's site and there is consistent messaging around waste & Recycling. Community engagement events are held regularly on a diverse range of subjects relating to energy, waste & environment. The green fair & 'fun-day' is a key event to communicate the message of a low carbon future to the wider community and 2022 will see the return of this popular event in Arrow Valley Country Park. Within the council a regular electronic internal staff newsletter is used when there is news relating to carbon savings projects that staff should be aware of.

What further actions are we going to take? All service areas will have Email footers promoting carbon saving and resource reduction, we will update our website more regularly with news on carbon reduction in addition to regular e-mail newsletters and a refreshed social media policy. Develop a communications plan to promote biodiversity and land management actions within the authority and engage residents in conversations around increasing biodiversity in the residential settings, and the importance of biodiversity in relation to climate change. There are also opportunities at Arrow Valley Country Park to engage with the public on carbon reduction issues and we will work with our partner Rubicon Leisure to explore options. We will apply for funding to install further renewable technologies on the building in the park that serves as a visitor centre. Our housing teams will apply for funding to ensure that the council owned housing stock is as efficient as possible – taking carbon saving to the heart of the community. We will include energy efficiency advice in 'tenant packs' for householders moving into council housing in addition to information on waste & recycling. We will also seek to learn from other comparable local authorities in order to make the most of the opportunity presented by the 'Green Fair'.

Co – benefits

Co-benefits of Climate Action

- Addressing **air quality**, **mental health**, lifestyle **diseases** (heart disease, diabetes etc).
- Less pressure on the **NHS**.

- New **green jobs**.
- E.g. to **create** and **build** the necessary **infrastructure**, and to maintain new services.

- Safe, prosperous communities **for all**, regardless of status, wealth, race, religion etc.
- Accessibility** and mobility for residents.

Co-benefits of Climate Action

- Increased area or access to **green space**.
- Green spaces include **tree planting** but can also be created in less obvious projects.

- The ability to **prepare**, **recover** and **adapt** to climate impacts.
- This can be related to **extreme weather** events, access to **resources**, economic recovery etc.

- Climate actions that **raise money** for the **council**.
- These additional funds can be spent on other **green initiatives**.

Background: Co benefits can be described as an outcome linked to a carbon reduction action. An example could be cleaner air in a town centre as a benefit of the adoption of zero emission vehicles, or financial benefits accruing to the council as a result of energy efficiency measures. Co benefits can also be related to habitat creation and improved access to existing green spaces, development of the low carbon economy, skills and training or job creation and retention.

What we are currently doing? We are making use of our open spaces such as Arrow Valley Country Park to promote health and well-being through our cultural and leisure services in order to lift levels of physical activity. We are also delivering efficiency improvements to council owned housing stock and sheltered accommodation through a government funded scheme, which will improve living standards for the tenants and help reduce fuel poverty.

What further actions are we going to take? Clean air is an important co benefit associated with low and zero carbon transportation and we will continue to evaluate the most appropriate size and location of electric vehicle charge points. The council will examine the type of fuel used in its fleet vehicles in order to build on work commissioned from the Energy Savings Trust to assess the current fleet and provide guidance. Further the Council will promote reduced use of cars through active travel initiatives as part of its Leisure Strategy. If the council is successful in securing government funding for the retrofit of council housing stock, 200 households per year will see their living standards improved through energy and resource efficiency. Our new Parks Strategy will provide opportunities for further health & well-being co-benefits to the wider community through the use of our open spaces. The council will also look to use a standardised method of assessing co benefits to help inform investment decisions in the future. We will also assess how we can better signpost business to available funding in order to stimulate and grow the green economy within the Borough of Redditch.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

Background: Carbon reduction and social justice have historically gone hand in hand in support of the United Nations Sustainable development goals. Green spaces are open to all residents and facilities will continue to be improved. Through the Boroughs social housing it will be ensured that low carbon technologies and energy saving will not be the privilege of a select few.

What we are currently doing? As an employer and deliverer of services, **Redditch Borough Council** has stated in its Equality Strategy 2022-2026 that it is committed to eliminating unlawful discrimination, promoting equal opportunities and fostering good relations between people from all communities.

What further actions are we going to take? We can align our equality strategy with the United Nations Sustainable development goals, when the review occurs in 2026. We will work with local training providers to ensure that opportunities in the green economy are available to all. Redditch Borough Council will ensure that where funding is available to support green entrepreneurs from all backgrounds, it will be effectively applied.



Ecological emergency

Background: The natural environment is vital to the health and wellbeing of society and provides ‘eco system services’ to regulate our environment, produce clean air and pollinate our crops. An ecological emergency is when the natural environment has been damaged and the ability to provide ‘eco system services is reduced’. The ecological and climate emergencies are linked. Significant carbon dioxide emissions are caused by land use change, which is also a key driver for ecological loss. The interdependencies between the species in the natural world are not all fully understood and it is vital that we act to protect bio-diversity on a local, national and global level.

The borough of Redditch contains several areas of land ranked moderate to high value for conservation and wildlife. Corridors of land linking these areas are also important for the ecology of the area. In areas where the public has access co benefits such as improved health and well-being should be considered and opportunities explored.

What are we currently doing? Redditch Borough Council works closely with Worcestershire County Council to manage sites for wildlife where possible. Currently we are implementing new management techniques for road verges in certain agreed areas, this allows native species to flourish and set seed, whilst providing a useful wildlife corridor and habitat for pollinators. We also have a Water courses and wildlife scheme of work managing land to reduce flooding and improve diversity. Our woodland management plan ensures that individual trees and wooded areas are maintained across the borough. The council has been communicating this policy through a dedicated web page and newsletter, in order to keep the public informed.

What further actions are we going to take? Conduct a survey of council sites for wildlife, continue and expand wild verges policy. and ensure. We could also investigate the use of urban space for living walls, and investigate opportunities for local carbon offsetting through tree planting and habitat creation. We will ensure that any such schemes are appropriate and do not degrade the biodiversity value of the existing land. We will look to ensure that the right species in the right place will enhance bio-diversity in the local area. Communicating policies to protect the natural environment is key to public acceptance. The Council will develop a communications plan to promote biodiversity and land management actions within the authority. Where new facilities are planned we will include habitat creation and biodiversity from the start. Where landscapes and habitat areas are managed by the council we will look to eliminate petrol powered hand tools such as strimmers and chainsaws as soon as is practicable. The Council will ensure that new developments include biodiversity net gain. Amongst other things this means that if flora or fauna is to be lost from a site to enable development to occur, the biodiversity lost on site will be more than compensated off site, so that in biodiversity terms there is a net gain. So, for example a tree lost due to development would have to be replaced elsewhere in the Borough or biodiversity net gain provided in some other way. The Council via its parks could be a receiver of biodiversity net gain opportunities and the developer would be expected to make a contribution to the council for related management costs.

Education skills and training

Background: High quality jobs in the growing ‘clean tech’ sector will ensure that the borough of Redditch remains an attractive place for people to live and work. It is vital that we support our further education establishments to deliver high quality vocational training to our young people and those who wish to retrain for roles in the ‘Low carbon economy’. The ‘heart of Worcestershire College’ has a campus in Redditch and there are opportunities for local companies to provide apprenticeship places through national, regional and county wide schemes.

What are we currently doing? We are working with the Midlands Net Zero Hub to understand the findings of their ‘Low carbon Goods & Services’ study of Worcestershire. Potential skills gaps have been identified that our local further education providers could help resolve. We work with the colleges through the Redditch Partnership Executive Group, Redditch Towns Deal Board and both the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership and the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership on the skills agenda.

What further actions are we going to take? As part of the Towns Deal funding we are considering establishing a ‘Youth council’ to cover the issues surrounding climate change and ensuring that training is available for the future skills required for the low carbon economy in Redditch. We will work closely with further education training providers and both local enterprise partnerships to ensure that any new suitable funding streams can be sign posted. We will also continue to work with the Midlands Net Zero Hub to make use of the findings in the Low Carbon Goods and services report.

Governance, Development & Funding

Background: The climate emergency declaration means that the current governance structure of the council is used to provide direction and oversee delivery of low and zero carbon initiatives. Carbon reduction projects are currently developed within the council and resourced through existing service areas. To make the best use of council resources, other funds are sought in order to maximise carbon savings. Government funding for decarbonising homes and buildings becomes available periodically in funding 'rounds'. In addition to these funds from central government there are regional and county administered schemes that the council is able to make use of. There are also investment opportunities in areas such as renewable heat and power generation through joint ventures and direct investment.

What are we currently doing? Currently many of our community buildings and sheltered accommodation are benefitting from solar panels on the roof and other efficiency measures. The council has also been successful in securing over £1million from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for Redditch town hall and Greenlands Business Centre. There are over 200 tonnes of carbon savings per year associated with these projects. The council was also successful in bids for funding to improve its housing stock under the Local Authority Delivery Scheme (LADS) and this will not only yield carbon reductions but improve health and well-being for the residents.

What further actions are we going to take? The governance required to deliver this plan will be provided by the Climate Change Panel in order to monitor progress against targets and evaluate potential new projects, before submission to the Executive Committee. The council will ensure that it is in a position to take advantage of future funding opportunities by maintaining a pipeline of suitable projects, the steering group will have a role to play in recommending schemes and projects to the Executive, particularly where there is a resource implication. Where projects are funded directly through council resources, a measure of best value for carbon reduction will be applied in conjunction with affordability to ensure the most efficient and effective use of council resources.

Low Carbon Economy

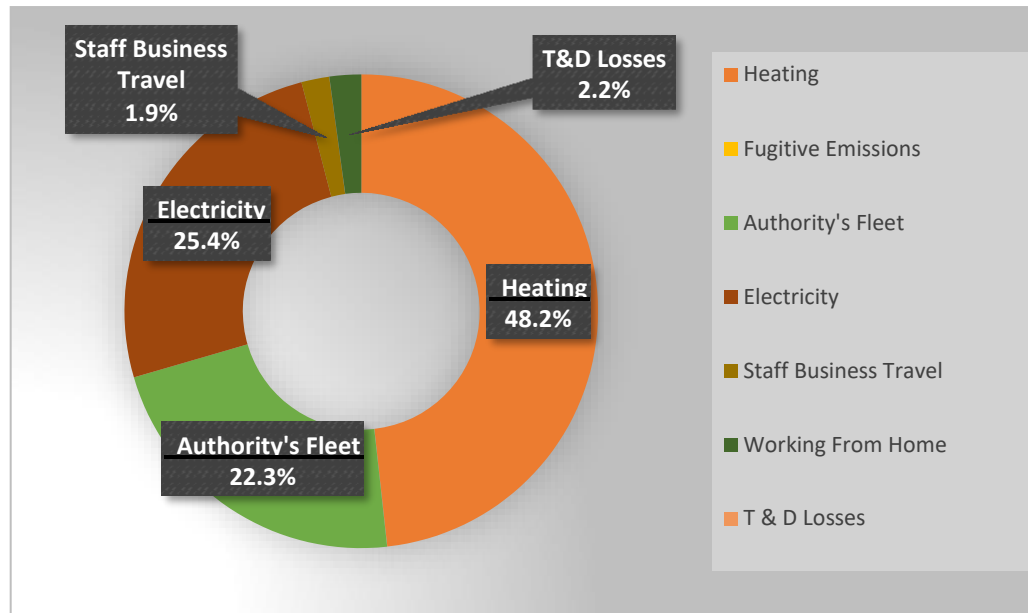
Background: The borough of Redditch has 17% of the overall Worcestershire sales figure for the low carbon economy. Redditch also has 25% of the companies engaged in this sector, and 14% of the total number of this sectors employees. The low carbon economy in Redditch grew by 14.6% in 2019/20 and employs 1,388 people across the borough. A breakdown of the local low carbon economy is shown below:



What are we currently doing? The economic strategy for Redditch is delivered by North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration. Appropriate grants administered by the County Council and others are signposted to local businesses. Both Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership and Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnerships have growth hubs that cover the area.

What further actions are we going to take? At present the low carbon economy does not feature in the 'North Worcestershire Economic Growth Strategy' document and when this strategy is reviewed, the opportunity will be taken to include the findings of the Midlands Net Zero Hub 'low Carbon Economy Goods & Services report'.

Measuring and setting emissions targets



A breakdown of the council's current carbon emissions is shown above

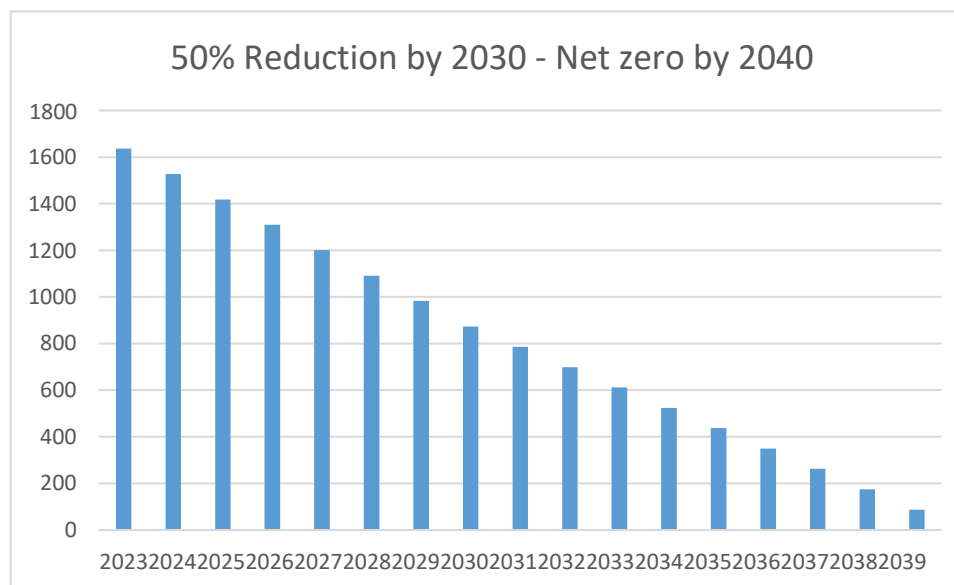
Background: Official carbon emission figures for the Borough of Redditch are currently available from the department of Business Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). These figures are for the activities that take place within the borough, the totals represent both the direct emissions from the activities of the council and the emissions that the council has influence over. All councils must be 'net zero' by 2050, this means that direct emissions from services must be as low as possible and the remaining emissions are likely to require 'offsetting'.

What are we currently doing? Redditch Borough Council is working hard to quantify and understand the emissions associated with our activities. By using the latest data resulting from this exercise we can set meaningful targets that inform our implementation plan and lead to effective carbon reduction projects and measures.

What further actions are we going to take? The council will re commence carbon reporting, and these figures will be used to monitor performance against this plan. Carbon reduction targets in line with the other Worcestershire districts are adopted through this plan in addition

to the Local Enterprise targets of 50% by 2030 and net zero by 2040. Currently the carbon emission figure for the Borough of Redditch is 326,000 tonnes per year (2019). As part of our current work to establish a figure for the council’s activities we have arrived at an estimated figure of 1,746 tonnes of carbon emissions per year for 2021. In order to reach an interim target of 50% by 2030 we will need to reduce our emissions by approximately 110 tonnes of carbon per year. To achieve net zero in the remaining 10 years to 2040 we will need a target of approximately 87 tonnes per year.

The implementation plan has been designed to deliver these savings and will be reviewed bi-annually by the Climate Change Panel and annually by the Executive Committee.



Mitigation & Adaptation

Background: The actions that the council can take to reduce carbon emissions and address the ecological emergency fall into two categories, measures that influence others and direct measures with an associated figure for carbon reduction. The first actions are to address the emissions associated directly with council activities such as service delivery. Mitigation is where we adapt our services to try and prevent the severity of climate change, Adaptation is where we have to change what we do as a consequence of the impacts of climate change we can't affect. Like selecting water resistant species in parks or emptying bins in the cooler part of the day as temperatures increase.

What are we currently doing? All heads of service and managers have provided input to help formulate this plan. Most of the mitigation and adaptation measures have grown from projects and practices that are already in place. As an organisation we appreciate that we can always do more, whilst recognising the resources that we have available within the council. Projects such as switching to a lower carbon fuel for our vehicle fleet and the low carbon heating installed in the town hall are key to reducing our emissions and playing out part in achieving the nationwide target of net zero by 2050.

What further actions are we going to take? The implementation plan included in this document details what we are going to do over the coming years and how much carbon we expect to save (for direct measures). The implementation plan has been produced from discussions with the heads of service covering all areas of council operations. We are continually improving the level of data that we have on the energy consumption of our buildings from the offices and buildings that we use for the delivery of our services, to our council owned housing stock. In terms of adaptation we must ensure that these buildings are able to maintain a comfortable internal temperature in winter but also to cope with hotter summers and extreme weather events. We could look at other actions that we could take to reduce the effects of climate change locally, for example increasing tree cover in urban areas to reduce the temperature in summer, or creating wetland habitat to control flooding. We have considered our transport fleet, our sports and leisure facilities (managed by Rubicon Leisure for us), our infrastructure and our natural environment and we are looking for carbon saving opportunities. We are also keen that the messages of carbon reduction, resource efficiency and nature conservation are communicated to our citizens in a clear and concise way through a variety of channels.

Waste & Recycling

Background: The 'Environment Act 2021' is a piece of legislation that affects all local authorities in England. The Bill will require us to deliver consistent and frequent recycling collections and it will also require us to operate weekly separate food waste collections, preventing food waste from going to landfill or being incinerated. Waste collection and disposal has carbon emissions associated with it. These emissions are from the vehicles that transport the waste, and whatever process the waste undergoes once disposed of.

What are we currently doing? Redditch Borough Council is a 'collection authority' and the disposal of the waste collected is the responsibility of Worcestershire County Council. Currently the County Council has a 'Waste Core Strategy' that covers the period to 2027. Our council website provides information to help residents find their local recycling centre, in addition to guidance on what can and can't be recycled. We also provide links to inform residents about waste reduction (The let's waste less programme). Teachers can find learning resources for schools on our web page and we are keen to encourage children to take the message of waste reduction and recycling home to their parents.

What further actions are we going to take? According to the 'Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) the recycling rates in the borough of Redditch are at 29% (2019 / 2020 figures). There is clearly more that we can do to promote waste reduction and recycling through existing channels and we will do this as part of a wider net zero communications strategy. New legislation will require changes to our waste collection service including the requirement for us to separate and collect food waste in the near future and we will investigate the potential to turn this waste into a resource through conversion to gas. (Anaerobic Digestion). We are working with the 5 other district Council's and the County Council through the Worcestershire Waste Partnership on how all the changes required by the Environment Act can be implemented.

Implementation Plan – Measures with quantified carbon savings

Measure	Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂	Service area	Target Completion Date / Review Date	Co- benefits	Comment
Assess low carbon fleet fuel options	486	Environmental & Housing Property Services	Review Spring 2024, completion of fuel switch 2040	Positive effect on local air quality. Healthier community	Vegetable oil as a replacement for diesel will be a transitional measure providing a pathway to other fuels such as hydrogen / biomethane or electricity. Use of EST fleet review data / Midlands Net Zero Hub electrification of council depots guide will assist with this measure. This measure will also require a report to Executive Committee regarding options and costs.
Refurbish Crossgates depot to include renewable energy & resource efficiency	100	Environmental & Housing Property Services / Legal Democratic & Property Services	Ongoing as Crossgates redevelopment is progressed	Positive effect on local air quality, continuation of the site secures employment. The project will help to facilitate a fuel swap to reduce vehicle emissions.	Successful grant applications required to maximise carbon savings for this project. The carbon saving figure is estimated at this stage

Measure	Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂	Service area	Target Completion Date / Review Date	Co- benefits	Comment
Set up a rolling programme of works to improve energy efficiency / renewable generation in the buildings with the highest consumption	100	Legal, Democratic & Property Services	Ongoing with regular review of all buildings	Reduction in running costs and contribution to net zero target.	Successful grant applications required to maximise carbon savings. Estimate based on 10 buildings saving a minimum of 20%
Improve energy efficiency of current housing stock making use of LADS and other government schemes	250	Environmental & Housing Property Services	To coincide with release of funding and ongoing deadlines as new funding is released	Important positive health outcomes for residents, enhanced health and well-being, reduction in fuel poverty	Key team members to receive training on Air Source heat-pumps. When work takes place on a property the opportunity to facilitate future low and zero carbon options will be considered.

Measure	Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂	Service area	Target Completion Date / Review Date	Co- benefits	Comment
Report on carbon saving as a result of streamlining operations	2	Transformation & Organisational Development	ongoing	Helps the council to put a value on carbon saving, and assists with the monitoring of this implementation plan	Good practice examples from other local authorities to be shared
Energy audit of server rooms to enable energy saving practices	1	Legal, Democratic & Property Services	To be completed by Dec 2024	Reduction in running costs and contribution to net zero target.	Assistance available from Midlands Net Zero Hub

Measure	Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂	Service area	Target Completion Date / Review Date	Co- benefits	Comment
Moving more IT capacity to cloud based servers	1	Transformation & Organisational Development	Review annually	Reduced running costs for the council in relation to IT	It should be ensured that cloud servers are using low carbon power sources in order for the carbon saving to be claimed
Reduce staff travel and make further use of video conferencing	0.5	All service areas	ongoing	Reduces the number of payments for staff travel and cuts down on unproductive travelling time	This measure fits in with the council's desire to further adopt agile working

Measure	Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂	Service area	Target Completion Date / Review Date	Co- benefits	Comment
Walk through energy assessment of shop mobility hub at kingfisher centre	1	Community & Housing Services	To be completed by Dec 2024	Reduced running costs for the council and contribution to overall carbon reduction target	Assistance available from Midlands Net Zero Hub
Implement Recommendations of the 2020 EST report for the 'grey fleet and include' Travel plans across all service areas and encouraging wider use / accessibility of public transport through partnership working	36	Transformation & Organisational Development Service./All Service areas	2025 to review progress.	Improvements in local air quality & Savings of £34k quoted in the EST report.	Travel plans are a low cost way of reducing emissions associated with staff travel. This measure will pre-empt the government's bans on the sale of petrol & diesel Vehicles. Ultimately one or more 'Electric pool cars' could be the aim for staff

Measure	Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂	Service area	Target Completion Date / Review Date	Co- benefits	Comment
Cut the council's paper waste by offering papers electronically	2.5	All Service Areas	Review by Spring 2024	Will save more money than it costs. Should be relatively easy to implement.	This is a measure that many other councils have implemented successfully
Work with Rubicon leisure to further reduce carbon emissions at Abbey Stadium, Needle museum & Forge Mill visitor centre	66	Legal, Democratic & Property Services/Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services / Environmental & Housing Property Services	Dec-25	Reduced running costs and contribution to overall carbon reduction target	Midlands Net Zero hub to assist with funding applications for this work
Grid decarbonisation	443	* Grid electricity to be net zero by 2035 - electricity use from the council & our service delivery partners			
Total of above measures	1046				
Target	1746				
Remainder	257				

Implementation Plan – Enabling Measures without quantified carbon savings

Measure	Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂	Service area	Target Completion Date / Review Date	Co- benefits	Comment
Assess the viability of Council Car Parks and other sites for EV chargers and work with Worcestershire County to Council to implement the County Wide Electric Vehicle strategy contributing to toward a comprehensive network for Worcestershire		EV Project Working Group	Projects to be aligned with funding deadlines where possible	Air quality & Health and Well-being benefits accrue to the wider area	We will consider carefully both on street and off street locations, to ensure that residents without off street parking will have more charging options where practical. Savings can be calculated when sizes of chargers and locations are known. Assessment of charger locations for council owned leased housing stock will also form part of this measure.
Investigate options for heating & cooling networks across the borough as part of a place based approach		Legal, Democratic & Property Services/Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Projects to be aligned with funding deadlines where possible	Air quality & Health and well-being benefits accrue to the wider area	Capacity Support available through Midlands Net Zero Hub

Measure	Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂	Service area	Target Completion Date / Review Date	Co- benefits	Comment
Work in partnership with Worcestershire County Council to Manage verges and other council owned parks and open spaces for nature		Environmental Services / Leisure Services	Ongoing	Benefits for nature, insects and pollinators, can act as wildlife corridors	Pilot scheme in progress. Can be one of a suite of schemes to help address the ecological emergency. This measure will require a report to Cabinet regarding areas and costs.
Eliminate petrol powered tools (chainsaws, etc)		Environmental & Housing Property Services / Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	Reviewed annually	Better working environment, less noise.	Legislation may bring the deadline forwards as petrol and diesel is banned in other areas

Measure	Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂	Service area	Target Completion Date / Review Date	Co- benefits	Comment
Continue to evaluate green tariffs and local energy purchase agreements		Finance & Customer Services / all service areas	Ongoing	Supports local renewable energy projects / creates a demand for renewable energy	Though the focus should always be demand reduction and renewable energy generation, green tariffs can be a good way to deal with any remaining carbon emissions
Use a recognised standardised carbon calculation methodology		Finance & Customer Services / all service areas	Ongoing	Improved accuracy of 'carbon accounting' can be applied to validate the claims of suppliers who tender for council contracts	The Treasury green book provides the methodology and standardised assumptions to be used.
Record the impact of financial decisions on carbon emissions as part of a wider aim to record emissions across all council operations		Finance & Customer Services	ongoing	Helps the council to put a value on carbon saving, and assists with the monitoring of this implementation plan	Essential to the monitoring of this plan

Measure	Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂	Service area	Target Completion Date / Review Date	Co- benefits	Comment
Include questions on Carbon to evaluate tenders for services during the procurement process		Legal, Democratic & Property Services	To be completed by Dec 2022	Helps the council to better understand emissions that are not directly in its control	This is the start of the councils journey to understand 'scope three' emissions (emissions other than those directly from fuel and power)
Mapping exercise to link forthcoming Parks & Open spaces strategy with this strategy		Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	To be confirmed when the open spaces strategy is complete	Better health and well-being outcomes for residents through improved access to open spaces / opportunities to engage with the natural environment	Opportunities for funding should be explored with Worcestershire County Council, such as the 'Natural Networks' scheme.

Measure	Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂	Service area	Target Completion Date / Review Date	Co- benefits	Comment
Review local plan where there is particular reference to renewables / provision for renewables in the future or heat networks		Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services.	To coincide with local plan review dates.	Ensures that local plan is in line with the other districts to avoid inconsistency in requirements for low & zero carbon technologies.	Good opportunities for learning and sharing best practice with the other districts of Worcestershire and beyond.
Reduce waste production across the borough		Environmental Services	ongoing	Co- benefits include reduction in direct emissions, but also fleet mileage of refuse collection vehicles leading in improvements to local air quality	Ongoing work with learning opportunities available from other local authorities.

Measure	Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂	Service area	Target Completion Date / Review Date	Co- benefits	Comment
Encourage zero carbon and sustainability through the supply chain		Finance & Customer Services / all service areas	Ongoing	Encourages further carbon savings where the council has influence and is a step towards addressing scope 3 emissions	This measure will be incorporated into the forthcoming 'Social Value Policy' This is also currently the subject of a study to produce template documents and procedures by GBSLEP.
Assess all existing assets and new assets for suitability for renewable energy generation and energy storage		Housing Property Services / Legal, Democratic & Property Services	Ongoing	New generation opportunities can contribute to the overall target and lead to cost savings / incomes for the council.	Ensures new opportunities are not missed, some of this work has been completed as part of a wider building energy audit process. Any projects identified will be subject to a detailed business case accompanying the proposal.

Measure	Estimated annual saving in tonnes CO ₂	Service area	Target Completion Date / Review Date	Co- benefits	Comment
Evaluate current e-micro - mobility pilot in Redditch (e-scooters) with a view to establishing a more permanent scheme		Planning, Regeneration and Leisure Services	To be confirmed when the current trial is complete	Increased mobility for residents without access to their own transport/ improved access to education and employment opportunities	Learnings from other Councils experience with cycle hire and micro mobility. Carbon savings can be estimated from the results of the evaluation. This project will require a report to Executive Committee regarding options and costs
Complete Carbon Literacy training for Corporate Management Team, 4th Tier managers and Councillors		All service areas	Ongoing	Better understanding of carbon reduction and related issues will	This programme is almost complete and the majority of CMT and tier 4 managers have received this training. Councillor training is being rolled out in 2022.

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APPENDIX 2

Redditch Carbon Reduction Strategy

September 2024 Review.

Introduction.

Globally, governments have committed to keep within 1.5oC increase in temperature to avoid catastrophic impacts from climate change. Government has committed to Net Zero by 2050. Local Authorities (LA's) are key in taking and influencing action on climate change due to the services they deliver, their regulatory functions, strategic functions, procurement powers and responsibilities as social landlords and major employers. This evidence supports that Redditch Borough Council should make carbon reduction key to what we do as a council.

Redditch Borough Council declared a climate emergency in 2019. On declaration of a climate emergency, an LA is affirming it will place the Climate Emergency at the centre of its decision-making process. LA's are then expected to develop carbon reduction targets and Implementation plans to assist in the reduction of carbon emissions, from their own council functions and, using their sphere of influence.

Redditch Borough Council developed and published its first carbon reduction strategy in 2022 and set this strategy to run for 3 years with a yearly review of progress to take place. The strategy is now in its second year and this report is assessing the progress so far on the measures outlined in the Carbon Reduction Strategy and sets out a set of actions to carry forward into the final year.

Following the final year review of the carbon reduction strategy in 2025 a new strategy will be produced to monitor progress through to 2030 and the target year to reach 50%.

To support with the development of the next iteration of RBC's carbon reduction strategy and to continue to work with services across RBC in their efforts to reduce their own carbon emissions recruitment is underway for a Graduate Climate Change Officer.

1. Assess low carbon fleet fuel options

Environmental services use of fuel now means each 4th tanker of fuel that fills up our tanks is HVO which is then used by all vehicles in the fleet. HVO can save up to 90% of the lifetime carbon emissions compared to traditional diesel. Environmental services are planning to increase the frequency of HVO only tanker deliveries to 1 in every 2.

We are undertaking a review of our fleet replacement programme, together with associated plant and machinery, and as part of this we are assessing the availability and affordability of alternative fuel options

A significant piece of work has been undertaken to assess the opportunities to replace the smaller fleet vehicles with electric vehicle equivalents. The aim is to purchase 60 new vehicles for the housing fleet over the next two years, with at least 10 of these being small electric vans. Work is

currently being undertaken with Zest to assess the feasibility of charging points within the depot to accommodate these vehicles.

2. Refurbish Crossgates depot to include renewable energy & resource efficiency

The refurbishment or redevelopment of Crossgates is still in the planning stage and is subject to funding before progressing. However, RBC is working with its EV charge point contractor Zest to explore the feasibility of installing EV charge points at Crossgates to serve fleet vehicles as part of the transition away from internal combustion engines.

3. Set up a rolling programme of works to improve energy efficiency / renewable generation in the buildings with the highest consumption.

Abbey Stadium.

Funding has been secured to undertake the install of solar PV on the main leisure centre building at the stadium. Currently the project is in the design phase to ensure the eventual PV array is able to extract the most sunlight possible and ensure the system works as efficiently as possible for the building.

Further to the Solar PV installs there are plans to improve the Building Energy Management System (BEMS) at Abbey Stadium. RBC have secured £382,311 of grant funding to undertake these works,

In addition there are ongoing discussions with the district network operator on connecting to the grid to allow the installation of EV charge points on the car park at Abbey Stadium. RBC is working with its EV charging contractor Zest to progress this.

Crematorium

Plans are in place to further improve the BEMS at the Crematorium and Abbey Stadium to improve the efficiency of the heat recovery system in place between the Crematorium and Abbey Stadium. Additionally there are further plans to upgrade the lighting system to an LED system in the building.

Pitcher Oak Golf Course

There are ongoing discussions with the district network operator on connecting to the grid to allow the installation of EV charge points on the car park at Pitcher Oak Golf Course. RBC is working with its EV charging contractor Zest to progress this.

Greenlands Business Park

EV charging installs are being explored at the business park the contractor Zest, and there are ongoing legal discussions underway with the landlords of the site.

Forge Mill Car Park (EV)

Discussions are underway to assess the viability of installing EV charge points at this location

Arrow Valley Car Park (EV)

EV charging is challenging on this site as there are challenges with connection to the grid, and further challenges with the limited parking spaces at this location.

Trafford Car Park (EV)

This site is still to be explored for viability for EV charging.

EV charging across RBC's car parks is supported by the £2.1 million partnership with Zest to deliver EV charging infrastructure across the borough over the next 15 – 20 years. Leases to the first 5 sites across both councils have been signed and we are therefore gearing up to the commencement of the first installations in January 2025. There is no cost to the council, we attract a 10% margin of the profit share.

In addition to the work being undertaken on RBC and Rubicon Leisure buildings and car parks, work is beginning on the commercial estate to bring these buildings up to an EPC C by 2027.

4. Improve energy efficiency of current housing stock making use of LADS and other government schemes

LAD3

In 2023 RBC completed the LAD 3 programme which saw 18 low income owner occupier households across the borough receive energy efficiency measures. Of these homes 4 were moved up to an EPC B, 11 to EPC C, and 3 to EPC D from their previous EPC rating on average saving 28.1 tonnes of carbon per year and an average of 2.7 tonnes of CO2 per household per year.

SHDF Wave 2.1

- Works to be completed by September 2025
- Projected savings of 1,120,000kWh

Annual Carbon Savings in excess of 200 Tonnes to be measured by the Digitalisation element of this programme

5. Create measures in the performance dashboard for carbon saving as a result of streamlining operations.

Performance measures are to be built into the next version of the carbon reduction strategy in 2025 to enable further accountability and insights at service level to ensure all services are able to see their carbon impact and put in place actions to ensure the services contribute to the council's wider carbon reduction.

6. Energy audit of server rooms to enable energy saving practices.

Dates in early 2025 to be agreed with MNZH and facilities management to undertake these audits with report to follow.

7. Moving more IT capacity to cloud-based servers

Staff travel from home to the office is not recorded in this data set or that RBC staff share services and roles with Bromsgrove District Council. Furthermore, where a service has its budgets lines set may also impact on this trend.

9. Walk through energy assessment of shop mobility hub at kingfisher centre

Shopmobility is moving from the office in the car park to a unit within the kingfisher shopping centre. It will be out by Primark where our customer services currently are. The move will bring carbon benefits due to requiring less heating and there will be a reduction of scooters but leasing of a more efficient fleet of scooters. The move is due to take place in January 2025.

10. Implement Recommendations of the 2020 EST report for the 'grey fleet and include' travel plans across all service areas

The move to agile working has contributed to reduction in staff mileage across RBC and having a positive impact upon CO2 emissions. Services are also actively working to ensure journey planning is done in the most efficient way where practically possible, and by holding meetings online to reduce the need for staff to travel to office locations.

Outside of direct influence of RBC, the growth of electric vehicle sales, and more efficient vehicles on the road will also have an impact on grey fleet emissions over time.

11. Work with Rubicon leisure to further reduce carbon emissions at Abbey Stadium, Needle Museum & Forge Mill visitor centre.

Abbey Stadium.

Grant funding has been secured to undertake the install of solar PV on the main leisure centre building at the stadium during 2025. Currently the project is in the design phase to ensure the eventual PV array is able to extract the most sunlight possible and ensure the system works as efficiently as possible for the building.

Further to the Solar PV installs there are plans to improve the Building Energy Management System (BEMS) at Abbey Stadium.

In addition, there are ongoing discussions with the district network operator on connecting to the grid to allow the installation of EV charge points on the car park at Abbey Stadium. RBC is working with its EV charging contractor Zest to progress this.

Forge Mill Car Park (EV)

Discussions are underway to assess the viability of installing EV charge points at this location

Conclusion.

This report will be the last review report of the current carbon reduction strategy for RBC. In 2025 the next iteration of the Carbon Reduction Strategy will be produced taking into account the learning and outcomes of this 3-year strategy, and with a view to taking the next strategy up to 2030 and the point in which RBC is aiming to be 50% net zero.

In addition, recruitment is underway for a Graduate Climate Change officer to support and add additional resource to RBC to continue its journey to net zero and support services in contributing to achieving their climate change goals.

The measures covered in the current Carbon Reduction Strategy doesn't cover all the work that Redditch Borough Council is doing to tackle climate change more broadly. This includes work being undertaken to improve biodiversity across the borough, working with developers to ensure house building is to the most energy efficient standard, and working to support the boroughs industrial sector with their journeys to net zero.