

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 07 June 2021

Portfolio:	Planning and Development
Subject:	Fareham Borough Council Climate Change Action Plan
Report of:	Director of Planning and Regeneration
Corporate Priorities:	Protect and Enhance the Environment

Purpose:

To present to the Executive the Council's Climate Change Action Plan for comment and to seek adoption of this strategy.

Executive summary:

At the 2 March 2020 Executive meeting the Executive agreed the priorities of the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG). The first project of the CCWG was to calculate the carbon footprint of the Council's services (Streetscene, Leisure and Community, Planning and Regeneration, etc.). This was approved by the Executive as the basis for the Carbon Reduction Plan at the 12 October 2020 meeting.

This report outlines the contents of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan and details the actions the Council is taking to reach carbon neutrality.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Executive agrees to adopt the Council's Climate Change Action Plan set out in Appendix A.

Reason:

To progress the Council's commitment to carbon neutrality in the delivery of its services.

Cost of proposals:

A working budget of £10,000 was agreed at the 2 March 2020 Executive meeting. This was to cover small scale revenue costs of the first actions and projects such as the work with the Greening Campaign.

Future projects that are not already scoped or are in the longer term will be factored

into the Medium-Term Finance Strategy along with other budget and corporate priorities for each service area and for the overall Council position.

Appendices: **Appendix A: Fareham Borough Council Climate Change Action Plan**

Background papers: **None**

Reference papers: **A: Fareham Borough Council Services Carbon Footprint Calculation Report 2019/20**
 B: Executive Report 12 October 2020

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	07 June 2021
Subject:	Fareham Borough Council Climate Change Action Plan
Briefing by:	Director of Planning and Regeneration
Portfolio:	Planning and Development

INTRODUCTION

1. At the 26 September 2019 Executive meeting the Leader pledged a commitment for the Council to be carbon neutral by 2030. In the following months work was undertaken to establish the Council's carbon footprint and to begin to understand how emissions could be reduced.
2. The Carbon Footprint Report was originally intended for publication in the summer of 2020. However, this timescale was adjusted due to the complications associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. The Executive approved the Carbon Footprint Calculation Report at its meeting of 12 October 2020. It was agreed that this would be used as the basis for the preparation of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

PROPOSED COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

3. The proposed Council Climate Change Action Plan is set out in Appendix A to the Executive Report. The Plan has three key areas; it outlines how the Council will reduce the carbon emissions of its services, how it will assist the wider borough in mitigating climate change and how it will respond to climate change by protecting Fareham's communities through adaptation and resilience.
4. In order for the Council to reach carbon neutrality by 2030, the reduction actions are set out under three categories:
 - **Eliminate** – this explores how we can stop unnecessary carbon emissions
 - **Reduce** – this is how we can implement energy saving measures
 - **Offset** – this is process of compensating for carbon emissions through a quantifiable and accredited programme designed to make equivalent reductions in CO₂. We will only offset where we can't eliminate or reduce emissions.
5. The Fareham Borough Council Services Carbon Footprint Calculation Report 2019/20 was used as the basis for the preparation of the Plan. Our carbon footprint was 3661.44

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tCO₂e in 2019/20. Using this information as the foundation for the Plan has enabled us to highlight where the biggest savings need to be made.

6. There will also be an annual calculation of the Council's operational carbon footprint. By doing this we will be able continuously review our progress. Any areas that require a reduction in emissions will be examined and further projects will be identified.

STRUCTURE OF THE PLAN

7. The Council's Climate Change Action Plan is designed as a programme of delivery, not a static snapshot in time. Therefore, it has been structured as existing/short term, medium term, and long term, broken down further under the 'eliminate, reduce, offset' categories.
8. Many of the short-term actions are those that are already underway or have been planned for some time. In addition, many of the actions are those that the Council has undertaken for several years as part of its operations. The procurement of local goods and services or protection of our countryside sites are both good examples of how the Council tries to maximise the borough's resources and minimise disruption to the environment.
9. The medium-term actions are ideas that have been in the pipeline for some time or have been identified through the carbon footprint calculation. The long term looks beyond 2025, emphasising that we need to fully understand what is required to make the Council's operations carbon neutral. Technology will continue to advance and outside influences, such as Government funding, will assist the Council further in delivering our commit to carbon neutrality.
10. It is estimated that the Council's Scope 1 and 2 emissions will have reduced by half, through the implementation of the existing/short and medium actions outlined. Scope 3 reductions will be based on what the Council can achieve with our partners.
11. We know that we need to undertake a number of feasibility studies to fully understand the areas where we can make the most improvement. For example, we are currently working with partners to undertake an initial feasibility study to determine whether an opportunity exists to provide a small-scale solar farm on a Council-owned site, to play a role in carbon offsetting.
12. It is therefore proposed that the Council will review the Plan in 2025 when the Council is in a better position to understand the impact of our actions. The update will reflect on successful reductions and outline new strategies for the long term - 2025 to 2030 and beyond.

BOROUGH WIDE CARBON REDUCTIONS

13. The focus of our carbon reduction actions are the emissions from the Council's services. However, the Council's service delivery is so entwined within the community that there is a natural overlap. We also have a role as a community leader, so we want to help to reduce the wider Borough's footprint where we can.
14. The actions set out in this section are laid out in the existing/short term, medium term, and long term, as before. These actions look at how the Council is directly reducing emissions in the borough, such as the provision of Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) A rated units at Faraday Business Park (Daedalus), and how we are enabling the community to make changes, such as through the Greening Campaign which the

Council is introducing this year..

ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

15. Implementing adaptation and resilience measures ensure that the Borough can respond to climate change. Adaptation is where we alter our behaviour and systems to protect where we live from the impact of climate change. Resilience looks at this in more detail, breaking down the issues into more manageable, localised tasks.
16. Fareham is positioned along the coast, it has areas of farmland, nature conservation, rivers flowing through urban neighbourhoods and a vibrant community to protect. Locally, if we don't address climate change, we risk seeing flooding and erosion, loss of wildlife, invasive species, and extreme weather. Remedying these issues can be costly in both ecological and economic terms; we want to prevent this wherever we can.
17. The Council works through the Coastal Partners with a range of coastal landowners including Hampshire County Council (HCC) to ensure we continue to protect our Borough. Current feasibility projects include the Hook Lake Coastal Management Study and the recently approved study of the Fareham Quay and Cadour Drive (Portchester) frontages.
18. More generally, we already have several plans and policies in place to ensure our services can continue to work in all conditions. However, we do know that there is still further work to be done and we are exploring all our options and preparing next steps.

GOVERNANCE

19. The Council originally established the Climate Change Working Group to deliver the early stages of the climate change work. The initial project for the CCWG was to determine the carbon footprint of the Council's services and the results were presented to the Executive on the 12 October 2020. As the Carbon Reduction Plan now starts to take effect, progress will be monitored instead by a Climate Change Scrutiny Panel.
20. In order to move forward with the implementation of the actions within the Climate Change Action Plan, the Climate Change Scrutiny Panel was announced at the 12 April Executive. Members of the Scrutiny Panel were agreed at the 20 May Full Council. The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel will be:
 - holding the Executive Portfolio Holder and Senior Officer to account, in the delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan and the Improvement Actions identified in the Council's Corporate Priorities and Corporate Vision;
 - undertaking an external scrutiny function as well and can invite external organisations operating within the Borough to attend meetings to present information and respond to questions;
 - Scrutiny Panel Members are able to directly support local projects and initiatives by suggesting that these are added to the policy development work of the Scrutiny Panel;
 - any Executive decisions subjected to the formal Call-In process and falling under this portfolio are considered by this Scrutiny Panel.
21. Members will be supported by the Director of Planning and Regeneration and the Climate Change Officer. Other relevant Officers will continue to work alongside the lead

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Director and Climate Change Officer to develop and implement the programme of climate change projects across the Council's services.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

22. Each department of the Council is responsible for its carbon reduction actions. Existing/short term projects have already been appropriated out of existing budgets. Projects not already scoped or are in the longer term will be factored into future budgets for each service area.

CONCLUSION

23. Meeting the commitment to carbon neutrality is a priority for the Council. The Council's Climate Change Action Plan has now been drafted and therefore it is recommended that the Executive agrees to adopt the Plan.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Fleur Allaway Extn. 4304