



Report subject	<b>Climate Action Annual Report 2020/21</b>
Meeting date	12 January 2022
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>As agreed in the ‘Response to Climate and Ecological Emergency’ report to Council in December 2019, an annual report on climate action is required to monitor and communicate progress towards achieving the declared goals. This report will go to Full Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022.</p> <p>BCP Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency on 16 July 2019. This report sets out the work the Council has carried out in the second year towards achieving our targets to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make BCP Council and its operations carbon neutral by 2030 - <b>The amount of carbon emissions from Council operations has reduced by over 10%</b>, from 41,567 tCO<sub>2e</sub> to 37,109 tCO<sub>2e</sub>.</li> <li>• Work with the wider community to make the region carbon neutral before the UK target of 2050 – <b>the amount of area-wide carbon emissions has decreased by 71,748 tonnes CO<sub>2e</sub> (3.7%)</b> between figures released in 2019 and 2020 (energy use data for the years 2017 and 2018 respectively).</li> </ul> <p>2020/21 has been a transitional and unusual year for Climate Action, sitting as it does between the declaration of national and local Climate and Ecological Emergencies and the COP26 summit, and while we are still in the shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic that continues to dominate news. Covid-19 continues to be a major factor in progressing Climate Action, and it is not yet clear if the effects on carbon reduction will be maintained and trends continued. At the start of the reporting period, Council funding for Climate Action had been withdrawn as part of the response to financial pressures caused by Covid-19. Following a change in political control of the Council, the funding was reinstated, but this interruption significantly disrupted the ability to spend the money effectively. Important additional funding has been secured to grow the Climate Action team and to drive forward the delivery of the Action Plan with a new Climate Action staffing structure</p>

	<p>created. This will ensure that the service provided by the Team meets and exceed stakeholder expectations, and that the portfolio of activities in the Action Plan is optimised to meet our 2030 and 2050 targets as cost effectively and as quickly as is sensible.</p> <p>In addition, this report also recommends that Cabinet approve exploration of the Council becoming members of the UK100 - a network of highly ambitious local government leaders looking to transition to clean energy, taking the public and business with them.</p>
<p><b>Recommendations</b></p>	<p><b>It is RECOMMENDED that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a) Cabinet recommends to Council that it notes this report as an update on activities taken to address the Climate and Ecological Emergency during 2020/21</b></li> <li><b>b) Cabinet endorses and recommends that Council supports the adoption and ongoing development and delivery of the BCP Climate Action Plan</b></li> <li><b>c) Cabinet explores joining the UK100 Group of Local Authorities leading the way on Climate Change</b></li> </ul>
<p>Reason for recommendations</p>	<p>To allow the Council to meet its commitments under the Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration and help global efforts to keep climate warming below 1.5°C to avoid further environmental damage, population displacement, biodiversity loss and risk to life. BCP Council plays a pivotal role in achieving the declared carbon neutral targets through direct action and leadership and commits to prioritising resources and investment in ongoing climate action</p>

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Mike Greene, Transport & Sustainability
Corporate Director	Kate Ryan, Chief Operating Officer
Report Authors	Roxanne King, Strategic Lead – Climate, Resource & Sustainability Neil Short, Sustainability Manager – Energy & Green Economy Becky Beaumont, Sustainability Officer
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Update

## Background

1. On 16 July 2019, BCP Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency. The headline commitments of this were to make BCP Council and its operations carbon neutral by 2030, and to work with partners to set a target date for when the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole region can be made carbon neutral, ahead of the UK target of 2050. An annual report is required to update on progress towards achieving these targets.
2. 16 July 2021 marked the second anniversary of BCP Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency declaration. The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic were still being felt as services gradually resumed activities and looked towards the COP26 global climate change summit in November 2021.
3. The backdrop to this report is one of increased urgency and a rapid call to action for all countries and communities throughout the world. The IPCC report published in August 2021 – described by the UN as a 'Code Red for humanity' - evidences critical and unprecedented changes in global weather and climate systems because of human activity.
4. Scientists found that human action is the main driver behind many changes to our climate including:
  - Increase in marine heatwaves
  - Glacial retreat
  - Reduction of Arctic Sea ice
  - Decline in spring snow cover in the Northern Hemisphere
  - Increase in global sea level rise
  - Increase in wildfires
  - Increased frequency of heatwaves
  - More intense rainfall
  - Ocean acidification

5. The primary message of the IPCC report is that known negative impacts of climate change can be expected much sooner and with a much higher severity than previously thought.
6. Scenarios studied by the IPCC suggest that 1.5°C of warming will be reached or crossed by the end of the 2030s and, if we continue on our current high emissions path, that threshold could be reached even sooner.
7. The report notes we still have time to act but highlights that it is crucial this must be a decade of action if we are to limit global warming to 1.5°C. Action needs to be ambitious and transformational if this is to be achieved. Reaching Net zero emissions by the middle of the century, if coupled with significant emissions reductions in carbon dioxide and methane during this decade would limit global warming close to 1.5°C.
8. The IPCC and CCC note that it is still too soon to rule out a 4°C rise in global temperatures by the end of the century.
9. Even if we do take ambitious action now, the IPCC report notes we are already guaranteed to see an increase in extreme and destructive weather. This highlights the necessity to build resilience into our communities, whilst simultaneously taking preventative action to reduce further negative impacts for the future.
10. Key impacts that the BCP area needs to prepare for are:
  - Increased flooding
  - Increased extreme weather – hotter and wetter summers, stormier winters
11. More detailed information regarding the effects of climate change for the environment and communities can be found in the previous BCP Climate Action Annual Report.
12. Our Climate Action Plan and work are consistent with both national and global leadership on the issue, which has been recognised through attainment of Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) A-List City status in 2020 and 2021. CDP is a leading international authority for environmental transparency and action against climate change and only 11 authorities in the UK and 95 across the world were awarded A-List status. This validates the measures taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) and improve the area's resilience to extreme weather and climate change (adaptation). To further raise our performance as a Climate Action Leader, we will consider membership of the UK100 group of local authorities.

### **Carbon Neutral BCP Council 2030 update 2020/21**

13. The report at Appendix 1 details the most complete and up to date data available and highlights some key projects which took place within BCP Council in 2020/21 to address the Climate and Ecological Emergency.
14. The BCP Council Emissions Inventory for 2020/21 is built upon the LGA/Local Partnerships Carbon Accounting Tool that utilises Government published conversion factors. This includes full Scope 1 and 2 emission sources but a more wide-ranging number of Scope 3 activities than last year. To give Council the most complete appraisal of the potential size of the Council's Scope 3, officers have worked to the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Standard to present initial

calculations of Scope 3 emissions. This has demonstrated that Scope 3 emissions represent the largest proportion of BCP Council emissions with further sources yet to be determined.

15. The total measurable greenhouse gas emissions from BCP Council activities for 2020/21 was 37,109 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e. This represents a reduction of over 10%, despite additional Scope 1 data becoming available for 2020/21 for Fugitive Emissions (greenhouse gas emissions that have escaped from air conditioning systems) and higher fleet fuel amount due to increased accuracy in reporting. Gas and electricity use have both dropped, due in part to Covid-19 restrictions on working practices, it must be assumed, but also due to the Council's Transformation programme that intended to rationalise assets and introduce new ways of working. Figures show that procurement of emissions free electricity reduced emissions from bought electricity to 315 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

<b>BCP Council CO<sub>2</sub>e Emissions Inventory 2020/21</b>			
<b>Scope</b>	<b>Emissions Type</b>	<b>Emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) with full Scope 2 based on kwh of electricity used</b>	<b>Emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) with reduced Scope 2 from green electricity procurement</b>
<b>Scope 1</b>	Heating	4,403	4,403
	Fugitive Emissions	138	138
	Authority's Fleet	3,412	3,412
<b>Scope 2</b>	Electricity	4,129	315
<b>Scope 3</b>	Water supply	3	3
	Paper procured	107	107
	Energy lost transporting electricity	355	355
	Waste (incl. sewerage)	35	35
	Business Travel	168	168
	Staff Commuting	885	885
	Sold products (end of life treatment)	1	1
	Leased out buildings (incl. housing)	27,287	27,287
	All procured products and services	Not known	Not known
	Investments	Not known	Not known
<b>Total Known Emissions for 2020/21</b>		<b>40,923</b>	<b>37,109</b>
<b>2019/20 totals</b>		<b>43,643</b>	<b>41,567</b>
<b>% Change</b>		<b>-6.2</b>	<b>-10.7</b>

## Carbon Neutral BCP Council Area 2050 update 2020/21

16. The Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration committed BCP Council to work with the wider community to make the region carbon neutral before the UK target of 2050. The report at Appendix 1 details the most complete and up to date data available and highlights some key projects which took place between July 2020 and July 2021 to address the emergency.
17. Area-wide data has been compiled by the Government-funded SCATTER project for the first time since 2019 (then using 2017 data). The comprehensive greenhouse gas inventory covers emissions within the local authority boundary, calculated in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) which includes gases CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O and CH<sub>4</sub>, reported in CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent. Note the inventory data shown below relates to the 2018 reporting period, as this is the most recent data available.
18. Since this exercise was last conducted, using 2017 data, the total emissions have decreased from 1,943,331 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e – a decrease of 71,748 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e (3.7%).

<b>BCP Council Area Emissions Inventory 2020/21</b>					
Emission Scope	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3	<b>Area total</b>	
	2018 data, published 2020 (SCATTER)	2018 data, published 2020 (SCATTER)	2018 data, published 2020 (SCATTER)		
Primary Sources	Gas use, road transport fuel	Electricity use	Purchased products, waste, water, aviation		<b>1,871,583</b>
Total (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e)	1,089,825	424,155	357,603		

### Climate Action – Next Steps

19. The Climate Action Plan detailed in Appendix 1 has been developed from the Draft Climate Action Plan presented to Council in December 2019, and actions have been prioritised according to the January 2021 public consultation, APSE recommendations and Ashden/Friends of the Earth impact guidance. Officers and Members will monitor, adapt and deliver the plan on an ongoing basis as technologies and resources develop, to achieve the 2030 target and contribute to/facilitate the 2050 target.
20. As the Team is now growing in line with the approved structure, an opportunity has been identified to draft a Service Design and Execution Plan for the Team and the Climate Actions. This will ensure that the service provided by the Team meets and exceed stakeholder expectations, and that the portfolio of activities in the Action Plan is optimised to meet our 2030 and 2050 targets as cost effectively and as quickly as is sensible. The new Service Design will be completed and sent

for approval to the Corporate Leadership Team by the end of March. Alongside the new Service Design, the Climate Action Plan will be prioritised and sequenced to ensure close integration and strategic alignment with the Target Operating Model and Transformation programme to leverage opportunities for collaborative working. This will enable good governance and management control to track and monitor progress against our targets and emission reduction trajectories, to identify any gaps in our roadmap and to ensure that the actions identified are the optimum to achieve our targets. A revised portfolio of activities will be developed and approved by the Corporate Leadership Team by the end of June 2022 to ensure that it is deliverable alongside the transformation changes underway and that it is consistent with available financing.

21. The Climate Action Plan is presented in the following five sections, each of which is overseen by a Climate Action Cabinet Member Support Group and BCP Council's Climate Action Steering Group:
  - Energy & Buildings
  - Planning & Land Use
  - Travel & Transport
  - Nature & Waste
  - Council Operations
22. Council activities within the Climate Action Plan are accompanied by suggested actions that residents, businesses and visitors could take to improve outcomes.
23. Progress made during 2020/21 has resulted in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole being listed in the highly acclaimed A-List of Cities by the Carbon Disclosure Project, a leading international authority for environmental transparency and action against climate change. BCP Council is just one of 11 authorities in the UK and 95 across the world to make the A-List of Cities, which puts the Council in an excellent position to continue improving. To this end, the Council will also explore membership of the UK100. This is a network of highly ambitious local government leaders, which seeks to devise and implement plans for the transition to clean energy that are ambitious, cost effective and take the public and business with them. It supports decision-makers in UK towns, cities and counties in their transition to Net Zero. It is the only network for UK local leaders focused solely on climate, clean energy and clean air policy. The UK100 pledges BCP Council could sign up to are for the area to be powered by: '100% clean energy by 2050', and the most ambitious local authorities can join the [Net Zero Local Leadership Club](#) and pledge to do 'everything within their power to get their communities to Net Zero as soon as possible', specifically:
  - Have set ambitious Net Zero targets for greenhouse emissions of 2030 for council operations and 2045 for areawide emissions
  - Report their carbon emissions annually, for scope 1 and scope 2, for council emissions and areawide emissions
  - Commit to limiting the use of offsets, and if used, to be as local as possible.

## **Summary of financial implications**

24. In addition to the environmental and social impacts of climate change, there is a risk to BCP Council of significant financial consequences if it fails to meet its declared climate targets. Council has pledged to become carbon neutral by 2030 as an organisation and lead the area to become net zero carbon ahead of the 2050 national target. Based on forecasts from the London School of Economics the Council is likely to have to incur costs of over £3m per annum to purchase the necessary offsetting carbon credits to meet the carbon neutral pledge in 2030. Clearly this cost will act as an incentive to the council to prioritise the activity and investment necessary to meet this priority.
25. Long-term financial impacts can be reduced by investing in carbon reduction activities now. Many schemes will take time to implement due to planning, funding and resource implications (such as large-scale renewable energy generation or modal shift to sustainable transport), so it's imperative to prioritise and deliver climate action at the earliest opportunity. Reducing our energy bills, fuel costs and waste production will generate immediate financial savings which can be used to support further climate action within the organisation and help us reach our climate and ecological targets.
26. Significant investment is required to deliver the Climate Action Plan. This will be bid for from Central Government and other external funding sources as appropriate.

## **Summary of legal implications**

27. There are potentially many legal implications in delivery of projects within the Climate Action Plan that will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Early engagement with the Council's Legal Team will be sought to reduce risk.
28. BCP Council is obliged to sufficiently take account of the Climate and Ecological Emergency in the development of the new Local Plan, or risk legal challenge.

## **Summary of human resources implications**

29. 2020/21 has seen significant expansion and uplift of the Council's Climate and Sustainability Team. Delivery requires sustained recruitment and the engagement of all Council services. This support has been pledged by the Climate Action Steering Group and will require the ongoing investment of time and consideration from staff.
30. The human resource implications of individual projects will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

## **Summary of sustainability impact**

31. Decision Impact Assessment (DIA) ID: 326. DIA Report found at Appendix 2.

**Decision Impact Assessment** DIA Proposal ID: 326 Welcome Roxanne King

Proposal Title: Climate Action Annual Report 2020/21 

[Review registration](#) Home Page

Category	Status	Impact
<a href="#">Climate Change &amp; Energy</a>	Complete	Only positive impacts identified
<a href="#">Communities &amp; Culture</a>	Complete	Only positive impacts identified
<a href="#">Waste &amp; Resource Use</a>	Complete	Only positive impacts identified
<a href="#">Economy</a>	Complete	Only positive impacts identified
<a href="#">Health &amp; Wellbeing</a>	Complete	Only positive impacts identified
<a href="#">Learning &amp; Skills</a>	Complete	Only positive impacts identified
<a href="#">Natural Environment</a>	Complete	Only positive impacts identified
<a href="#">Sustainable Procurement</a>	Complete	No positive or negative impacts identified
<a href="#">Transport &amp; Accessibility</a>	Complete	Only positive impacts identified

**Key**

- Not yet assessed
- Major negative impacts identified
- Minor negative impacts identified / unknown impacts
- Only positive impacts identified
- No positive or negative impacts identified

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Note that it may take up to two working days for the report to be emailed to you.

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### Summary of public health implications

32. Climate change will result in heatwaves, extreme weather events, floods, disease and increased cancer risk. The measures to reduce it, as set out in this report, will limit the dangers and those activities can also have direct positive health effects (e.g. increased fitness from cycling and better air quality from reducing car journeys).

### Summary of equality implications

33. An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has been carried out and scrutinised by an Equalities Panel in October 2021.
34. There are no negative impacts identified on the protected characteristics groups of the Equalities Act 2010 from the recommendations in this report. However, an Equalities Impact Assessment will be undertaken, as necessary, for individual projects in the Climate Action Plan before commencement to ensure this.

### Summary of risk assessment

35. We are uncertain of the full extent that the effects of climate change will have on the BCP area but know it will be more severe if we do not act now. Failing to achieve the Climate and Ecological Emergency declaration commitments will contribute to a further degraded and hostile global environment – with local weather consequences, increasing vulnerability of our energy supply and activism from environmental organisations, highly likely.
36. Non-achievement of targets will result in reputational damage from negative publicity (locally, nationally and internationally).
37. Acting positively and rapidly, many of the actions in the Climate Action Plan will contribute to broad social, economic and environmental benefits, reducing the likelihood of actual and perceived risks.
38. Risk assessments will be carried out for individual Climate Action projects as required, on a case-by-case basis.

## **Background papers**

Published works:

Ashden/Friends of the Earth impact guidance - [https://ashden.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CAC-Chapters-all\\_new-brand.pdf](https://ashden.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CAC-Chapters-all_new-brand.pdf)

SCATTER - <https://scattercities.com/>

## **Appendices**

1. BCP Council Climate Action Annual Report 2020/21
2. Decision Impact Assessment (DIA) Report ID: 326