

CABINET



Report subject	Climate Programme
Meeting date	8 March 2023
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>Following a significant refresh of the Climate Action Team in 2022, this report introduces a new approach to tackling our Climate and Ecological Emergency. The Climate Programme presents the Annual Report updating on progress, and an Action Plan of next steps. Furthermore, a draft Climate Action Strategy that will set out BCP Council's clear commitment and ambitious level of activity is in production and will be brought forward to a future Cabinet.</p> <p>Annual Report headlines are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic Aim 1: Make BCP Council and its operations carbon neutral by 2030 - BCP Council is currently on track to meet its 2030 Net Zero Goal and has reduced scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions by 22% since 2019.• Strategic Aim 2: Work with the wider community to make the area carbon neutral before the UK target of 2050 – according to most recent data, recorded emissions in 2020 were 0.7% higher than those for 2019. However, this is due to methodology changes. If the sequestration from land use estimate had remained the same as the previous year, there would have been recorded an estimated 8% decrease in emissions. Total recorded emissions in 2020 are 3% below the 2017 baseline published in the year our Climate and Ecological Emergency was declared. However, this reduction in recorded emissions is also affected by the methodology change. On a like-for-like basis, the reduction achieved would be greater (12%). <p>The Action Plan 2023/24 – 2024/25 lists the intended measures we expect to take over the next two years to ensure we remain on the correct trajectory to meet the above Strategic Aims. A new Action Plan will be produced annually.</p> <p>The Climate Action Strategy will be the overarching structure, containing roadmaps to ensure those Strategic Aims are met. It is currently in early draft form and is to be developed further over the</p>

	<p>next few months, with the intention to include it in a public engagement process before being revised and ultimately adopted by Council. The current draft is included as an appendix to this paper and Cabinet is asked to note its progress.</p> <p>Each annual Action Plan will be designed to ensure the milestone targets set within the Climate Action Strategy roadmaps are achieved.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>(a) Cabinet endorses the Climate Action Annual Report 2021/22 and Action Plan 2023/24 – 2024/25.</p> <p>(b) Cabinet notes the progress towards a Draft Climate Action Strategy.</p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>To ensure that the Council has prioritised actions required to achieve a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the Council's own estate and across the wider BCP area. To enable the Council to work towards meeting 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.</p>
Portfolio Holder(s):	<p>Councillor Mike Greene, Portfolio Holder for Transport & Sustainability</p>
Corporate Director	<p>Jess Gibbons, Chief Operating Officer</p>
Report Authors	<p>Matthew Montgomery, Head of Climate Action Neil Short, Sustainability Manager</p>
Wards	<p>Council-wide</p>
Classification	<p>For Decision</p>

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. Following a significant refresh of the Climate Action Team, this report introduces an enhanced approach to tackling our Climate and Ecological Emergency. The Climate Programme presents:
 - the Annual Report updating on progress to date (Appendix A)
 - a two-year Action Plan of next steps (Appendix B)
 - Climate Action Strategy – early draft (Appendix C).

Climate Action Programme: Annual Report 2021/22: Headlines

3. The Annual Report headline for Strategic Aim 1, is that the Council is currently on track to meet its 2030 Goal for a carbon neutral organisation, and has reduced scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions by 22% since 2019. See Appendix A for further analysis and details of activities undertaken.
4. The Annual Report headline for Strategic Aim 2, working with partners towards a carbon neutral area before 2050, is that according to most recent data emissions in 2020 rose by 0.7% (due to a change in methodology), although most sub-sectors saw a decrease and total emissions are still 3% below the 2017 baseline. See Appendix A for further analysis.

Climate Action Programme: Action Plan 2023/24 – 2024/25

5. During 2022, a new Head of Climate Action was appointed to develop an enhanced strategic approach to the Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency response. This has resulted in a restructure and refocussing of the Climate Action Team and activity. A two-year Action Plan of activities has been drawn up to reduce emissions across the corporate estate and the wider area, which should be considered a 'live' document, and is presented as Appendix B.

Climate Action Programme: Climate Action Strategy

6. The proposed draft Climate Action Strategy is in development and an early draft is presented as Appendix C. It will build upon the declaration, and public consultation to form a written representation of the overarching approach that the Council will take to achieve its Strategic Aims. The intention is that it will contain roadmaps with multiple milestones so that the Council can measure progress towards the net-zero targets and ensure it remains on the correct trajectory to meet them. The two-year Action Plans, produced annually, will be created to match the roadmap milestones.
7. Externally, the Council is developing a 'local climate/ sustainability partnership' of strategic and significant organisations who can work together to achieve the Goals of the Climate Action Programme.

Options Appraisal

8. **Option 1:** Council endorsement of the past performance and future action plan, which will enable the Climate Action Team to move forward with the Climate Programme and ensure the current positive trajectory is maintained and exceeded, to achieve the ambitious corporate climate commitment.
9. **Option 2:** Council does not endorse the past performance and future action plan, which will impact the Climate Action Team moving forward with the Climate Programme and risks the current positive trajectory being reversed and the corporate climate commitment failing to be achieved.

Summary of financial implications

10. The Climate Action Team has a committed allocated revenue budget which has been increased to ensure it is sufficient to fund core staffing requirements, key studies, and document preparation where it is required. In addition to core funding the team are actively looking to increase funds available through bids and grant applications and through other external sources, such as private finance.
11. To deliver significant improvements to the Council estate and operations, the Green Futures Fund - a Public Works Loan Board funding source, has been agreed and secured for use in delivering the infrastructure and assets required to transition BCP area and the Council to a 'climate safe' operating space. The fund is to the value of £20M available over the next 4 years to be spent on capital projects. It can be accessed through the Infrastructure Programme Board with Cabinet/ Full Council approval of spend.

Summary of legal implications

12. There are potential legal implications in delivery of some projects referenced within the Climate Programme. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis and early engagement with the Council's Legal Team will be sought.
13. The 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

14. The team is continuing to be developed with new roles planned during 2023/24 to support delivery of our ambitions.

Summary of sustainability impact

15. Decision Impact Assessment ref. 510 has been completed and the proposal has achieved a low carbon footprint, as the activities included support the climate agenda.

Summary of public health implications

16. Climate change will result in increasing heatwaves, extreme weather events, floods, disease, and increased cancer risk. The measures proposed to reduce climate change 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

17. An EIA conversation/screening document has been completed. It concludes that the Annual Report itself has no equalities implications but that individual actions in the Action Plan will require assessments to be carried out before commencement.

Summary of risk assessment

18. We must further our knowledge of Climate Vulnerability and Risk of the possible effects of climate change on our area. Failing to achieve the Climate and Ecological Emergency declaration commitments will contribute to an increasingly hostile global environment.
19. Non-achievement of targets will result in reputational damage from negative publicity (locally, nationally, and internationally). However, if we act in a timely manner, many of the actions in the Climate Action Plan will contribute to social, economic, and environmental benefits, reducing the likelihood of actual and perceived risks. Risk assessments will be carried out for individual Climate Action projects as required, on a case-by-case basis.

Background papers

GHG Inventory at <https://scattercities.com>

Appendices

Appendix A: BCP Council & Area Climate Action Programme - Annual Report 2021/22

Appendix B: Climate Action Programme - Action Plan 2023/24 – 2024/25 (live document)

Appendix C: Climate Action Programme - Climate Action Strategy – early draft