

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

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

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

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.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 Carbon Reduction Strategy.

Appendix 2 Carbon Reduction Strategy Review.

**Executive
Committee**

26/11/2024

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