

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change**Climate Change and Green Futures Interim Report****1. Purpose of Report**

To provide Cabinet with an interim update on the Council's progress toward carbon neutrality, including:

- Half-year Scope 1 and 2 emissions for 2025/26.
- Full-year Scope 3 emissions for 2024/25.
- Key developments in carbon sequestration.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to NOTE the report.

3. Detail

There are now 764 days remaining for the Council to achieve its carbon neutral target by 31 December 2027. Since 2018/19, the Council has achieved a 54% reduction in carbon emissions from its own operations as reported for 2024/25. These emissions include heating and lighting of buildings, fuel used in fleet vehicles and machinery, and business miles travelled. This progress reflects significant operational changes, including the transition to lower-carbon fuels and improved energy efficiency measures.

The Council has committed to reporting carbon emissions data on a half-yearly basis. However, due to electricity and gas billing cycles being in arrears by at least one-month, complete data for the first half of the current reporting year will not be available until December. Once calculations are finalised, the full Scope 1 and 2 emissions for 2025/26 will be reported to Cabinet at the next available opportunity. In the meantime, emissions from the Council's vehicle fleet and machinery, along with business travel for the first half of 2025/26, have been calculated at 100 tCO₂e, with full details provided in **Appendix 1**.

It is important to note that during preparation for the mid-year review, an issue was identified with the reporting of fleet emissions for 2024/25. The original figures assumed that nearly all fleet fuel used during the year was Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), whereas in reality, the fleet operated on a combination of HVO, diesel, and unleaded petrol. This discrepancy overstated the reduction in emissions initially reported. While the correction does not alter the positive direction of travel, it means the reduction for 2024/25 is less significant than first indicated. Measures have since been implemented to improve data accuracy and reporting processes. Further detail is provided in **Appendix 1**.

Scope 3 emissions for 2024/25 have been calculated at 28,927 tCO₂e, representing a 26% increase compared to 2023/24. This rise is primarily driven by Purchase Goods and Services (PG&S), which continues to be one of most significant contributors to Scope 3 emissions. While other categories remain stable or show reductions, the increase in PG&S highlights the complexity of managing supply chain emissions and the importance of improving data quality. Full details of Scope 3 emissions analysis are presented in **Appendix 2**.

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 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 this noting report. Appropriate budget provisions have already been made in the respective revenue and capital budgets for 2025/26.

7. Legal Implications

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

Not applicable.

13. Background Papers

Nil.