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**Climate Change Strategy 2026 - 2031**

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| Relevant Portfolio Holder  | Councillor Jen Snape ( <i>Councillor Snape was the relevant Portfolio Holder on the date of the Executive Committee meeting</i> ) |
| Portfolio Holder Consulted   | Yes   |
| Relevant Assistant Director  | Judith Wills  |
| Report Author  | Job Title: Climate Change Manager<br>Contact email:<br>matthew.eccles@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk<br>Contact Tel: 07816112073    |
| Wards Affected   | All   |
| Ward Councillor(s) consulted   | N/A   |
| Relevant Council Priority  | The green thread  |
| 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 is asked to RECOMMEND that:-**

- 1) The Council's Climate Change Strategy 2026–2031 be approved; and**
- 2) an annual review of the Climate Change Strategy be reported to Council.**

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Redditch Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and committed to place climate considerations at the centre of decision-making. The proposed Climate Change Strategy 2026–2031 updates and replaces the previous Carbon Reduction Action Plan and sets out the pathway to Net Zero by 2040 for the Council's own operations, with a 50% reduction by 2030.
- 2.2 The Strategy aligns with the UK statutory target of Net Zero by 2050 and international commitments under the Paris Agreement; it also reflects the Council Plan's green thread, embedding climate action across services.

- 2.3 The Strategy focuses on priority themes where the Council has direct control or significant influence:
- **Buildings – council estate** (energy efficiency and renewables),
  - **Residential buildings** (retrofit & fuel poverty),
  - **Transport** (fleet decarbonisation, EV infrastructure, active travel),
  - **Planning & land use** (policies, Future Homes Standard readiness)
  - **Biodiversity** (BNG delivery, parks, nature recovery),
  - **Waste & food** (recycling, weekly food waste collections, Anaerobic Digestion feasibility),
  - **Collaboration & engagement** (partners, businesses, communities), and
  - **Governance & finance** (training, procurement, reporting).
- 2.4 **Evidence base highlights (baseline & progress):**
- **Domestic retrofit:** £1.81 million has been invested in social housing energy efficiency upgrades, alongside £260,000 for private home retrofits, with further funding streams set to deliver £4.27 million of improvements to council housing stock.
  - **Council energy:** Energy consumption across council buildings has fallen by 20% since 2021, supported by solar PV installations and a 100% green energy tariff.
  - **Area emissions context:** DESNZ local authority GHG statistics (2005–2023) provide the latest official picture for Redditch and Worcestershire. Emissions continue to decline, with Redditch achieving 3.5 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per capita in 2023, below regional and national averages

### **3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

- 3.1 **Delivery approach.** A cross-service programme will coordinate actions and contribute to delivering on the strategies milestones and outcomes, overseen by the Climate Change Manager. The Climate Change team also provide services with the expertise and guidance is required.
- 3.2 **Governance.** The Strategy will be embedded in the Council's performance framework with annual Cabinet reporting. Climate implications are already a standard section in committee reports; options to introduce a simple climate impact assessment tool for officers to utilise.
- In addition, Assistant Directors will incorporate actions from the strategy within their service business plans and include date bound targets that will form part of the plans quarterly monitoring and reporting

Furthermore, to support tracking progress with the strategies milestones and outcomes a dashboard is being developed to allow the council to see the impact of these actions in terms of carbon savings and impacts on our residents.

- 3.3 **Partnerships.** Continued collaboration with Worcestershire County Council (e.g., LEVI on-street charging), Rubicon Leisure, Registered Providers, Act on Energy, Midland Net Zero Hub, Worcestershire Regulatory Services, will maximise delivery capacity and funding leverage.
- 3.4 **Current Activity.** Key operational programmes include: PV at Abbey Stadium and lighting upgrades across the estate; Warm Homes retrofit; expansion of EV charging (including support to WCC's LEVI rollout); preparation for separate weekly food waste collections; and biodiversity improvements (mowing regimes, equipment electrification).

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The strategy will be delivered through a mix of existing revenue budgets, invest-to-save business cases, Capital Programme bids, and external funding as required by service areas. Any additional funding that requires an amendment to the Council's Budget Framework will be reported through the Executive Committee to Council.
- 4.2 The climate Change team will work with the Finance Services team to profile costs, savings, and funding sources through the Medium-Term Financial Plan, ensuring robust whole-life business cases. The Council will explore funding opportunities and partnerships with the private sector to bring in inward investment to the borough to deliver climate change projects.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 **Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).** Under the Environment Act 2021, a mandatory minimum 10% BNG applies to qualifying planning applications (major developments from 12th February 2024; small sites from 2nd April 2024). The strategy supports implementation through development management and local plan policy.
- 5.2 **Waste and recycling reforms.** The Government's Simpler Recycling requirements standardise collections nationally; separate household food waste collections are required by 31st March 2026, subject to transitional provisions. Preparatory work is underway to ensure operational readiness (collection systems, communications, and processing).

- 5.3 **Procurement and contracts.** Delivery will align with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and proposed sustainable procurement updates, incorporating whole-life carbon and social value where proportionate and lawful.

**6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS**

**Local Government Reorganisation**

- 6.1 Any structural changes will be monitored. Programme sequencing (e.g., fleet transition and depot infrastructure) will be reviewed to minimise stranded costs, maintain service continuity, and align with any future operating model.
- 6.2 The strategy is constructed in a way that will allow it to be adapted to the new unitary authority.

**Relevant Council Priority**

- 6.2 The strategy gives effect to the green thread within the Council Plan by reducing emissions, improving resilience, lowering energy costs, and supporting a greener local economy.

**Climate Change Implications**

- 6.3 Approval will enable the Council's primary framework to reduce operational and area-wide emissions, improve air quality, and support adaptation and nature recovery.

**Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 6.4 Actions are designed to reduce fuel poverty and improve health outcomes (e.g., domestic retrofit, air quality). Equality Impact Assessments will be completed for major programmes to ensure fair access and mitigate unintended impacts.
- 6.5 All documents will be produced accessibly in line with the Council's corporate accessibility guidance.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 **Funding availability and affordability** – *Mitigation:* phased delivery, external grant maximisation, robust invest-to-save business cases.  
**Market capacity and supply chain constraints** – *Mitigation:* early engagement, framework procurement, regional collaboration (e.g., Midlands Connect / MNZH).  
**Operational disruption during works** – *Mitigation:* programme planning around service needs, contractor management, stakeholder communications.  
**Policy and regulatory change** – *Mitigation:* horizon scanning, flexible delivery plans, governance oversight.  
**Data quality and benefits realisation** – *Mitigation:* climate dashboard, baselines and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs); regular monitoring and reporting.

8. **APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Climate Change Strategy 2026 - 2031

**Executive Committee**  
2026

17<sup>th</sup> March

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**9. REPORT SIGN OFF**

| <b>Department</b>                  | <b>Name and Job Title</b>                         | <b>Date</b> |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| Portfolio Holder                   | Councillor Jen Snape                              | 19/02/2026  |
| Lead Director / Assistant Director | Judith Wills                                      | 19/02/2026  |
| Financial Services                 | Debra Goodall                                     | 19/02/2026  |
| Legal Services                     | Nicola Cummings, Principal Solicitor - Governance | 14/01/2026  |
| Policy Team                        | Rebecca Green                                     | 19/02/2026  |
| Climate Change Team                | Matthew Eccles                                    | 19/02/2026  |