

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: Babergh District Council	REPORT NUMBER: BCa/23/36
FROM: Cabinet Member for Environment	DATE OF MEETING: 9/1/2024
OFFICER: Sarah Wilding - Climate Change Manager	KEY DECISION REF NO. CAB466

Greenhouse Gas Report 2022-23

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report sets out the Council's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report for 2022-23 and the progress made by the Council in reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions.

2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Do nothing.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the contents of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report 2022-23 at Appendix A to the report be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION

Since 2011, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has required local authorities to measure and report greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from their estate and operations. Each Local Authority has been requested to publish their Greenhouse Gas reports locally online each year.

The Council is therefore required to note this report prior to publication on the Councils website.

Over 4 years ago the Council declared a climate emergency and produced their first Carbon Reduction Management Plan a refresh of this Plan is also nearing completion.

4. KEY INFORMATION

- 4.1 This report provides a comprehensive breakdown of the carbon footprint for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' operations in 2022/23. It provides detail on the trajectory of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions since the establishment of a baseline in 2018/19 and provides supporting information for policy making and action planning to enable the Councils to respond to the declaration of a Climate Emergency and the commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030.

- 4.2 This report uses as its baseline the 'Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report – 2018/19 Financial Year' as this was the first comprehensive GHG report the Councils prepared. The report measures progress in terms of carbon emissions against the baseline and provides a trajectory which will need to be met to achieve the Councils' carbon neutral ambition.
- 4.3 Each activity that the Council operates has been assessed for its direct and indirect energy use. The electricity and gas use of buildings, direct fuel use in Council-owned vehicles and mileage in private vehicles whilst undertaking Council operations have been assessed.
- 4.4 The report is based on emissions of the 'basket of six' GHGs as defined by the Kyoto Protocol and include: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), F-gases (hydrofluorocarbons and perfluorocarbons) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆). All values are given as CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e), which is a measure of the range of GHG as measured against the warming potential of CO₂. This is standard practice and better reflects the climate impact of the Council's emissions.
- 4.5 This report uses a location-based methodology to calculate the CO₂e emissions from electricity usage. The location-based method reflects the average emissions intensity of the national grid.
- 4.6 The GHG Protocol advises that in setting organisational boundaries, an organisation should select an approach for consolidating GHG emissions and then consistently apply the selected approach to define those business activities and operations that constitute the organisation for the purpose of accounting and reporting GHG emissions. A 'control approach' has been used to evaluate the Council's GHG emissions i.e., all GHG emissions from operations over which Councils have control. GHG emissions from operations in which the Councils have an interest but have no control have not been included. Control can be defined in either financial or operational terms.
- 4.7 The organisational boundary has been taken to be those emissions from the Council's headquarters, touchdown points, leisure centres, streetlighting operated by the Council, vehicles owned by the Council, third parties delivering Council services, and internal Council policies that result in emissions of GHG.
- 4.8 To help delineate direct and indirect emission sources, improve transparency, and provide utility for different types of organisations, three "scopes" (Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3) are defined by the GHG Protocol for accounting and reporting purposes (see Table 1.0).

Scope

- 1 These are emissions from fuels that the Council directly consumes e.g., gas, diesel, and petrol in the direct delivery of Council business by Council employees.
- 2 These are indirect emissions such as electricity use in Council premises.

- 3 These are emissions derived from third party contractors supplying services on behalf of the Councils.
- 4.9 There is some discretion within the Protocol on what to include in each scope, for example where information is not recorded, where third party data is unavailable, or where the accuracy of data cannot be relied upon. The following have not been included for such reasons:
- The impact of the Council's supply chains. Only those services that are delivered directly by the Councils or through third party suppliers on the Councils' behalf have been assessed.
 - Contracts where the impact would be regarded as minimal e.g., the collection of a small number of abandoned vehicles by third party service providers.
 - GHG emissions associated with the air conditioning within Endeavour House.
 - Embedded carbon resulting from water use.
- 4.10 Since the pandemic, the practice of homeworking has increased significantly and the Council will look at evaluating the associated emissions in the next GHG report.

5. REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- 5.1 The Council committed to become carbon neutral by 2030, using 2018/19 as its baseline, calculated as 5,993 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e).
- Emissions in 2022/2023 are calculated as 3,882 tCO₂e, a reduction against the baseline of 2.051 CO₂e (34.6%) - see Graph 9, p.10 in Appendix A
- 5.2.1 At 1,597 tCO₂e (41%), the leisure centres are the single biggest emissions source.
- 5.2.3 Overall leisure centre emissions in 2022/23 dropped by **216 tCO₂e (11.9%)** following the installation of roof mounted solar PV (photo voltaic), low carbon heat pump technology (in the bowls hall at Mid Suffolk, Stowmarket) and the replacement of life expired boilers with energy efficient boiler plant and controls.
- 5.2.4 Existing solar PV panels on the social housing estate continue to reduce scope 2 emissions.
- 5.2.5 Emission reductions have drastically reduced with the introduction of using hydro-treated vegetable oil (HVO) in waste refuse collection vehicles and Public Realm vehicles. For year 22/23, emissions have been reduced by 1,127t CO₂e (79.5%) to 290 tCO₂e, compared to the baseline of 1,417t CO₂e.
- 5.2.6 Installing publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure is providing residents wider (car) choice, which together with the switch from diesel in Council waste refuse vehicles, is reducing emissions and improving air quality locally to give health benefits.

5.2.7 The Council's journey to Net Zero was disrupted by Covid but large-scale interventions since 2021 will support further reductions in emissions. It is also encouraging that emissions have not risen to pre pandemic levels.

5.2.8 In 2020 Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils approved a Carbon Reduction Management Plan to support the Net Zero ambition, this is currently being refreshed and will be presented to joint Cabinet in due course.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Table 3.0 in the Greenhouse Gas report identifies that to decarbonise heating in the built estate will require a capital investment of circa £11 Million and will reduce the Councils' overall emissions by a further 45%. This figure is an estimate only and further work is required to better understand future costs of decarbonising the Councils estate. This work will form part of the refreshed Carbon Reduction Management Plan.

6.2 Since the previous report external funding has been applied for via a Sports England Swimming Pool bid totalling £1.8m for both Babergh and Mid Suffolk Leisure Centres.

6.3 A Social Housing Decarbonisation Funding (SHDF) bid is currently in the early stages of being developed and, if successful will include approximately 200 properties, 100 from each district. The estimated value of the bid is between approximately £4 - 5 million with BMSDC being responsible for 50% of the funding.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 The inability to meet Net Zero targets is a key risk in the Councils' Strategic Risk Register. Mitigation is already underway through the investments over the last 3 years, but further work is ongoing to identify next stage actions

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 No consultation has been carried out in respect of the Greenhouse Gas report as this is a factual evidence-based study. However, projects identified within the report have been subject to consultation and engagement with a range of stakeholders.

10. EQUALITY ANALYSIS

10.1 If any of the protected grounds may be affected because of the recommendations in this report a full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) will need to be carried out. Initial screening has concluded that a full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required at this point.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 This report identifies Council carbon emissions as of 2022-3. It is likely that the next report, currently under development, will show a further decrease in carbon missions as the Councils work towards Net Zero.

12. APPENDICES

Title	Location
(a) Greenhouse Gas Report 2022/23	Attached

13. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None other than Appendices above