

Cabinet	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
19 June 2023	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Adrian Chapman, Executive Director of Place and Economy	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Nigel Simons, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change	
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2023 Council Climate Change Action Plan

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee	Deadline date: 19 th June 2023
It is recommended that Cabinet:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Endorses the 2023 Council Climate Change Action Plan; and 2. Recommends that Full Council adopts the 2023 Council Climate Change Action Plan. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following referral from the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee on the 28 February 2023.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to share the Council Climate Change Action Plan. Should the plan be supported by Cabinet, it will be considered for adoption by Council.
- 2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.14, '*... making recommendations to Council about proposed changes to the Council's major policy and budget framework.*'

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	YES	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	19 June 2023
Date for relevant Council meeting	21 June 2023	Date for submission to Government Dept. <i>(Please specify which Government Dept.)</i>	N/A

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. Council agreed to update this action plan annually. This report is the fourth edition of a climate change action plan to reduce emissions across the council.

4.2 **Report overview**

The Council Climate Change Action Plan is brought to Cabinet to seek support ahead of seeking adoption at Council.

4.3 **Carbon footprint**

The Council calculates its carbon footprint annually. In 2021/22 the Council emitted 13,647 tonnes CO₂e. Emissions have reduced from the previous financial year, primarily through the reduction in emissions from purchased goods and services within the Peterborough Highways Service. Another key action to reduce emissions is the use of HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) fuel instead of diesel within this contract. HVO releases 90% less CO₂e per litre of fuel in comparison to diesel. This occurred partway through the financial year, so vehicle emissions are expected to reduce further in future years.

1,224 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.

The Council purchased 95% of its electricity use through a green electricity tariff, which reduced net emissions to 9,927 tonnes CO₂e. When considering net emissions (i.e., with consideration of the green electricity tariff), the Council's most significant areas of emissions are the goods and services purchased through the highways contract (4,809 tonnes CO₂e), Council purchased gas (2,780 tonnes CO₂e) and Aragon-owned transport (1,670 tonnes CO₂e).

An assumption for the amount of waste produced from Council buildings has been used (based on previous financial years). Officers have identified improvements that are required for this data collection, which will be performed for future calculations. Using assumed data is not expected to significantly impact the overall data or conclusions as it represents under 1% of the council's emissions.

Progress in the last year

4.4 The previous report was adopted by council in June 2022. This report details progress made on some of the commitments since its adoption; work will continue to complete these commitments. Below are some highlights from the previous year:

- The council received funding for the development of heat decarbonisation plans for 14 of the council's buildings. Suitable energy efficiency measures and low carbon heating installations were identified for each building and estimated costs and suggested project timelines were proposed. This was completed in March 2023. Analysis of these plans will help aid future decarbonisation plans. In total, energy efficiency studies have been completed for 25 of the council's highest emitting buildings.
- The council has been successful in recent funding applications to fund the planting and establishment of trees. £261,100 was received through Treescape 1 for planting and establishing trees in 2021/22, and £299,900 was received through Treescape 2 for tree planting and establishment in 2022/23. In addition, the council has also been successful in receiving funding through the Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund to employ an officer and work with PECT to develop tree planting plans and seek additional funding. (£149,800).
- HVO has continued to be used in the Peterborough Highways Service, delivering a 90% reduction in emissions in comparison to diesel.
- The council is working with Aragon to optimise climate friendly practices. Aragon is trialling the use of glyphosate alternatives as weedkillers this summer. Previous trials have included the use of a biodegradable foam-based solution to kill weeds.

- The council will continue to support the highways contractor to seek PAS2080 accreditation, which is a standard associated with carbon management in infrastructure projects.

Proposed 2023 commitments

4.5 There are several commitments proposed within the report. These include the development of a roadmap to net zero emissions, installation of solar panels and LED lighting for suitable buildings, and implementation of a carbon reduction procurement plan to support suppliers to reduce emissions. It is recommended that selection of projects considers the following aspects:

- 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.

Several of the proposed commitments are expected to deliver co-benefits which align with council priorities.

These three areas: reducing Council emissions; reducing city emissions; and adapting to climate change, form the main focus of the climate change programme.

5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5.1 The Economy & Inclusive Growth

The proposed commitments for the upcoming year will decrease carbon emissions, through reduced electricity consumption, decreased staff travel and increased carbon capture through tree planting.

There are several commitments which aim to empower staff and councillors to develop carbon reduction projects. Additional projects that reduce carbon emissions will likely be brought forward and have not yet been identified.

The Council Climate Change Action Plan focuses on actions that can reduce Council emissions rather than city wide emissions, however the council does play a leadership role in demonstrating good practices and therefore may have an impact on wider emissions.

Sustainable Future City Council

Financial savings are expected to be made through the generation of electricity from solar panels and the reduced energy consumption through LED lighting.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 Relevant officers have input into the report to comment on progress on the 2022 commitments and propose commitments for the 2023 action plan.

The paper has been considered by the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee. There were no changes suggested for the upcoming 2023 commitments.

6.2 The report has been considered by the Corporate Leadership Team .

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

7.1 It is anticipated that Cabinet recommends that the Council adopts the 2023 Council Climate Change Action Plan.

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

8.1 The Council has previously committed to the action of preparing an updated Council Climate Change Action Plan.

The 2023 Council Climate Change Action Plan was supported by the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee in February 2023.

The Action Plan has been developed by officers and has taken account of reasonable and viable options for the Council to cut its carbon emissions.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 The option of not preparing a Council Climate Change Action Plan is dismissed, because the Council has already committed in principle to its preparation. Alternative content within the Action Plan could have been prepared and recommended, which could have committed additional, fewer, or different projects to reduce the council's carbon emissions. However, in order to start to reduce our emissions to net-zero by 2030, yet take account of the resources available, the content of the action plan is deemed a reasonable and practical set of actions for the next 12 months.

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

10.1 The proposal to install LED lighting and solar panels for suitable buildings and the proposal to transform energy management to identify potential energy reduction will require council funding. These have been proposed in the transformation bid and will require full business case development ahead of securing finance.

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, March 2021
Council Climate Change Action Plan, June 2022

12. APPENDICES

12.1 Appendix 1 - 2023 Council Climate Change Action Plan