

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
13 MARCH 2024	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Adrian Chapman, Executive Director for Place and Economy	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Gavin Elsey, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change	
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COUNCIL CARBON FOOTPRINT 2022/23

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Adrian Chapman, Executive Director of Place and Economy	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee:</p> <p>1) review the data in the council’s Carbon Footprint; and</p> <p>2) consider items for inclusion in the council’s roadmap to net zero.</p>	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 The report has been requested by the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 This report is brought to the Scrutiny Committee to share the Council Carbon Footprint 2022/23. Councillors may wish to provide comments on the update and consider items for inclusion in the council’s roadmap to net zero.

2.2 This report is for the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by Council:

- 4. Climate Change;
- 5. Reducing Carbon Emissions and achieving Net Zero Carbon Emissions;

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 Background

On 24 July 2019, the council declared a climate emergency. The council then approved and adopted the first Council Carbon Management Action Plan in March 2020, and the council agreed to update this Action Plan annually. This report is the 5th in a series of reports monitoring the

council's carbon footprint over time.

4.2 **Report overview**

The Council Carbon Footprint 2022/23 is brought to the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee for discussion. The data presented in this report will be the foundation for the council's roadmap to net zero. The roadmap will outline the actions the council will undertake to reach net zero by 2030. Any suggestions from the Scrutiny Committee on items to be included in the roadmap will be considered.

4.3 **Carbon footprint**

The council calculates its Carbon Footprint annually. This year, all previous carbon footprints have also been recalculated due to a decision taken to re-evaluate the council's organisational boundaries, which determine what is counted in the council's footprint and how this data is presented. The Carbon Footprint reported consists of emissions which the council has operational control over, and therefore can use to generate viable actions to reduce emissions to net zero. A Carbon Footprint Plus has also been proposed which includes emissions such as those arising from purchased goods and services and council-owned buildings which we do not operate. This dataset is incomplete, and so has not been reported. The roadmap to net zero will consist of detailed plans to address emissions in the Carbon Footprint, as well as policies to address emissions in the Carbon Footprint Plus, whilst acknowledging that the full impact of this cannot be measured as full baseline data does not yet exist.

In 2022/23 the council's Carbon Footprint totalled 7,867 tonnes CO₂e. Emissions have reduced from the previous financial year by 667 tonnes CO₂e (7.8% decrease), particularly those related to electricity, a reduction which can be attributed both to decreased energy use and to decarbonisation of the national grid. There has been an emissions reduction of 3,148 tonnes CO₂e (28.6%) compared to the 2018/19 baseline. The council's most significant area of emissions is from buildings, with 56% of organisational emissions, with 27% from transport. Emissions from Peterborough Limited, which is wholly owned by the council, account for 51.7% of emissions (this includes some emissions from both buildings and fleet).

Until June 2022, the council purchased 97% of its electricity use through a green electricity tariff. From this time point it reverted to a standard tariff, and so net emissions have increased relative to the previously reported years. Using a market-based emissions approach, this tariff helped reduce net emissions to 7,389 tonnes CO₂e. 1,209 MWh of electricity was generated via solar panels across the council's estate. Some of this electricity will have been used on site, with some exported to the national grid.

Estimates have been used for some data based on other recent data, although work to streamline and improve the data collection process is ongoing.

4.4 **Progress on 2022 commitments**

The most recent Council Climate Change Action Plan was adopted by council in June 2023. This report details progress made on the commitments during the months since its adoption; work will continue to complete the commitments over time. Key achievements include the significant level of funding secured for tree planting and research, expanding the carbon literacy training offer and the upcoming installation of LED lighting in council buildings.

4.5 **Roadmap to net zero**

Previous iterations of the Carbon Footprint have suggested commitments to be pursued in the upcoming year, but in order to align these commitments with the longer-term council roadmap to net zero, which is currently in development, future commitments will be drafted as part of the roadmap process and are therefore not included in this report. The following aspects will be considered during project selection.

- Project cost. Projects which could be funded by external grants or will offer financial savings may be prioritised.
- Potential impact to emissions. Projects with the highest potential impact to emissions may be prioritised.

- Ease of implementation. Staffing resources must be utilised efficiently to ensure that maximal projects can be delivered.
- Public demonstration. The council has an important leadership role in demonstrating how projects which tackle climate change can be completed to other organisations and businesses.

The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee are invited to propose inclusions for consideration within the roadmap to net zero.

5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 5.1 The Carbon Footprint 2022/23 details the Council's emissions. The council plays a leadership role in demonstrating good practice, so the council's pursuit of and reporting on emissions reductions may have an indirect impact on citywide emissions.

Carbon Impact Assessment: This report provides an update on the council's Carbon Footprint and actions which have been taken to reduce emissions. Future actions to reduce emissions are not included in this report as they will depend on the findings of the roadmap to net zero, scheduled for completion in Summer 2024. However, the data in this year's Carbon Footprint, the recalculated baseline Carbon Footprint data in this report, and the clarified organisational boundaries for carbon footprinting in this report all feed into the development of the roadmap to net zero and therefore have an indirect impact on policy to reduce council emissions.

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Financial savings are expected to be made through the reduced energy consumption through LED lighting.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Relevant officers have input into the report to comment on progress on the 2023 commitments.

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 7.1 It is anticipated that councillors note the update to the Carbon Footprint and the progress on the commitments made within the 2023 Council Climate Change Action Plan and consider items for inclusion in the council's roadmap to net zero.

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 The Council has previously committed to the actions of preparing an updated Carbon Footprint and providing updates on the progress on the actions committed to within the previous Council Climate Change Action Plan.

The document for consideration has been developed by officers and will be used as the foundation of the council's roadmap to net zero.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 The option of not preparing a council Carbon Footprint is dismissed, because Council has already committed in principle to its preparation. This report could have proposed further projects for the coming year to reduce the council's emissions, as have been included in prior Council Climate Change Action Plans. However, as the council's roadmap to net zero is under development and due to be completed within the next few months, the decision was taken to wait to make commitments until the findings of the roadmap are known. This report could have also included data on the Council Carbon Footprint Plus, but as data is incomplete the decision was taken to continue to collect this data but not report it at this time.

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

10.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

Legal Implications

10.2 There are no direct legal implications associated with this report.

Equalities Implications

10.3 There are no equality implications associated with this report.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

11.1 [Peterborough City Council's declaration of a climate emergency, July 2019](#)
[Council Carbon Management Action Plan, March 2020](#)
[Council Carbon Management Action Plan - Progress Report, March 2021](#)
[Council Carbon Management Action Plan, June 2022](#)
[Council Climate Change Action Plan, June 2023](#)

12. APPENDICES

12.1 Appendix 1 - Council Carbon Footprint 2022/23