

**CARBON REDUCTION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

<b>Relevant Portfolio Holder</b>	Councillor Anthony Lovell
<b>Portfolio Holder Consulted</b>	Yes
<b>Relevant Head of Service</b>	Judith Willis, Guy Revans
<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Name:</b> Judith Willis <b>Job Title:</b> Head of Community and Housing Services <b>Contact email:</b> Judith.willis@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk <b>Contact Tel:</b> Ext 3348
<b>Wards Affected</b>	No specific ward relevance.
<b>Ward Councillor(s) consulted</b>	N/A
<b>Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)</b>	Communities which are safe, well maintained & green
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 RECOMMEND that

The Council's Carbon Reduction Strategy and Action Plan be endorsed and adopted

**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1. 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.

2.2 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.

- 2.3 Redditch Borough Council declared a climate emergency at Council on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019. On declaration of a climate emergency, an LA is 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.
- 2.4 Each of the council's service areas have contributed to the Carbon Reduction Strategy and Action Plan (attached as 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.
- 2.5 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. Redditch Borough Council undertook a residents consultation in 2020 and a partners consultation in 2021 to gather an understanding of how our residents and partners wanted us to react to the climate emergency. Questions were asked around energy, renewables, travel, transport, biodiversity and land management. The consultation ran online and was very successful with nearly 500 responses in Redditch.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 Delivery of this strategy and Implementation plan will need to be properly managed with both project management and service support. Whilst we currently have a climate change officer in post who covers both Redditch and Bromsgrove, it is acknowledged that given the importance of this area of work additional staffing resources are required at a more strategic level. The Climate Change Officer is currently supported by an Environmental Policy and Awareness Officer, with both posts shared across both Redditch and Bromsgrove Councils. The latter post has been assisting greatly with this agenda but it is likely this postholder will be required to return fully to Environmental Services in light of the major changes to waste services that will be required over the next few years, as a result of the Environmental Act 2021 and the government's Waste and Resources Strategy 2018. The additional staffing resource required to deliver this agenda will form part of the financial budget bid process later this year.

- 3.3 All projects and proposals detailed in the action plan that are not currently resourced and which have financial implications, will be 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.
- 3.4 The 3 year Implementation plan identifies that the latest carbon emission figure for Redditch Borough Council is 1,746 tonnes.. In order to reach an interim target of 50% by 2030 we will need to reduce our emissions by approximately 110 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year. To achieve net zero in the remaining 10 years to 2040 we will need a target of approximately 87 tonnes of savings per year. Officers will work on proposals to close this gap with initiatives needing to be fully costed and included in the medium term financial strategy. In addition, closing this gap will be a key factor in reviewing the Strategy and Implementation Plan in 2025 and addressing this in the next 3 year Strategy

**4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 sets the legally binding UK-wide target to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 Chapter 14 of the National Planning Policy Framework covers meeting the challenge of climate change.

**5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS**

**Relevant Strategic Purposes**

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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 lower importance from a carbon reduction point of view, but which contribute to the overall greening of the authority.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 To deliver on the Council's declaration of a climate emergency, it will be essential that carbon reduction projects are prioritised. Further that there is Officer capacity to deliver on the Strategy's Action Plan and the ability to secure appropriate grants and sufficient resources to deliver the targets.

**6. Climate Change Implications**

- 6.1 This Strategy is specifically to achieve carbon reduction and net zero for our internal activities. Further, the Strategy also identifies our influencing role in supporting the reduction of carbon emissions from other organisations eg our contractors.
- 6.2 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. 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.
- 6.3 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

**7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 7.1 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.

**Operational Implications**

- 7.2 The proposals set out in the Action Plan will 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.
- 7.3 This Strategy and Action Plan will be our route map to 'net zero' for our internal activities. It also highlights where we are trying to influence the reduction of carbon emissions from other places outside the council's activities.
- 7.4 This plan will be refreshed every 3 years, and reviewed annually. Progress against targets will be reviewed twice a year and by the Climate Change Panel and annually by Executive.
- 7.5 The key actions of the strategy and action plan will provide the focus, steer and priority for the Climate change Panel for the next 3 years.

**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 reviewed a by an Internal Officer Group and the Climate Change Panel will receive regular reports on progress and at least twice yearly.
- 7.3 Failure to provide adequate resources will mean an increased risk that the strategy and action plan will not be delivered.

**8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Appendix 1 – Carbon Reduction Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2025

**9. REPORT SIGN OFF**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Name and Job Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Anthony Lovell Portfolio Holder for Climate Change	4.10.2022
Lead Director / Head of Service	Judith Willis Head of Community & Housing Services Guy Revans Head of Environmental and Housing Property Services	16.08.22
Financial Services	Peter Carpenter Interim Director of Finance	17.08.22
Legal Services	Clare Flanagan Principal Solicitor	16.08.22
Policy Team	Deb Poole Head of Transformation, Organisational Development & Digital Services	18.08.22
Climate Change Officer	Kath Manning Climate Change Officer	16.08.22