

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Climate Change Scrutiny Panel

Date 12 October 2021

Report of: Director of Planning and Regeneration

Subject: Council Services Carbon Footprint 2020/21

SUMMARY

This report presents the second annual calculation of the Council's carbon footprint and compares emission data for 2020/21 against 2019/20.

Carbon emissions are measured in tCO_2e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent). This is a measure of how much a gas contributes to global warming, relative to carbon dioxide.

The Council's total carbon emissions figure for 2020/21 was 2817.14 tCO_2e . This represents a decrease of 844.31 tCO_2e (23.1%) between 2019/20 and 2020/21. Detailed analysis of the changes in emissions between the two years can be found in Appendix A and a number of slides will accompany the report at the panel meeting.

Like other organisations COVID-19 had a significant impact on the operation of the Council and therefore the emissions it produces. It is therefore wrong to assume that the carbon footprint calculation for 2020/21 provides a completely accurate measure of the Council's progress towards carbon neutrality in its operations.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are invited to note the content on the report and supporting presentation.

INTRODUCTION

1. This report presents the 2020/21 carbon footprint calculation for the operation of the Council's services and compares with 2019/20.

BACKGROUND

2. At the 26 September 2019 Executive Meeting the Executive Leader pledged the commitment to carbon neutrality by 2030 and established the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG).
3. 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.
4. The calculation report would allow the Council to monitor the progress of the Council towards its commitment of carbon neutrality in the delivery of its services by 2030.
5. The first calculation of the Council's carbon footprint was for the year 2019/20 and was reported to the 12 October 2020 Executive meeting. This is the second report and compares data for 2020/21 against the 2019/20 footprint.
6. Each year the report will become more detailed as more data becomes available to the Council. For 2020/21 the Council has been able to obtain data on its emissions from the water supply and treatment for Council buildings.

HOW THE COUNCIL'S CARBON EMISSIONS ARE CALCULATED

7. The Council's Operational boundary covers the emissions from the delivery of its services and is further detailed in Table 1 of Appendix A.
8. Carbon emissions are measured in tCO_2e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent). This is a measure of how much a gas contributes to global warming, relative to carbon dioxide.
9. To further break down emission sources and improve transparency, three 'scopes' are also defined with tCO_2e calculated for each:
 - **Scope 1** - These are all **direct** emissions released from the activities of an organisation. For example, fuel combustion from fleet vehicles.
 - **Scope 2** - These are any **indirect** emissions from electricity purchased and used by the organisation. For example, the emissions from the electricity production for lighting in the Civic Offices.
 - **Scope 3** – These are any other **indirect** emissions from the activities of the organisation, **occurring from sources that they do not own or control**. They cover emissions such as those associated with business travel or contract operations (e.g. leisure centres and Solent Airport).
10. Under the HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines, we are not expected to report Scope 3 emissions. However, these are included for a more complete picture where we were able to gather the data.

11. Scope 3 is also the most challenging area to calculate accurately as it relies on external organisations providing information. There are also likely to be some increases year-on-year in reported Scope 3 emissions as new data sources are identified. For example, emissions linked to water supply and treatment were not available in 2019/20 but have now been sourced and added to the Scope 3 calculation for 2020/21.

HEADLINE EMISSIONS

12. The Council's total carbon emissions is 2817.14 tCO_2e for the financial year 2020/21. This is a decrease of 844.31 tCO_2e (23.1%) in carbon emissions when compared to the 2019/20 figure of 3661.44
13. Table 1 below breaks down the total emissions by scope and then by emission type e.g. emissions from Council owned vehicles.

Please note that the percentages in the table may not add up due to rounding

| Table 1: 2020/21 emissions by scope and type | | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Scope | Operational Unit | tCO ₂ e (2020/21) | % of Total Emissions (2020/21) | % Change in emissions from 2019/20 to 2020/21 |
| Scope 1: | Fuel - Vehicle Operations | 859.42 | 30.51 | (-7.3%) |
| | Civic Offices Emergency Generator | 0.48 | 0.02 | (-4%) |
| | Site Gas | 550.11 | 19.53 | (21.9%) |
| | Sub-Total | 1410.01 | 50.05 | (2.2%) |
| Scope 2: | Site Electricity | 373.51 | 13.26 | (-32.1%) |
| | Sub-Total | 373.51 | 13.26 | (-32.1%) |
| Scope 3: | Business Travel -Car | 7.57 | 0.27 | (-84.8%) |
| | Fuel - Solent Airport Vehicle Operations | 4.15 | 0.15 | (-83.0%) |
| | Fuel - Grounds Maintenance (Work undertaken for HCC) | 31.8 | 1.13 | (-20.4%) |
| | Site Electricity e.g., Leisure Centres | 320.74 | 11.39 | (-42.3%) |
| | Site Gas e.g. Community Centres | 665.06 | 23.61 | (-37.4%) |
| | Water Supply | 1.14 | 0.04 | - |
| | Water Treatment | 3.16 | 0.11 | - |
| | Sub-Total | 1033.62 | 36.69 | (-40.3%) |
| Total | | 2817.14 | - | (-23.1%) |

14. Like many other organisations COVID-19 had a significant impact on the operation of the Council and therefore the emissions it produces. It could therefore be argued that the recorded emissions for 2020/21 may not be representative. It is anticipated that the results for 2021/22 should be a more useful barometer of progress.

15. A full breakdown by emission type with comparisons between the last two years can be found in Appendix A. The only emission type that increased between the two years was site gas, which is a Scope 1 emission. It is the carbon equivalent produced when burning gas in the Civic Offices, Depot and previously Ferneham Hall. The carbon equivalent emissions rose from 451.14 tonnes in 2019/20 to 550.51 tonnes in 2020/21 was site gas in scope 1.

16. This primary reason for this was that the Council increased the amount of fresh air it circulates in its buildings e.g. Civic Offices, as well as in public areas of some social housing stock, in order to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. This required more gas to be burned as the additional air needed to be either heated or cooled down before circulation into the buildings so that stable temperatures could be maintained.

RISK ASSESSMENT

17. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report.

CONCLUSION

18. Meeting the commitment to carbon neutrality is a priority for the Council. The carbon footprint for the financial year 2020/21 has been calculated and shows a 23.1% reduction in emissions compared to 2019/20. However, it is likely that a significant proportion of this change is due to the impact on operations of COVID-19.

Appendices: Appendix A: Fareham Borough Council Services Carbon Footprint Calculation Report 2020/21

Background Papers: None

Reference Papers:

A: The HM Government *Environmental Reporting Guidelines* (2019)

B: The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol *Initiative Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard*

Enquiries:

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