

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to Climate Change Panel

**Date**                    **18 October 2022**

**Report of:**            **Director of Planning and Regeneration**

**Subject:**              **CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN PROGRAMME**

#### **SUMMARY**

The 12 July 2022 Scrutiny Panel received a copy of the 2022 Climate Change Action Plan update document. This outlined the progress made in the preceding 12-months alongside the main challenges and priorities faced in the Council's journey to carbon neutrality. At the meeting, it was agreed that a detailed project programme would be presented at the following Panel meeting.

The Project Programme up to 2030/31 is presented in Appendix A. This will be supported by a short presentation at the meeting.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is RECOMMENDED that the Climate Change Scrutiny Panel:-

- a) note the contents of the report; and
- b) note and comment on the contents of the Project Programme at Appendix A.

## INTRODUCTION

1. This report provides an overview of the project programme for the Climate Change Action Plan, which supports the Council's commitment to becoming net zero by 2030.

## BACKGROUND

2. 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.
3. The Council's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) was then approved by the 7 June 2020 Executive, following scrutiny provided at the first meeting off the Climate Change Scrutiny Panel on 27 May 2021.
4. The main focus of the CCAP is to reduce the Council's operational emissions. However, it also recognises our leadership role in encouraging wider carbon reductions across the Borough and our role in ensuring that Fareham is resilient to the changes brought by a changing climate.
5. Members of the Panel received regular project updates during the following year. The 12 July 2022 Scrutiny Panel was presented with the latest annual carbon footprint measurement for 2021/22. The Council's total carbon emissions figure for 2021/22 was 3327.08 *tCO<sub>2e</sub>*, representing a decrease of 331.31 *tCO<sub>2e</sub>* (9.1%) between 2019/20 and 2021/22.
6. At the same meeting, the Panel also received an annual update presentation and copy of the 2022 Action Plan Update document. This magazine style publication provided an engaging and accessible overview of the Council's approach to tackling climate change, our main achievements over the last 12 months.
7. The update document noted that significant progress had been made since June 2021, particularly the CCAP's 'quick win' projects e.g. switching to a renewable electricity tariff and starting a trial in Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel in our garden waste vehicles.
8. Much of the work of the first year of the CCAP focused on increasing our understanding of the carbon reduction opportunities available and identifying the main challenges faced in the Council's journey to carbon neutrality:
  - Reducing vehicle fuel emissions
  - Decarbonising our buildings
  - Reducing electricity and gas emissions
  - Energy generation and the potential role of offsetting
9. Members were notified at that meeting that a more detailed project programme would be presented at the 18 October Scrutiny Panel. The following part of the report provides an overview of the project programme.

## PROJECT PROGRAMME APPROACH

10. A year-by-year Project Programme up to 2030/31 can be found in Appendix A. The Programme is formatted according to emissions scope and other relevant categories e.g. offsetting.
11. Many of the Scope 1, 2 and 3 projects in the programme are focused on tackling the challenges outlined above. As Appendix A shows, the programme is also frontloaded with development work on most of the significant projects taking place during 2022/23. These include:
  - A Vehicle Replacement Programme that will plan for the transition to a lower emission fleet.
  - An Asset Management Plan for the Civic Offices that will include energy saving technologies and support a potential bid to the Public Sector Decarbonisation fund in Autumn 2023.
  - A Climate Change Action Plan for Portchester Crematorium to support the journey to carbon neutrality.
  - A detailed feasibility study of the energy generation potential at the Hook Tip site.
  - The allocation, decided on a needs basis, of £30,000 of small energy saving improvements across our Community Centres.
12. Costed options for the journey to carbon neutrality by 2030 are also being developed. Training for staff and members on the Council's approach to climate change will be undertaken alongside a campaign to reduce energy use in the Councils buildings, particularly the Civic.
13. The programme recognises the Council's leadership role in encouraging wider emission reductions in the Borough. There are a range of activities such as promoting the Warmer Homes Scheme alongside an application to the Governments Homes Upgrade Grant (HUG) 2, both of which will help fund those on a low income to make energy improvements in their homes. Plans are also being developed to support and encourage local businesses to reduce their emissions.
14. The CCAP is a living document and it is anticipated that projects will be added as the programme progresses or new technologies, legislation or initiatives emerge.
15. Members are asked to provide comment on the Project Programme. They will also be asked to scrutinise the progress of these projects as part of the regular update presentations.
16. In addition, presentations will be given at future meetings during the municipal year by the Heads of Building Control and Streetscene, alongside the Property Manager. These will provide Members with a more detailed overview of projects and activities related to their service area.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

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

## **CONCLUSION**

18. The Climate Change Action Plan Project Programme presented focuses on tackling the main challenges in the Council's journey to carbon neutrality by 2030, whilst encouraging wider emissions reductions and making the Borough more resilient to the changes brought by Climate Change.

**Appendices:** - Appendix A - Project Programme

**Background Papers:**

**Reference Papers:**

**Enquiries:**

For further information on this report please contact Roy Brown. (Ext 4489)