

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change

Climate Change and Green Futures Review

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the reviewed and updated Carbon Management Action Plan (CMAP) 2025/26, which supports the Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy 2023-2027. This is in accordance with the Council's corporate priority of 'Protecting the environment for the future'.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that the revised Carbon Management Action Plan for 2025/26 be approved.

3. Detail

In 2019, the Council made an ambitious commitment to become carbon neutral by 31 December 2027. There are 913 days remaining, as of 1 July 2025, to achieve this target. In 2020, the Council created its Climate Change and Green Futures Programme with supporting Carbon Management Action Plan (CMAP) to provide strategic direction with regards to achieving this target. This was revised and adopted in July 2023. Due to the rapidly evolving nature of this subject, a full review and refresh of both documents was completed and adopted in March 2024.

The delivery of these climate change actions has contributed to the Council reducing its carbon footprint to **1,620** tonnes of carbon dioxide (tCO_{2e}) in 2024/25. This is a **57%** reduction from the recalculated 2018/19 carbon emission baseline. Further details on the Council's current carbon footprint can be found in **Appendix 1** including scope 3 emissions calculated for 2023/24.

An update on the progress of the actions of the CMAP 2024/25 is provided in **Appendix 2**.

A copy of the CMAP for 2025/26 is attached in **Appendix 3**. This includes actions rolled over from 2024/25 and new actions for this financial year 2025/26. The actions within the CMAP are ambitious yet achievable, continuing to build on the positive work completed to date and will enable the Council to continue its trajectory towards carbon neutrality.

The CMAP is a live document that is reviewed quarterly by the Programme Theme Leads. Progress is reported to the Climate Change and Green Futures Board on a quarterly basis. As a result, actions may evolve over the year and be amended and updated where necessary. New actions, where identified, may also be added to the document.

Please note that the CMAP is in draft format and will undergo Council branding once approved by Cabinet. A copy will be added to the Council's Climate Change webpage where the Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy 2023-2027 can also be found along with historical versions of both documents.

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 an area comprising two or more Wards or electoral divisions in the Council's area.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Assistant Director Finance Services were as follows:

There are no additional financial implications for the Council with regards to the approval of the Carbon Management Action Plan 2025/26. Appropriate budget provisions have already been made in the respective revenue and capital budgets for 2025/26. 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:

xxxxx

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

Not applicable.

13. Background Papers

Nil.