



**BCP Council & Area  
Climate Action Programme  
Annual Report 2021/22**

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## 1. Introduction

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**
- **work with partners to set a target date for when the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area can be made carbon neutral, ahead of the UK target of 2050**

By formally declaring the emergency, we indicated that the work that we are all doing to tackle climate change needs to grow and speed up. Communities, councils, businesses, and the government need to stop harmful emissions as soon as possible, together.

Our efforts to tackle the climate and ecological emergency are a key objective towards a sustainable environment - one of the priorities of our Corporate Strategy.

The production of an annual report was agreed, to provide a summary update on progress towards achieving our targets. This paper provides an update on the activities being undertaken to support our ongoing progress towards reducing carbon emissions

Following a significant refresh of the Climate Action Team in 2022, this report introduces an enhanced approach to tackling our Climate and Ecological Emergency. The Climate Programme presents:

- The Annual Report for 2021/22, updating on progress to date
- A draft Climate Action Strategy setting out how we intend to accelerate progress
- A two-year Action Plan of next steps.

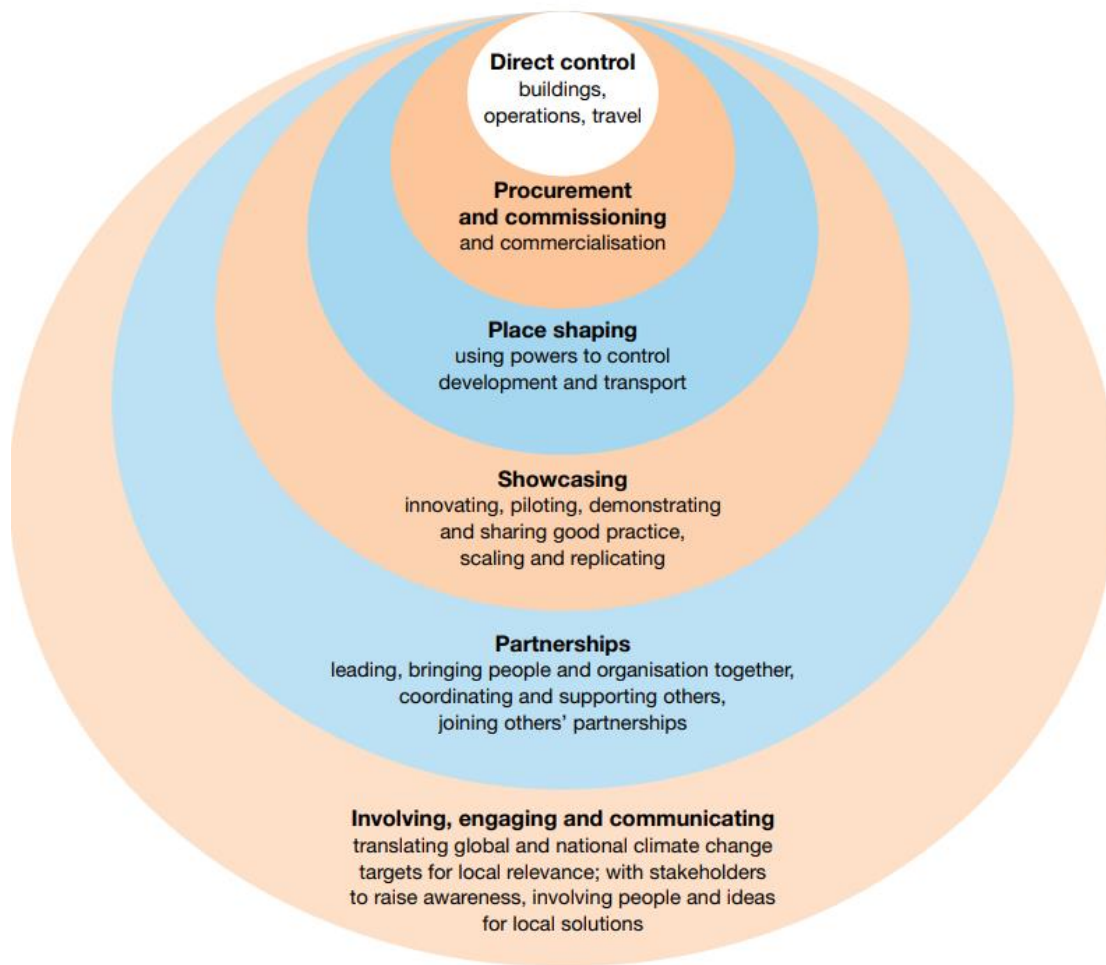
## 2. Council Performance 2021/22: Headline Strategic Aims

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**.

Carbon emissions from our own operations only account for around 1-2% of the BCP area-wide footprint, but the council has direct control over these emissions, and it is critical that we show leadership in this area. This has therefore been a key focus of our activities to date. See Annual Report: Emissions Update section for further analysis.

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, released in 2022, emissions in 2020 rose by 0.7%, but were still **3% below the 2017 baseline**. However, this is due to a change in methodology, without which the area would have recorded a 12% decrease. See Annual Report: Emissions Update section for further analysis.

The work required to meet these challenges is unprecedented in scale and complexity and will require action from all sectors of society. The Council has a critical systems leadership role to work with others to meet these challenges and the diagram below highlights the spheres of influence we have.

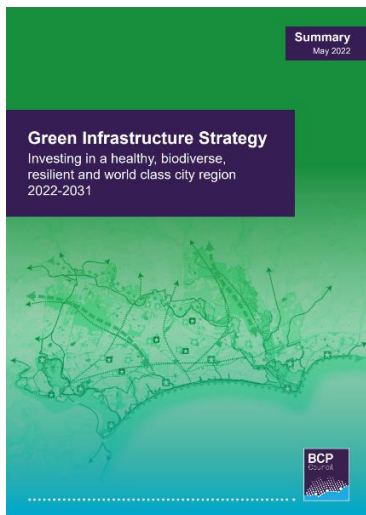


## Annual Report Highlights

To strengthen our commitment and response to the Climate emergency a **£20 million Green Futures Fund** was developed in Jan 2021 and implemented in April 2022 to tackle the climate agenda head on and spearhead plans to reach the council's goal for carbon neutrality by 2030. Available over the next 4 years to be spent on capital projects. It can be accessed through the Councils Infrastructure Board with Cabinet/ Full Council approval of spend.

The Green Futures Fund will be used to ensure:

- our critical infrastructure systems (energy, food, buildings, industry, materials) are fit for purpose now and into the future
- that they are resilient to our changing world, and
- that they provide significant opportunities for regional sustainable development



Publication of the **BCP Council Green Infrastructure Strategy**, which sets out its ambitions for investing in green infrastructure across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole over the next 10 years. The strategy aims to encourage healthy living and wellbeing; strengthen resilience to climate change; support nature and biodiversity; and support economic recovery, prosperity and place making. The Council launched a survey in December 2022, asking for residents' views on where and how our urban areas can be improved by urban greening. The survey considers the effects of climate change and the support that BCP Council could provide homeowners in the future to help make where we live greener.



A new **food and health community project based at Boscombe's Churchill Gardens** opened in 2022. The building forms a key part of BCP Council's ASPIRE programme, which aims to help people focus on their wellbeing and the focus on local food growing will help the climate-friendly goals of reduced food transportation and food waste.



The **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan** was approved in May and provides a long-term strategic approach for the walking and cycling infrastructure, which is required across the BCP area. It aims to help reduce the number of journeys residents and visitors choose to make by car, thus helping to reduce congestion and greenhouse gas emissions in the conurbation, tackling climate change, improving our air quality and lowering the impact on our environment.



Nine brand-new council homes were completed in 2022 at **Luckham Road, 'Passivhaus' construction standard**, to use about 90 per cent less energy than standard UK buildings. The homes make use of ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) and pipes buried in the garden to extract heat from the earth. This energy is then used to warm radiators and generate hot water in the properties.



Our commitment and progress in the number of **electric vehicles (EVs)** in Council operational service has seen the number over the past three years rise from six to thirty, with a further 10 on order. EV use has resulted in a carbon saving of 107 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e in the year 2021/22. To support the corporate transition to EV fleet, we have also invested in the installation of 52 electric charging facilities in council operating centres across the conurbation.



The **Poole Museum** redevelopment included reducing the building's carbon footprint by 25%, sympathetically installing 360 solar roof slates for sustainable power, improving energy efficiency with 60 new windows, secondary glazing and new insulation. £1.9m of Government-funded energy improvements were also made to other Council buildings, including 2Riversmeet Leisure Centre, BCP Council Civic Centre, Wallisdown Heights, Highcliffe Castle, Poole Library, Bournemouth and Poole Crematoria.

### **3. Climate Action Programme: Overview**

During 2022, in recognition of the importance of this programme and our organisational commitment to it, a Head of Climate Action role was created and appointed to. The Head of Climate Action will lead the development of an enhanced strategic approach to the Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency response, resulting in growth in team resource and refocussing of the Climate Action Programme. Our overarching aim is to reduce carbon emissions in the region and make Bournemouth Christchurch & Poole resilient to the inevitable effects of Climate Change. Our programme has refreshed and is now being built around 3 Strategic Aims:

#### **STRATEGIC AIM 1: To make the organisation and its services carbon neutral by 2030**

Our immediate focus is to act on the Local Authority estate, assets, and operations across BCP, reducing its overall carbon footprint in the short term. The ability to act and affect a positive change lies directly within the gift of the Council. To meet this aim, significant investment, along with a comprehensive and ongoing review of how and where services are delivered, how staff travel to work and travel in work for business purposes, and what is purchased, and from where, is needed to identify where the carbon savings can be made.

#### **STRATEGIC AIM 2: To work towards making BCP a carbon neutral conurbation by 2050**

A medium to long-term aim, with the ambition to have delivered this by 2050 or sooner to address the pressing need for rapid action on Climate Change. There are significant challenges to the BCP area achieving this target, and we all must collectively take ownership. Achieving this goal will require a strong commitment from our communities, our businesses, our partners, and our residents. We have a key role in both leading and supporting others to act, but success will rely on significant national and local policy change and the commitment of others to act and rapidly adopt significant changes to existing lifestyles and behaviours.

#### **STRATEGIC AIM 3: To help the BCP area reverse the ecological decline, be prepared for, and resilient to, the impacts of Climate Change**

Nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history and studies suggest we are heading to the Earth's sixth mass extinction event. This aim seeks to ensure that the BCP area is prepared for, and builds resilience to, the likely impacts of future Climate Change and supports nature recovery.

This requires action across all sectors and communities. Our biodiversity is already in decline and our natural environment will be impacted, growing seasons will change, pests and disease could become more prevalent, and our soils and vegetation will be at risk from extreme events such as drought and flood. More of our land needs to be prioritised for nature and existing nature reserves protected. Action will need to be taken to adapt or 'future proof' the homes we live in, the places we work, our transport and communication networks and how goods and services are provided and delivered across the area. It requires focusing on providing more green infrastructure to adapt the built environment (homes, offices, industrial buildings, roads, and railways) where possible, to protect against rising temperatures, changing patterns of rainfall, sea level rise and extreme weather events (heatwaves and flooding).

The Climate Action team have taken opportunities to provide briefings to staff at various internal meetings across the authority to help shape priorities to achieve these aims. The Team will effectively support activities throughout the organisation and through our Transformation programme, to provide a clear pathway forward that can be communicated, tracked, and reported upon, with the creation of 'product ready' business cases that can be used to gain external funding when available.

These activities will support both the prevention of new emissions from being generated, and the transition of existing council operations to align with the requirements of the declaration. We will do this by grouping council operations work and developing programmes that can increase the pace and scale of delivery. For example, the BCP Corporate Estates Capital Works Programme will seek to ensure we have fit for purpose buildings, reduce surplus assets and transition where practicable all our retained buildings to net zero. We will work with the Services to identify service-specific emissions, climate risks and ecological recovery opportunities, ensuring they have the awareness, capacity, capability, and responsibility for delivery of activities that fall within their subject matter domains.

Externally, we are developing a 'local climate/ sustainability partnership' of strategic and significant organisations who can work together to achieve the Aims of the Climate Action (and Ecological Recovery) Programme. The Programme has refined the original action headings into a set of themes that better reflect how activity is required across numerous spheres of influence: People & Communities, Business & Economy, Digital & Smart Places, Transport & Travel, Water Resources & Flooding, Energy Generation & Use, Buildings & Homes, Resources & Waste and Environment & Place.

The Environment Act introduces a requirement for Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) for England to be prepared and published, this requires the production of a pan-Dorset strategy with BCP & Dorset Councils working in partnership and collaborating with a wide range of stakeholders in its preparation. The Strategies will identify the opportunities and priorities for enhancing biodiversity and supporting wider objectives such as mitigating or adapting to climate change in an area. The strategies will have a key role in the land use planning system and be an important source of evidence for the planning authority to use in the preparation of our Local Plan alongside mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain. They are also intended to support the delivery of wider

environmental objectives and each LNRS will map specific opportunities for taking priority action for nature recovery and the use of “nature-based solutions”.

#### **4. Climate Vulnerability and Risk**

In 2022, BCP Council commissioned a Local Climate Change Risk Assessment to better understand the type, severity, and timing of climate change induced risks to the BCP Area across a number of themes. The largest percentages of risks identified manifest across our priority themes in the built and natural environments as risks to:

- Transport & Infrastructure - 20% of risks
- Buildings - 25% of risks
- Biodiversity - 20% of risks

This is largely due to overheating, road melt, flooding, drought, and ecosystem change. Risks to health & wellbeing result from overheating in buildings, increased storminess and extreme events including flooding. The timing of risks is important to consider. As time passes from 2030 to 2050, so does the frequency of the High-risk ratings from 25% to 69%. However, 67% of risks in 2030 are rated Medium. These two findings stress the need to start adapting our systems now to short term risks and to get started for High risks in advance to prevent the worst of the impacts from being realised. It is important to note that risks are not the same as impacts. Our next task is to help our Service Areas to analyse these risks in the context of our local systems, to understand and quantify impacts so that we can identify and prioritise adaptation measures.

#### **5. Local Opportunities and Co-benefits of Climate Action**

Acting on climate change can assist with achieving other corporate priorities. By realising financial benefits sooner, organisations and people can benefit from cumulative cost reductions, sustaining the local economy. As investment is required in the transition, and people and organisations are required to make the products and deliver the services, further local benefits can be realised and captured through training, reskilling, and supply chain development. As local supply chains develop, they can create products and services to sell to other economies, creating a virtuous cycle of green, sustainable economic development for the BCP area.

BCP Council’s vision for the area is to offer the best quality of life available anywhere in the UK, delivering the highest levels of wellbeing for our residents and the right environment for the sustainable operation of their communities and organisations. To continue providing such a wonderful place to live, a responsible and accountable organisation must look to the future to understand the difficulties that must be managed and prepare to realise the benefits and opportunities it provides. Climatic and ecological breakdown are current and future challenges that provide significant and unprecedented risks to the continuation of life and society across the world. Managing these risks is therefore critical to the sustainable continuation of the lives we currently lead in the BCP area.

#### **6. Global Climate Change Trends**

Global temperatures have risen by 1.3°C already and are expected to rise to 4°C above pre-industrial averages (IPCC, 2022; UKCRA, 2022). This jump in global temperatures represents a very serious and sharp anomaly in the context of the last 500 million years



of global temperature change. The effects are expected to be just as significant and serious.

As the global climatic system becomes more volatile and dynamic, we are anticipating an increase in storminess (as witnessed in the UK in 2022 by the close frequency and intensity of storms Dennis, Eunice, and Franklin). Also, a disruption to normal levels of precipitation and temperature variation (as witnessed globally in 2022 by wildfires, droughts, and floods) and population swings of pests (as witnessed in locust swarms in South Africa in 2022, and mice in Australia in 2021). We must act now to protect our residents and our natural environment.

In the last 50 years alone, we have lost up to 60% of global biodiversity (WWF Living Planet Report 2020). Latin America & the Caribbean have seen the most substantive collapses since 1970, however this is because in Europe and North America significant reductions in biodiversity had already occurred prior to 1970, i.e., the state of the environment is far worse. The significance of these reductions cannot be overstated: no bees and insects mean no crop pollination, resulting in no food for human populations. In short, if we damage our ecosystems, we damage our ability to live healthy, productive lives, and risk the ability for life to exist at all. The ecological emergency is just as urgent and significant, if not more so, than the climate emergency. We must act now.

Unfortunately, there are impacts that we probably cannot avoid. It would seem highly likely that global food production will be affected, along with the stability and certainty that typically characterise global supply chains and logistics. We anticipate that a greater move towards localism will be required as the globalised systems become less productive, more costly, and more uncertain. This requires us to build local capacity to generate energy and food, to manage resource flows, and to produce goods and services. This will involve investment in local infrastructure, in the skills and experience to design, construct and operate it, and the support to communities and organisations to integrate these new ways of working and being into 'our new normal'. By establishing effective collaborations and partnerships between people, communities, and local organisations, we can equitably identify and share the resources that we need locally to make the transitions affordably.

## References

IPCC: Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/>

DEFRA: UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2022>

WWF: Living Planet Report 2020 [https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-09/LPR20\\_Full\\_report.pdf](https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-09/LPR20_Full_report.pdf)

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

## 7. Annual Report: Emissions update 2021/22

### Strategic Aim 1. Carbon neutral organisation by 2030

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 trajectory illustration at Fig. 1 and inventory table at Fig 2.

In some areas, notably Electricity Consumption (-96%), Staff Commuting (-75%) and Business Travel (-67%) there have been significant declines. Maintaining this progress in the face of the cost-of-living crisis will be challenging; much of the gain in electricity use has been made due to the purchasing of a green tariff from our electricity provider which in 2022 cost an additional £10,000. The current estimates for this Tarif have gone up ten-fold to £112,000. As a result, we are looking at further opportunities to generate our own electricity for our buildings.

Emissions from corporate Travel and Commuting have fallen, along with water and sewage waste primarily due to staff working from home and utilising video conferencing. As the energy crisis has quadrupled the cost of gas, there will be an incentive for individuals to return to the office and so these gains are likely to rebound.

Natural gas usage for heating has increased by 7%. It is anticipated that this is due primarily to the increased requirement for ventilation within our buildings due to Covid response needing air to be refreshed more frequently. In building stock such as the Civic Centre Annex there is no mechanical ventilation and so windows must be physically opened to allow ventilation, allowing heat to escape. This reinforces the need for a Capital Works Programme across our estate to remediate these issues, an Asset Management Policy that will prevent us from acquiring these types of buildings again in the future, and a Strategy to dispose of those that cannot be remediated.

Leased-out Buildings (BCP Homes, Community Buildings, Leisure, and Care facilities) remain the largest contributor to our total, generating 71% of our emissions. This highlights the need to prioritise our Leased-out buildings in the coming years.

Council progress during 2021/22 towards the 2030 target is illustrated at Fig 1 and emissions inventory at Fig 2 below:

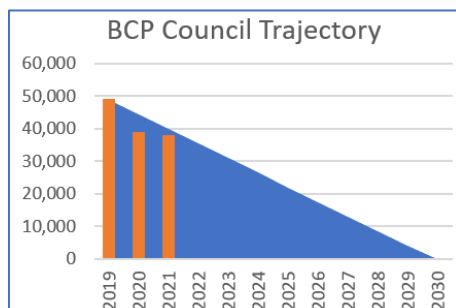


Fig 1.

## BCP Greenhouse gas emissions inventory 2019-2022

GHG Emissions (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e)	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	% Change vs 2019
Natural gas usage (kWh)	4,570	4,112	4,898	+7%
Refrigerant leakage	138	138	6	-95%
Diesel (litres)	3,706	3,717	3,854	+4%
HVO fuel (hydrotreated vegetable oil)	0	0	2	+200%
Electricity consumption (with reduction for green energy procurement)	5,524	312	244	-96%
Water supply (cubic meters)	155	112	66	-57%
Waste sewerage	303	220	115	-62%
Energy lost in transmission (kWh)	469	397	421	-10%
Copier paper	1,690	102	48	-97%
Paper towels	74	9	6	-91%
Waste	110	33	60	-55%
Business travel	576	168	191	-67%
Staff commuting	3,630	885	905	-75%
Leased out property	28,264	28,812	27,194	-4%
<b>TOTAL (with reduction for green energy procurement)</b>	<b>49,209</b>	<b>39,017</b>	<b>38,009</b>	<b>-22%</b>
<b>TOTAL (illustrating if green energy had not been procured)</b>	<b>49,209</b>	<b>43,281</b>	<b>42,527</b>	<b>-13%</b>

Fig 2.

### Strategic Aim 2. Work with partners towards achieving a carbon neutral area before 2050

The Annual Report headline for Strategic Aim 2 is that according to most recent data **emissions in 2020 rose by 0.7%, due to a change in methodology, but remain 3% below the 2017 baseline.** Without this methodology change, emissions would have decreased by 8% from 2019 and 12% from 2017. Though the Council is directly responsible for between 1-2% of the total area-wide emissions, it can influence much more through its activities, partnerships, and regulation. The latest area-wide data available is unavoidably subject to a 2-year lag, so does not fully account for emissions reductions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Data indicates that greenhouse gas emissions, having fallen by 3.7% between 2017 and 2019, increased slightly in 2020, making the overall fall between 2017 and 2020 3% (with the methodology change).

The methodology used to calculate area-wide emissions from various sources must rely on certain estimates and assumptions, which must be acknowledged. Also, methodology and 'emission factors' used in the calculations sometimes change as information

becomes available. Fig 3 illustrates the comparison between 2019 and 2020 figures, showing that most sub-sectors demonstrated a decrease during this time, notably transport (possibly because of the pandemic). However, these are offset by a large decrease in the 'Land use' sub-sector – the ability of land types to either produce or sequester (remove and store) carbon. Upon examination, the difference has shown to be caused by a change in the calculation methodology. This illustrates that, while extremely useful, this type of data is best viewed as a 'snapshot' rather than a reliable gauge of progress over time, as if newer methodologies were to be applied to historical baseline figures, they too would be subject to change.

Data on area-wide emissions (including scopes 1, 2 and 3) is produced by SCATTER, a government-funded initiative hosted by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Research at the University of Manchester. The inventory is presented according to the Global Covenant of Mayors' Common Reporting Framework. The key guidance used to calculate the emissions inventory is The Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC). The GPC report is based on the Accounting and Reporting Standard developed by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories.

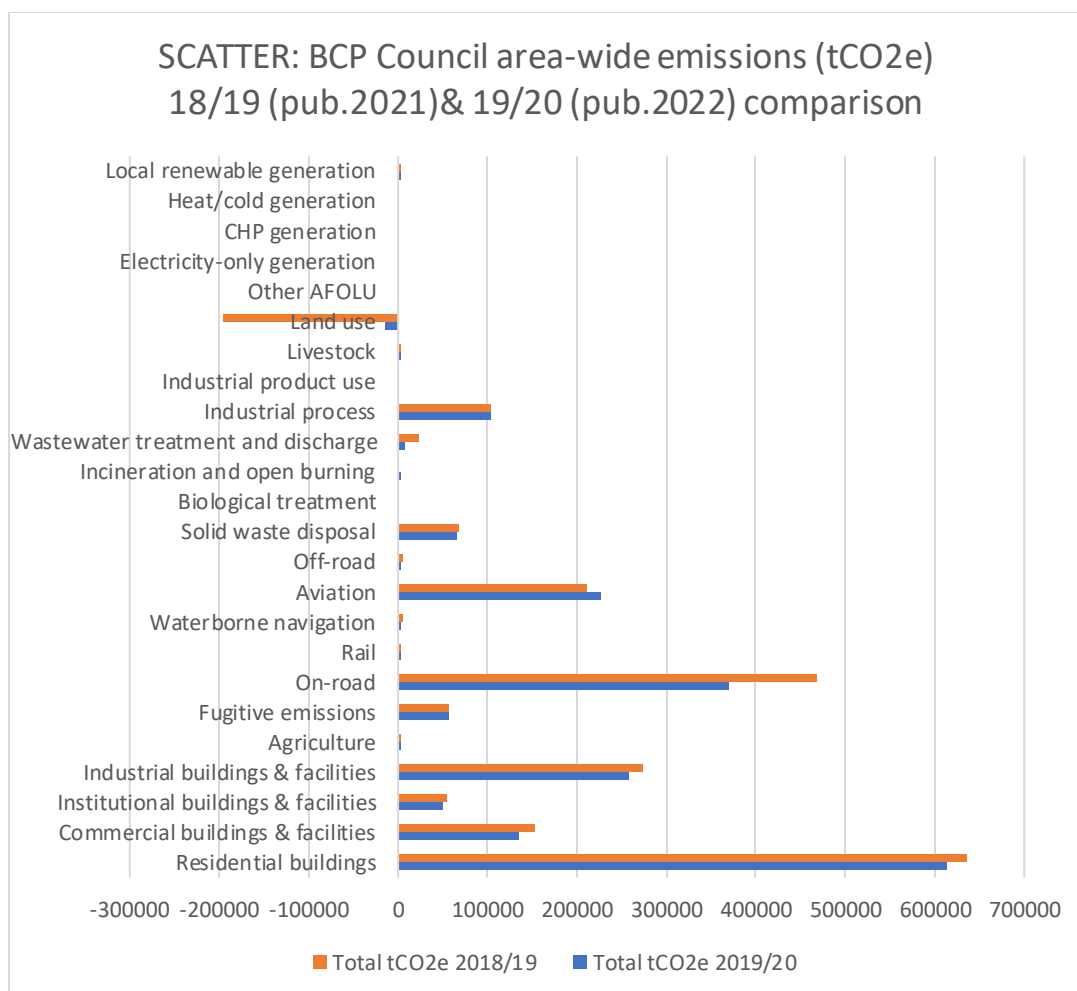


Fig 3.

The Inventories produced for all UK local authorities cover activities taking place within an area that generate greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) that occur inside the area boundary as well as outside. To distinguish among them, emissions are grouped into three categories based on where they occur: Scope 1 (Direct emissions) GHG emissions from sources located within the area boundary, Scope 2 (Indirect emissions) GHG emissions occurring as a consequence of the use of grid-supplied electricity, heat, steam and/or cooling within the area boundary, and Scope 3 - All other GHG emissions that occur outside the area boundary as a result of activities taking place within the area boundary. The 2020 GHG Inventory is shown at Fig 4 and illustrated at Fig 5.

Summary Greenhouse Gas emissions (tonnes CO2e)		Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3	Total tCO2e
Sector	Sub-sector	DIRECT	INDIRECT	OTHER	TOTAL
Stationary energy	Residential buildings	373,422.96	164,016.15	76,565.16	614,004.27
	Commercial buildings & facilities	30,270.18	87,239.29	17,201.08	134,710.55
	Institutional buildings & facilities	24,469.29	18,941.98	6,057.49	49,468.76
	Industrial buildings & facilities	112,938.47	106,273.54	38,151.38	257,363.40
	Agriculture	1,259.64	0.14	299.82	1,559.60
	Fugitive emissions	56,185.58	-	NE	56,185.58
Transportation	On-road	368,881.61	IE	IE	368,881.61
	Rail	1,415.21	IE	336.82	1,752.03
	Waterborne navigation	4,204.20	IE	IE	4,204.20
	Aviation	7,741.88	IE	219,605.82	227,347.71
	Off-road	3,682.64	IE	NE	3,682.64
	Waste	Solid waste disposal	66,619.17	-	IE
	Biological treatment	NO	-	IE	-
	Incineration and open burning	1,224.00	-	IE	1,224.00
	Wastewater treatment and discharge	7,218.75	-	NO	7,218.75
IPPU	Industrial process	103,358.80	-	NE	103,358.80
	Industrial product use	0.00	-	NE	0.00
AFOLU	Livestock	3,557.66	-	NE	3,557.66
	Land use	- 15,461.20	-	NE	- 15,461.20
	Other AFOLU	NE	-	NE	-
Generation of grid-supplied energy	Electricity-only generation	NO	-	NO	-
	CHP generation	NO	-	NO	-
	Heat/cold generation	NO	-	NO	-
	Local renewable generation	164.01	NO	NO	164.01

Notation keys:
Not Occurring
Integrated Elsewhere
Not Estimated
Confidential
Combination of notation keys
N/A
Required
Optional

Fig 4.

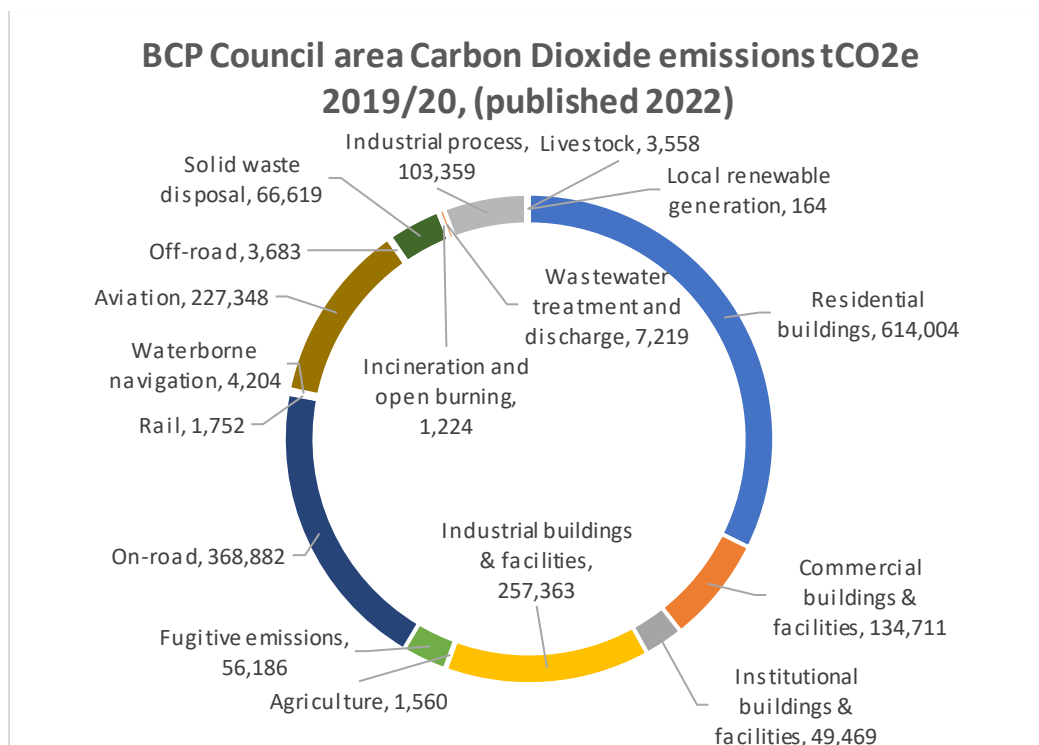


Fig 5.

## **8. Progress update and Action Plan by Themes**

Activities undertaken or commenced during 2021/22 in support of Climate Action include:

### **Theme: People & Communities**

#### **What we have done during 2021/22:**

- BCP Schools Environment Award was launched in 2022 and is intended to give students in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole the opportunity to learn about and develop environmentally conscious behaviours. These behaviours can also help reduce costs for the school and families at home, for example by reducing energy, waste, and water, and in doing so, help achieve our climate commitments
- The Council led a partnership of statutory and third sector organisations to deliver the £2.6 million Household Support Fund to vulnerable residents during the winter period. Help included grants for food and fuel, as well as energy-saving measures that will reduce emissions, such as home insulation
- A new food and health community project based at Boscombe's Churchill Gardens opened in 2022. The building forms a key part of BCP Council's ASPIRE programme, which aims to help people boost their self-esteem and focus on their wellbeing by supporting them towards employability and healthier, more active lifestyles. The focus on local food growing will help the climate-friendly goals of reduced food transportation and food waste
- A community steering group has formed with the aim of achieving Fairtrade status for the BCP area. Members include representatives from environmental groups, Higher Education, faith groups, the Council, and others. The promotion of Fairtrade helps the wider climate agenda, enabling residents to support producers in southern countries farm in more sustainable ways and ensure the continued supply of produce, whilst reducing emissions
- The Highcliffe & Walkford Neighbourhood Plan has been 'made' by the Council in conjunction with the community, and forms part of the statutory development plan. The vision includes climate-friendly aims related to green spaces, travel, and energy efficiency
- We have initiated a pilot of the Climate Action Network to test the approach of passing responsibility for the development of roadmaps, milestones, trajectories and ideation of projects and programmes to Service Areas
- The risk of 'extreme heat' was added to the multi-agency and BCP Council severe weather response plan in response to the 2022 heatwave
- We have initiated the Local Climate Partnership with significant and strategic organisations and will launch it formally in 2023.

## **Theme: Business & Economy**

### **What we have done during 2021/22:**

- In April 2022, funding was obtained to allow 250 businesses within the BCP area to sign up to Climate Essentials, a programme which helps businesses set up carbon pledges and work towards net zero
- The Council has been allocated almost £4.2m under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which will enable us to provide better green spaces and community facilities, improved education and skills and business start-up and growth support. Each Investment Priority includes a sustainability intervention.

## **Theme: Digital & Smart Places**

### **What we have done during 2021/22:**

- The Smart Place programme is leading on the acceleration of the deployment of affordable gigabit fibre through the Neutral Host Operator initiative. This connectivity is necessary for effective videoconferencing making working from home more attractive which is having a profound beneficial impact upon reducing Council staff and wider business commuting
- The 'MyBoscombe' app includes a section on sustainable transport, helping to promote walking, cycling and bus travel. More is planned for the app, to further encourage sustainable travel as well as recycling and use of cleaner energy. The intention is to roll out the app to other neighbourhoods across the BCP area
- The Council's Beach Check app was developed in response to the overcrowding of beaches when the first pandemic lockdown was lifted. The app enables users to check on which of its beaches are the least congested, with a traffic light system to warn visitors away from crowded sections and information on lifeguard status, whether toilets are open and the byelaws for cycling and walking dogs along the promenade. This in turn will make it easier for beach-users to avoid creating congestion and pollution in traffic jams and make better choices about their destination. The app is to be rolled out nationally with the support of funding from Government

## **Theme: Transport & Travel**

### **What we have done during 2021/22:**

- The Council is continuing to deliver the Transforming Cities Fund of over £100M investment in sustainable and active travel infrastructure. This will give people safe, fast, reliable, and healthy travel options, particularly for shorter journeys. The new infrastructure will help reduce carbon emissions and provide improved air quality benefits
- The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan was approved in May and provides a long-term strategic approach for the walking and cycling infrastructure,

which is required across the BCP area, plus it puts the council in a strong position when bidding for Active Travel funding

- The number of electric vehicles (EVs) in service has risen over the past three years from six to thirty, and a further 10 are on order. EV use has resulted in a carbon saving of 107 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e in the year 2021/22
- BCP Council has been trialling the use of HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) fuel since February 2021 with three refuse vehicles and one large mechanical sweeper
- Videoconferencing has impacted on business travel and staff commuting as many employees find that it is effective and advantageous to work from home
- The 75% reduction in emissions from all modes of staff commuting caused by the pandemic has remained unchanged in 2021/22
- A Staff Travel Survey took place in 2022, to find out staff attitudes and practices around their commute
- Staff parking charges have been introduced, which did not previously exist in some of the three legacy authorities
- Cycle facilities have been improved at main Council offices
- 1.4 million trips have been made on beryl bikes and e-scooters – 30% of which would have been made by car
- Poole streetlights have been dimmed to bring them into line with the Bournemouth regime, which are dimmed to 75% between 8pm and midnight and 50% between midnight and 6am. Some road signs have been de-illuminated where the regulations no longer require it and those that are lit have been changed to LED lanterns
- Poole Hill and Mannings Heath roundabouts have been resurfaced by Miles Macadam with more sustainable road surfacing, achieving a 37% carbon saving over conventional materials
- Wallisdown Road resurfacing works recycled existing aggregates in the construction, with carbon emission savings of approximately 30% by reducing production and movement of new material.

## **Theme: Water Resources & Flooding**

### **What we have done during 2021/22:**

- Coast protection projects which received funding or have been delivered in recent years include: Renourishing seven depleted beach areas from Southbourne to Poole in a £7.5million scheme with 350,000m<sup>3</sup> of beach material pumped ashore, Renewing timber groynes as part of a two-year, £1.9 million programme from the boundary of Poole/Bournemouth, A £2.5m cliff stabilisation scheme at Canford Cliffs following a cliff slip in 2017, £12.4m funding for new defences along Back Water Channel to help protect Poole Town Centre and the Old Town from tidal flooding, £525k for the development of the Christchurch Bay and Harbour Strategy which could lead to further funding for project delivery



- £300k has been secured to develop a new BCP-wide Cliff Management Strategy, to be delivered in 2025
- Currently, BCP Council and New Forest District Council are consulting the public on a proposed shortlist of flood and erosion risk management measures. These are for the coastal frontage from Hengistbury Head Long Groyne to Hurst Spit, encompassing Christchurch Harbour.

### **Theme: Energy Generation & Use**

#### **What we have done during 2021/22:**

- A Corporate Energy Taskforce was convened, including the Head of Climate Action, Directors and Heads of Service with responsibilities for procurement, financing and reducing use of gas and electricity. The Taskforce was able to take swift and decisive action in response to the recent price increases
- A desk-top study was commissioned to ascertain which Council sites with large energy consumption could be suitable to have local renewable energy generation for on-site consumption to reduce overall energy costs
- An energy efficiency framework was accessed with Cambridgeshire County Council to have prominent engineering firms with net zero expertise to offer outline business cases and investment proposals with guaranteed energy savings
- A pre-feasibility study for geothermal energy was procured to look into the possibility of using this energy for heat networks in the local authority. There is currently interest by various stakeholders to pursue a feasibility study
- £1.9m Government-funded energy improvements have been made to Council buildings, including Poole Museum, 2Riversmeet Leisure Centre, BCP Council Civic Centre, Wallisdown Heights, Highcliffe Castle, Poole Library, Bournemouth and Poole Crematoria
- A new Welcome Centre with an anticipated 'very good' BREEAM rating is under construction at Upton Country Park.

### **Theme: Buildings & Homes**

#### **What we have done during 2021/22:**

- Nine brand-new council homes were completed in 2022 at Luckham Road, constructed to the 'Passivhaus' standard, to use about 90% less energy than standard UK buildings. The homes make use of ground source heat pumps and pipes buried in the garden to extract heat from the earth. This energy is then used to warm radiators and heat water in the properties
- Project level energy solutions are in development for the Council's biggest energy-using buildings. Land assets around the corporate estate are also being inspected and business cases developed to identify preferred solutions, costs, and benefits.

- A draft Housing Sustainability Strategy has been developed and lessons from this will inform the wider sustainability strategy development process
- We have initiated the formation of energy-efficiency programmes across the Corporate Estate, for our Leased Buildings, for our Homes, and for the delivery of the Local Area Energy Plan
- The Local Energy Advice Partnership carried out 436 home visits to advise residents how to save energy and keep warm. These visits, and the free energy-saving equipment installed will save householders a total of £238,000 on energy costs and reduce carbon emissions from the domestic sector. And the Council's support for home energy projects, including our own enhanced insulation scheme and others, have delivered 289 Insulation & heating grants to reduce residents' future bills by £2.4m.

### **Theme: Resources & Waste**

#### **What we have done during 2021/22:**

- 199,145 tonnes of municipal waste were collected and sent for treatment in 2021/22: 47.4% of household waste was recycled and 86.6% was diverted from landfill
- Four new electric refuse collection vehicles are each saving between 30-40 tonnes of CO2 annually, whilst reducing noise and improving air quality
- A pilot scheme used drone-based technology to tackle the issue of litter, with intelligence gathered to inform the future placement of bins, street cleansing schedules and campaigns to encourage visitors to dispose of litter responsibly
- The BCP Tip Check mobile app launched to help residents plan their use of local recycling centres, providing a traffic light system with live information on how busy a centre is, so people can avoid queues when it is busy
- A Waste Compositional Analysis identified and measured 65 waste types in our recycling and refuse kerbside collections, providing a better understanding of BCP's waste streams, allowing effective future service planning and targeted communications to residents to improve recycling quality and reduce contamination
- We launched the Your Waste, Your Duty campaign to tackle fly tipping in the community and raise awareness of the risks and penalties. Between September 2021 and July 2022, BCP Council and its partners at Waste Investigation Support and Enforcement (WISE), responded to over 1700 cases of fly tipping, resulting in around 320 fines being issued. They also carried out around 826 business inspections, serving 305 fixed penalty notices to make sure correct waste agreements were implemented.

## **Theme: Environment & Place**

### **What we have done during 2021/22:**

- The Green Infrastructure Strategy sets out how the Council will maintain and improve the network of green and blue spaces for the benefit of people and the environment
- The Seafront Strategy aims to improve the natural environment and biodiversity along our coastline
- The Cleaner, Greener, Safer campaign focuses on bringing pride to our rural and urban areas through initiatives to improve street cleansing, increase tree planting and reduce anti-social behaviour
- Future Places, the Council's wholly owned urban regeneration company, launched in 2021 and aims to deliver high quality places to live and work that benefit healthy communities and the environment
- At Upton Country Park approximately 10,000 native trees have been planted, while veteran oak trees are now being managed by haloing to prolong their lifespan and enable them to continue to support up to 300 species
- Throop Nature Park was granted planning approval. The park will help alleviate the pressure on the internationally sensitive Dorset heathlands, provide semi-natural space for residents to enjoy and help improve biodiversity in the local area
- Work began on the creation of Stour Valley Park with the aim of creating a world class landscape of interconnected, accessible spaces that enables wildlife to thrive, restores ecosystem health and benefits the health and well-being of visitors
- Poole Museum redevelopment included reducing the building's carbon footprint by 25%, sympathetically installing 360 solar roof slates for sustainable power, improving energy efficiency with new windows, secondary glazing, and insulation
- The Bournemouth Air Festival sustainable action plan includes support for; the Leave only Footprints campaign, staff refill reusable water bottles from taps along the seafront, traders cut down on plastic waste, running a 'park and ride' scheme, promote cycling, buses and use of trains, generators brought onto site by the Council run on HVO ('green diesel') and traders are encouraged to do the same
- Arts by the Sea Festival promotes Waste Reduction, Water Refill and Sustainable Travel each year, through initiatives such as money off bus travel and bike tagging. The Festival Green Hub is an area focused on spreading sustainable messages and giving local partners a platform to engage with the audience
- The Durley Environment Hub is nearing completion and will meet energy-efficient passivhaus construction standards with solar panels, green sedum roof and recycled timber cladding
- Water bottle refill stations have been launched along the seafront, with water use during July 2022 equating to a reduction of 19 thousand plastic single-use water bottles. Other initiatives include a switch to LED lighting, PVC-free signage, returnable hot drinks cups, beach toy library, broken toys used in a recycling research project.