

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: Babergh Cabinet	REPORT NUMBER: BCa/23/46
FROM: Cllr Daniel Potter – Cabinet Member for Environment	DATE OF MEETING: 04 March 2024
OFFICER: Fiona Duhamel (Director of Economic Growth & Climate Change) & Sarah Wilding (Climate Change Manager)	KEY DECISION REF NO. CAB467.

Refreshed Carbon Reduction Management Plan

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report sets out the Council's refreshed Carbon Reduction Management Plan from the first iteration that was produced in 2020 after the Climate Emergency was declared in July 2019.

2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Do nothing.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the contents of the refreshed Carbon Reduction Management Plan and accompanying narrative at Appendix A & B to the report be approved.
- 3.2 The portfolio holder for the environment, in consultation with the director will develop a funding package to deliver on the priority actions for 24/25.

REASON FOR DECISION

- Following the declaration of a climate emergency on 25 July 2019, the council produced their first Carbon Management Action Plan.
- A refresh of this plan is therefore prudent, particularly with a new administration and Corporate Plan to set new priorities and continue the roadmap to reach net zero by 2030.

4. KEY INFORMATION

- 4.1 This Plan provides a comprehensive set of actions developed from the original Action Plan and considers the changing needs of the organisation and its local communities

and businesses, which have been agreed at a joint council, cross party task and finish group.

- 4.2 The Plan sets out priorities for each year with regards to delivery and focusses on the ones that will have the biggest impact in terms of delivering against the council's net zero 2030 commitment,
- 4.3 The councillors in the task & finish group prioritised three projects for 24/25 that would have the biggest impact in reducing CO₂e: decarbonising leisure centres, decarbonising sheltered housing and exploring the potential of switching the waste fleet & public realm to EV.
- 4.4 By adopting this plan, the council demonstrates its commitment to achieving net zero by 2030.
- 4.5 This plan reflects the priorities set out in the council's new Corporate Plan and the direction and intention of the council to address climate change and provide leadership in the drive to become net zero.
- 4.6 The Carbon Reduction Management Plan reflects the trajectory seen in the most recent Greenhouse Gas Report and sets out the key priorities in terms of future projects and the actions necessary to reduce emissions.

5. REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- 5.1 The council committed to become carbon neutral by 2030, using 2018/19 as its baseline, calculated as 5,804 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent.
 - 5.2.1 The original Carbon Management Action Plan was published in 2020 with a set of prioritised proposals. This refreshed plan has taken a step further to consolidate them by identifying the next steps.
 - 5.2.2 This refreshed plan identifies the many achievements since its first iteration and the latest Greenhouse Gas Report supports the resultant CO₂ savings.
 - 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 Further work is needed to decarbonise the leisure centres because, despite the interventions already established, they are the biggest emitter of CO₂e (41%) according to the 22/23 Greenhouse Gas Report.
 - 5.2.4 Existing solar PV panels on the social housing estate continue to reduce scope 2 emissions, however, an assessment of council owned sheltered housing is needed because they are the second biggest emitter of CO₂e (25%). Consideration should be given to adding solar PV to all sheltered housing, thus reducing the reliance on

fossil fuels. There are currently only 4 sheltered houses with solar PV. However, this decarbonisation of the sheltered homes must be taken alongside any wider review of this accommodation if required to ensure value for money and effective reduction in carbon 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, initial estimates of up to 598t CO₂e have been reduced to 249t CO₂e, compared to the 2018/19 baseline of 1,400t 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.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The 22/23 Greenhouse Gas Report identified that to decarbonise heating in the built estate would 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 council's estate. This report has, therefore, prioritised the things that will have the greatest impact in achieving this ambitious goal.
- 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 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 Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils being responsible for 50% of the funding.
- 6.4 The government announced that Phase 4 of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme will open in 2024, date to be confirmed. Appropriate assets will need to be identified to put in a funding bid,
- 6.5 A recommendation in this report is the development of a funding strategy to sit alongside the Carbon Reduction Management Plan.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report however further work on council assets may be subject to lease and land negotiations with tenants and other occupiers of the council's estate.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 The inability to meet net zero targets is a key risk in the council's 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 A proportional cross-party task & finish group was established to identify the priorities of the Carbon Reduction Management Plan in working towards achieving net zero by 2030.
- 9.2 The refreshed plan will be shared on the council's website and will be subject to public ongoing review.
- 9.3 Public consultation of individual aspects of delivery of the plan will be carried out subject to specific project requirements.

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) is not required at this stage.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 This report identifies Council's plans and vision to achieve net zero by 2030.

12. APPENDICES

Title	Location
(a) Refreshed Carbon Reduction Management Plan	Attached Attached
(b) Narrative to accompany the Plan	

13. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None other than Appendices above