

## Report of the Portfolio Holder of Environment and Climate Change

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREEN FUTURES REVIEW**1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the reviewed and updated Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy and supporting Carbon Management Action Plan 2023-2027.

2. Recommendation

**The Policy Overview Working Group reviewed the strategy on 8 February 2024 and RECOMMENDS that Cabinet RESOLVE that the revised Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy and Carbon Management Plan be adopted and approved.**

3. Detail

In 2019 the Council made an ambitious commitment to become carbon neutral by 2027. In 2020, the Council created its Climate Change and Green Futures Programme with supporting Carbon Management Action Plan to provide strategic direction with regards to achieving this target. This was revised and adopted in July 2023. An update on the progress of the actions of the Carbon Management Plan is provided in **APPENDIX 1** and **APPENDIX 4**.

The delivery of these climate change actions has contributed to the Council reducing its carbon footprint to 2,378 tonnes of carbon dioxide (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) in 2022/23. This is a 36% reduction from the recalculated 2018/19 carbon emission baseline. Further detail on the Council's current carbon footprint can be found in **APPENDIX 1** and **APPENDIX 2**.

Climate change is a rapidly changing and complex dynamic and as such the Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy and Carbon Management Action Plan require regular revision and updating to ensure their relevance. In light of the public consultation undertaken in the summer of 2023, the documents have been reviewed and revised for the first time to incorporate feedback received during the consultation process.

A copy of the revised Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy 2023-2027 and its supporting Carbon Management Action Plan for 2024/25 have been attached in **APPENDIX 3** and **APPENDIX 5**. A change table has been attached to this report as **APPENDIX 6**. The EIA is at **APPENDIX 7**

The documents attached in the appendices are currently in draft form and will undergo formatting once they have been approved by Cabinet.

#### 4. Key Decision

This report is a **key decision** as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. It is a decision that is likely to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in the Borough of Broxtowe.

#### 5. Updates from Scrutiny

The Policy Overview Working Group reviewed the strategy on 8 February 2024 and recommended that Cabinet adopt and approve the revised Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy and Carbon Management Plan be adopted and approved.

#### 6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no additional financial implications for the Council with regards to the approval of this strategy. Any significant budget implications in the application of measures of the strategy in the future, over and above virement limits would require approval by Cabinet and be based on an appropriate business case.

#### 7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 introduced a target for at least a 100% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (compared to 1990 levels) in the UK by 2050. This is a legally binding target. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or which is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of their functions. Furthermore, section 2(1) of the Local Government Act 2000 introduced a power that permits local authorities to do anything that they consider likely to promote or improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area.

#### 8. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

#### 9. Union Comments

Not applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

An updated Equality Impact Assessment can be found in **APPENDIX 7**.

13. Background Papers

NIL.

## APPENDIX 1

Carbon Management Plan progress update - 2023/24

In 2023/24, the Council has dedicated a total of £2.3 million pounds across a variety of programme themes to address actions contained within the Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy. This has been from a combination of Council investment and external funding.

Of the 104 actions contained within the 2023/24 Carbon Management Action Plan:

- 75 are currently in progress with the majority of these on track to be completed by the end of 2023/24.
- 13 are complete.
- 16 actions have not been started, these have been summarised in the table 1.

Theme	Action	Reason
Climate Strategy	Baseline all carbon Scopes for Liberty Leisure and work with them to establish a baseline and targets.	Not started due to resources. To be rolled over into 2024/25.
Transport and Travel	Create a driver training programme utilising data from the on board vehicle monitoring IT System (for example, harsh braking, excessive speeding and harsh cornering).	Action has not been started due to the prioritisation of other Carbon Management Action Plan actions. To be rolled over into 2024/25.
Transport and Travel	Using available data, produce a report on vehicle types registered in the Borough along with scenarios indicating the behavioural change necessary to help achieve alignment with UK net zero by 2050.	Action has not been started due to the prioritisation of other Carbon Management Action Plan actions, including the finalisation of the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy. Roll over into 2024/25.
Energy and water	Explore the possibility of grey water harvesting.	Action has not been started due to the prioritisation of other Carbon Management Action Plan actions. To be rolled over and to

Theme	Action	Reason
		incorporate rainwater harvesting also for 2024/25, in response to the public consultation.
Energy and water	Develop a programme for all appliances in social spaces (For example, kitchens and laundry rooms) at Independent Living Schemes, for energy efficient ones.	Not started due to staffing resources. To be rolled over and considered as part of 2024/25 budget setting.
Energy and water	Investigate options for land purchase for potential renewable sites.	Action has not been started due to the prioritisation of other Carbon Management Action Plan actions. To be rolled over into 2024/25.
Built Environment	Research alternatives to conventional heating systems and report findings.	Action has not been started due to the prioritisation of other Carbon Management Action Plan actions. Roll over into 2024/25.
Built Environment	Develop a programme that considers the replacement of gas boilers in Council house properties for renewable/sustainable fuels.	Action has not been started due to the prioritisation of other Carbon Management Action Plan actions. Roll over into 2024/25.
Core Strategy and Planning	Determine the number of households using renewable generation technology.	Not started due to challenges in tracking this data. Roll over into 2024/25.
Recycling and Resources	Investigate the use of carbon impact targets over weight based data for refuse and recycling.	Not started due to a lack of staffing resources. Roll over into 2024/25.
Natural Environment	Investigate the potential installation of either living walls (vertical	Action has not been started due to the

Theme	Action	Reason
	gardens) or green roofs to Council assets, to absorb CO2 and improve biodiversity.	prioritisation of other Carbon Management Action Plan actions. Roll over into 2024/25.
Natural Environment	Create allotment ambassadors to encourage and engage to drive positive behavioural change.	Action has not been started due to the prioritisation of other Carbon Management Action Plan actions. Roll over into 2024/25.
Natural Environment	Organise and promote an annual BioBlitz to encourage and inform local residents on the importance of biodiversity	Not started due to staffing vacancies in the Parks and Open spaces team. Roll over into 2024/25
Natural Environment	Identify areas of flood risk in the Borough and look at possible natural solutions.	Not yet started - tree scheme may have to be reviewed in light of recent changes to the provenance of tree suppliers. Roll over into 2024/25.
Business and Supply Chain	Review the Council's Service Level Agreements (SLA's) to include sustainability criteria.	Not started. However, to be an agenda point in next Climate Change and Green Futures Board Meeting – March 2024.
Business and Supply Chain	Investigate a climate accreditation system for businesses. (Similar to a food hygiene rating).	Action has not been started due to the prioritisation of other Carbon Management Action Plan actions. Roll over into 2024/25.

Table 1: 2023/24 Carbon Management Plan Actions not started.

#### The Council's Carbon Footprint 2022/23

The information in figure 1 below shows a high level breakdown of how the Council's own operational emissions have been produced during 2022/23.

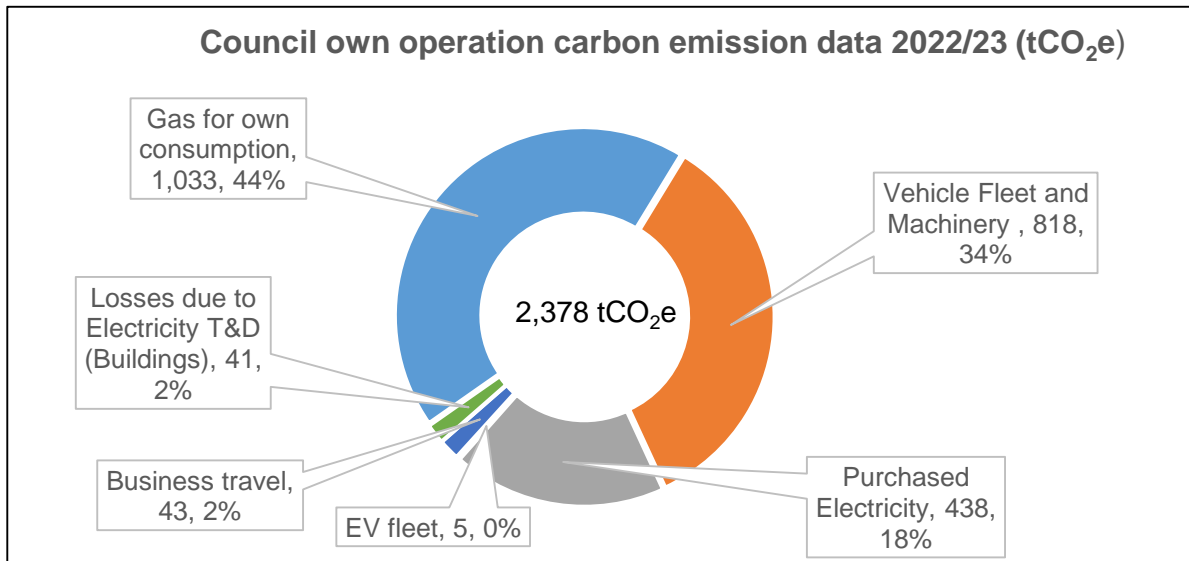


Figure 1- Broxtowe Borough Councils Carbon Footprint - 2022/23

Progress towards Carbon neutral 2027

The Council has committed to become Carbon neutral by the of 31 December 2027. As of the 12 March 2024, there are **1,389** days remaining to achieve this.

Figure 2 tracks the Council’s current progress to date. The dotted trend line in green highlights possible trajectory towards carbon neutrality based on current performance.

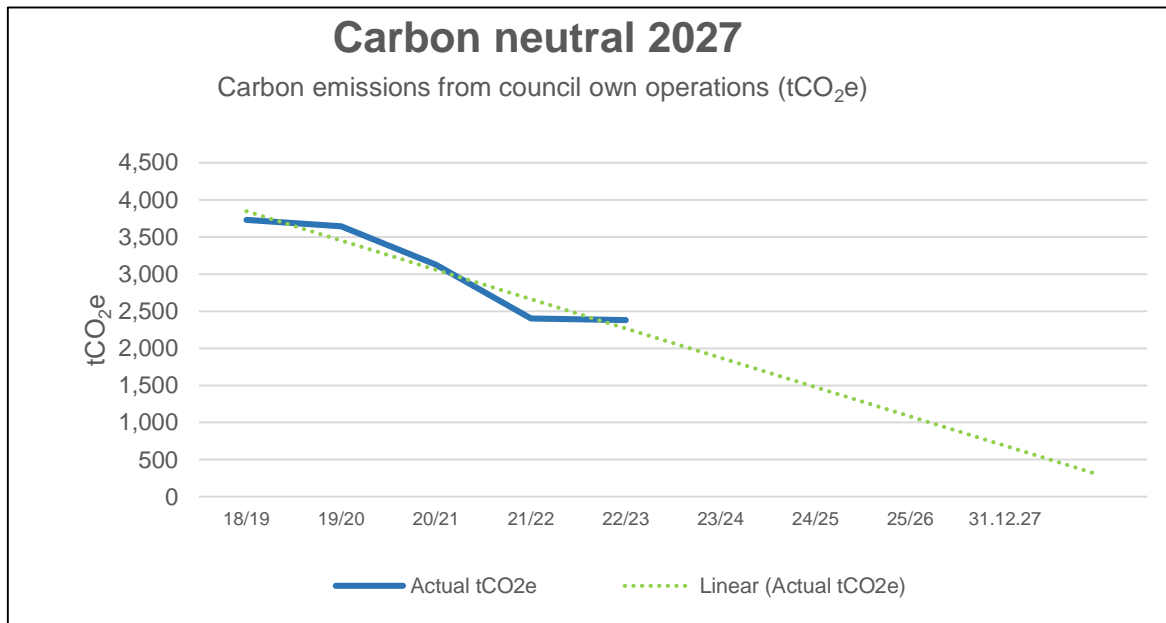


Figure 2 - Progress towards Carbon neutral 2027

Although there has been a decrease in emissions, it is essential to accelerate the rate of reduction. Anticipated progress in this regard includes implementing energy

efficiency measures across Council property assets and transitioning to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO). These actions are expected to result in a more significant and rapid transition towards a reduction in carbon emissions.

Comprehensive information regarding the Council's carbon footprint and that of the Borough can be found in the revised Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy. **(APPENDIX 3).**



Broxtowe Borough Council's carbon footprint for 2022/23

